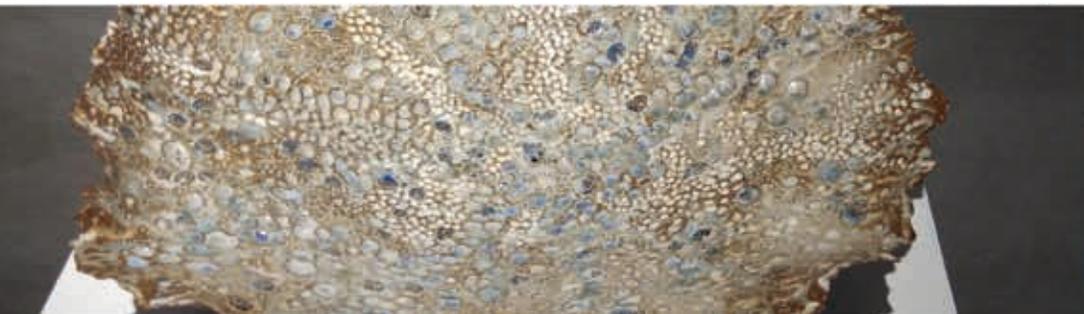


Echoes of Nature



-an exhibition at The Gallery @ InKo Centre.



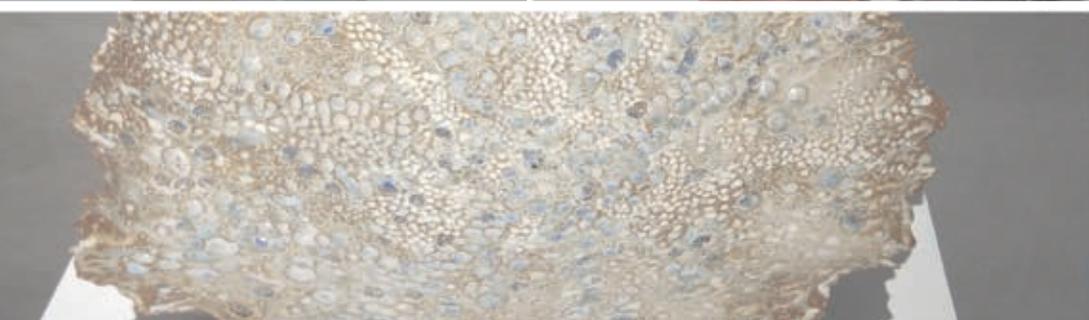
Echoes of Nature

-an exhibition at The Gallery @ InKo Centre.

21 August to 14 September 2024
from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

To celebrate Madras Day/Month, we present an exhibition that showcases ceramic artists from Chennai and Auroville whom we have supported to connect meaningfully with Korea, extending the intercultural dialogue through residencies, workshops and exhibitions in India and/or Korea. These are conversations in clay that have over the years burgeoned into a network that regularly shares best practices in the field of ceramic art.

This exhibition showcases the work of select artists, who drawn to Nature's organic patterns, vibrant colours and forms, seek to capture its essence through meticulous observation or by abstract interpretation, acknowledging Nature as a source of solace, wonder and profound artistic inspiration.



FEATURING

- Gukanraj K
- Loganathan E
- Priya Sundaravalli
- Rakhee Kane
- Ramkumar Kannadasan

CURATED BY

Sandhya Gopinath

-an exhibition at The Gallery @ InKo Centre.



InKo Centre, was set up with an aim to promote an intercultural dialogue between India and Korea by facilitating a consistent programme that drawing on the rich traditions of both countries, examines the global dimensions as well as the local and national characteristics that underpin such exchange. InKo Centre is a registered, non-profit society supported primarily by TVS Motor Company Limited and Hyundai Motor India Limited; the Korean Association in Chennai and a host of Indian and Korean companies based in Chennai. The Centre works in close co-operation with the Embassy of the Republic of Korea, New Delhi and the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Chennai and in Mumbai.

The Visual Arts is a very important strand of our work and we aim, through our programmes, to raise awareness of the richness and range of Korean visual art forms in India and vice versa. We have, since 2007/08 consistently engaged with ceramic artists in India and in Korea, across a range of residencies, skill development workshops and small and large scale exhibitions. These interactions, with support from valuable partners in India and Korea, have enabled meaningful sharing of best practices and have resulted in the burgeoning of a vital network of contemporary ceramic artists in both countries. It is hoped that the engagement with ceramic practitioners, connoisseurs, collectors, art-inclined viewers, aspiring students and art faculties, will continue in India and Korea, to widen, deepen and strengthen this vital exchange.

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We thank our curator, Sandhya Gopinath who has worked empathetically to draw up an excellent theme and array of artists who represent that theme with finesse and a high level of technical skill. Our thanks to all the participating artists. Without their unstinting support, this exhibition could not have been realised. We are delighted to present their artworks which coalesce the natural elements of earth, water, fire and ether to create distinctive forms that carry both the imprint and the impact of their cultural moorings. As the Indo-Korean Cultural Centre in India, engaged in meaningfully promoting and strengthening artistic ties between India and Korea, we are confident that such exhibitions will enhance and strengthen the Indo-Korean dialogue immeasurably.

Dr Rathi Jafer

Director, InKo Centre

Curatorial Note



With its boundless beauty and intricate complexities, it has long been a wellspring of inspiration for artists across the globe. Artists often find themselves drawn to Nature's harmonious patterns, vibrant colours, and organic forms, seeking to capture its essence in their work. Whether through meticulous observation or abstract interpretation, artists find a source of solace, wonder, and profound artistic inspiration in Nature. In their hands, clay transforms into blooming flowers, twisting branches, or flowing rivers, allowing viewers to experience the beauty of Nature in a new and transformative way.

