

Occulus Trinity

OcculusTrinity, is an exhibition presented by Chennai-based three artists working in quite different mediums... **Asma Menon** with painting and mixed media, **PoochiVenkat** with Photography and Digital Art and **Ravindran** with Sculpture and Assemblage.

The central theme is of the elements - earth, water, fire, wind, spirit - and their respective attributes. Earth gives us confidence, Water, the life source, Fire is sacred and full of energy, the Wind soothes and calms while Spirit embraces the invisible. The elements and their soul aspects are visualized as icons such as the Buddha, Hibiscus, Lotus, Fan, Kite, Mantis, Fishing Boat and Rooster.

This approach attempts to meld the common denominational aspects of Korea and India in a manner that is elemental and iconic as well as regional and historic. The equilibrium of *Yin* and *Yang* is evident in the artists' compositions and renditions, rendering a balance while simultaneously giving expression to varied forms of experimentation.



ASMA MENON

Artist / Printmaker, Chennai

Asma Menon holds a Master's degree in Fine Arts from the Govt. College of Arts and Crafts, Chennai. She has been in mainstream art for over two and a half decades and is a well-recognized name in the fields of both painting and printmaking. With an intense focus on female identity, Asma manages to bridge the gap between the ancestral and the contemporary underpinned by a deeply Indian aesthetic.

Asma has held over 10 solo shows and has participated in more than 40 group shows, both nationally and internationally. Her works have been auctioned on many occasions, the most prestigious one being "Christies" (1999). Her awards include the Senior Fellowship from the Govt. of India. Ministry of Tourism and Culture (2005 - 2007). She has attended several international and Indian art / printmaking camps.

Her creative repertoire includes commissions for painting / murals / sculpture; illustrations for Children's books; workshops for children and 'relax with art' corporate training programmes. She writes on art and designs brochures for artists and press releases for galleries. While staying abreast with contemporary art trends worldwide, Asma remains centred on a unique life path that links myth to everyday life.



V. RAVINDRAN

Sculptor, Chennai

V. Ravindran from Kovilpatti, Tamilnadu was born in 1976. He received his B.F.A in Sculpture in 1998 and M.F.A in Sculpture in 2010, from Government College of Fine Arts, Chennai. He has been a practicing, full-time sculptor for the past 15 years. He has conducted many Solo and Group shows in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad and Chennai.

Most of Ravindran's sculptures have been done in bronze, wood and stone. He concentrates on making different animals and human forms, usually smaller than life-size, some life-size, and a few bigger than life-size. He has created many elephant forms in bronze. Drawing from an unforgettable childhood experience when he saw on street where he used to play with his friends. The rooster, which to Ravindran is a marker of time, is a recurrent bird form. He has made two life-size peacocks





and a few smaller ones, the blue, glittering multicolour being a source of inspiration and exhilaration for the sculptor. The horse and the lion, both indicating power and energy, are also inspirational symbols drawn from the animal kingdom.

Ravindran says that he has learnt discipline from animals. This led him to make sculptures titled 'Warrior' which shows strength and determination. Ravindran wants to use technology as a challenge to make sculptures in new dimensions and with new concepts. He plans to experiment more with Bronze, Fibre, Copper, Tin, Brass and Zinc. Sometimes metal and fibre cannot bond with each other by welding, so he wants to improve the technique by using adhesives. He also plans to weld on his sculptures to improve visual quality and dimension.



POOCHIVENKAT

Macrographer / Digital Art Practitioner, Chennai

Venkat hails from the illustrious family of R.K. Narayan (grand-uncle) and R.K. Laxman (uncle). His interest in photography began when he was 9 years old after unearthing an old movie camera used by his father and grandfather.

Starting with setting up a mini-processing laboratory in his house while still in school, Venkat's interest shifted to Sound and Electronics, which became his main profession till 1989. In 1991, while working in Sampradaya - a music library - where he managed both photography and sound, Venkat realized that his true calling lay in visual arts and returned to photography full time, combined with graphic design. His early assignments began with Reprography which mostly required macro techniques. In 1998, during a photo-research assignment on Chennai's Guindy National Park, the forest officials admiringly called him "PoochiVenkat" to mark his interest and dedication in documenting creepy-crawlies! That name has now become synonymous with Venkat and his macro work.



Venkat also works as a video-editor. He has completed 53 documentary films and one feature film, in the last decade. The subjects ranged from art, artists-retrospectives, musicians-timelines, astronomy, railways and environment conservation. He specializes in Photo-films which have been very well received. He has just released his first book, 'Insects - Guardians of Nature', which is a photographic tribute to these unsung heroes of our planet.



Venkat is deeply interested in abstract art and is particularly inspired by the myriad hues and shades of micro-fauna. He distils the essence of innumerable variations in their forms and colours, creating works which are seemingly fathomless but emerge as a definitive combination of elements. His latest foray is into the digital medium which has widened the scope of his creations.

Venkat advises, professionally consults, and lectures at various institutions and clubs. He conducts customised Videography and Photography courses for institutions and groups, experimenting with new techniques to inspire both professionals and amateurs alike.

The exhibition will be on view at The Gallery @ InKo Centre
from **1-20 February 2019**

10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m, Monday to Saturday.