Echoes of Nature is an exhibition that invites you to embark on a journey of discovery through the lens of ceramic art. This showcase brings together a collection of works by 5 contemporary ceramic artists from Chennai and Auroville, each offering a unique and insightful exploration of the beauty and wonder of the natural world.

Through their art, artists seek to capture the essence of Nature - its textures, colours, shapes, and rhythms. From the delicate lines to rugged contours and forms, each piece in this exhibition offers a glimpse into the artist's deep connection with the world around them.

As you explore this exhibition, you will encounter a diverse range of artistic styles and techniques, each artwork is a narrative of the artist's relationship with Nature, inviting you to pause, reflect, and marvel at the beauty that surrounds us. *Echoes of Nature* is a celebration of our earth's natural diversity and a reminder of our interconnectedness with the world around us.

- Sandhya Gopinath



Gukanraj K

My art is a tribute to the profound cycle of life, emerging from and returning to the natural elements. This connection to life is both a physical and emotional journey for me. My creations are more than just a display of skill or a manipulation of the medium - they are an expression of my unity with the world. Working with clay, I feel akin to a farmer tilling the soil – the clay and I are partners in creation. Ceramics, inherently linked to earth, nature and the elements, is my chosen medium to convey my deepest feelings and emotions. Inspired by the evolution and beauty of the earth, my work reflects the physical characteristics of our planet – the land, water and fire. These elements are the fundamental inspirations for the forms and patterns in my art. I enjoy pushing the boundaries of the materials I use and experimenting with ceramics in various installations. My aspiration is to share the unique language of ceramics with the global art community, inviting others to engage with and contribute to its evolution.



Title: Macrocosm

Medium: Glazed ceramic.

Size: 78.7 x 30 x 30 cm, 2024.



Title: Roopam and aroopam

Medium: Glazed ceramic.

Size: 25 x 30 x 30 cm and 17.7 x 30 x 30 cm, 2024.



Loganathan E

My artwork explores the echoes of Nature through slab ceramic sculpture. Inspired by the intricate textures of coral reefs and mushrooms, I aim to capture the organic beauty and complexity of the natural world. By meticulously crafting each piece, I seek to evoke a sense of wonder and connection to the elements found in the environment. Through my work, I invite viewers to reflect on the symbiotic relationship between art and nature and to appreciate the subtle yet profound details that surround us.



Title: Love my family

Medium: Ceramic.

Size: 61 x 35 x 30 cm, 2024.



Title: Former farmer

Medium: Ceramic and wood.

Size: 66 x 61 x 35 cm, 2024.



Priya Sundaravalli

My work seeks to celebrate the mystery and the delight of life along with life's qualities of abundance, generosity and hope. I find inspiration in the poetry and the visual beauty of Nature and the wilderness. In my expression, I seek the unity of opposites – asymmetry and balance, chaos and harmony, imperfection and attention to detail. Texture and rhythm are essential elements to step out of the self and touch intangible qualities such as emptiness, silence, translucency, weightlessness and the vibratory fields of matter and light. I create from a place of spontaneity, serendipity and moment-to-moment guidance. I work primarily through hand-building techniques, using stoneware clay with slips, glazes, stains, enamels and gold and platinum luster for decorative effects. The works typically undergo multiple firings.



Title: Winter in cha ma gu dao 2

Medium: Glazed porcelain.

Size: 57 x 45 x 3 cm, 2019.



Title: Opaline universe

Medium: Glazed porcelain.

Size: 76 x 76 x 60 cm, 2019.



Rakhee Kane

As an artist, I have always wanted to stretch myself to touch new horizons, experiences, techniques to go beyond my comfort zone. Recent work is one such step further in my journey as an artist, living in a community that's going through a huge transition in its evolution; inside out; almost as if something new is being borne; I see myself as one small spec in this evolutionary journey of Auroville. Forms that have emerged in this experience of expanding my own boundaries, resonate with my serene studio surroundings, simple forms of Nature, in all its complexities; Techniques that one keeps experimenting as a ceramist & the experiential process of its creation, with clay, fire, situations beyond one's control during this process & all the learning that it takes to create these! Pods that hold the life processes within its form, as diverse & contained, expressing the restraint & resilience one requires on an artistic journey! The complex struggle of life, expressed by nature in simplicity of these forms, which I have been inspired by my surroundings & nature itself. One delves into this journey to hold those precious moments together, forever; while celebrating each moment of the creation of these forms, processes, textures and colours which emerge out of the fire, where one has limited control! Almost like the reality of the life's complexities.



Title: Beej

Medium: Wood fired stoneware.

Size: 50.8 x 25.4 cm, 2022.



Title: Lotus pond

Medium: Wood fired stoneware.

Size: 27.9 x 15.2 cm, 2024.



Ramkumar Kannadasan

I grew up in rural South India and I draw from my childhood environment and surroundings with a constant preoccupation with Nature and animals. I explore Nature through distance and destruction and the great removal of Nature caused by humans over time. I see my art as a way of registering these changing relationships in the environment using materials from the environment in the present time. Most recently, my themes have revolved around animals and human relationships, encompassing power, love and dependence. This body of artwork expresses my concern and challenges while urging viewers to think and weigh the inevitable consequences of human exploits on animals and Nature as a whole. My artistic process involves a meticulous approach to materials, including drawings while working with stone, metal, wood, terracotta and ceramics. I try to make each piece in a manner that involves mastery of these materials dedication to creating thought-provoking forms that challenge viewers to reflect on their relationship with the natural world.



Title: Relationship

Medium: Ceramic, wood, copper.

Size: 40 x 30 x 35 cm, 2024.



Title: Juxtaposition in nature

Medium: Ceramic crystal.

Size: 76 x 76 x 8 cm, 2024.

