

RAKESH PATEL

Rakesh's work began as a means of establishing a relationship with oneself and the holy. Coming from a farming family, as a boy, he was always drawn to the idea of working with his hands and natural materials. At the same time, while he saw the craft communities in his area, he was intrigued about how craftsmen worked with materials.

Rakesh uses discarded wooden objects from flea markets to create art. This idea of material exploration and upcycling finds its roots in the craft traditions of India, where found objects – especially those that remained in the production process either of textile, or home construction, or furniture – are transformed into a uniquely new avatar. This act of creating objects of daily use from the discard or excess is what fascinates and drives his practice. He collects the excess wooden blocks from artisans, assembles and creates a courtyard/altar, this courtyard/altar is a reflection of self and the culture that he belongs to... be it the temple architecture, or the vibrant colours the texture, even the fragrance has a major impact on his work as he tries to incorporate them in his work.

He collaborates with a small community of woodworkers as a part of his creative process. While working with them, he has observed the ways in which they worship the divine through the act of making. In a way he feels, this act of making and seeing forms an important part of their collaboration, forming the premise of being one with the divine. Every part of his creative process is driven by extensive research into the philosophy of his practice. This is reflected in his drive to understand the mathematics and metaphysics of temple structures, material understanding and depth of research of wood, and woodworking traditions.

A close inspection of his work reveals peculiarly organised forms and colour. Forms that are conceptual and physical deconstructions of built structures. Colour on the other hand hammers these deconstructions into the viewer's soul. The 'work' is literally a reimagination and construction of a divine space where the outward relief protrusions become ways to formulate individual, independent spiritual connections. These connections are beyond the religiosity or dogmatic frameworks of organised faith.

The works reminds one of a quote by Wassily Kandinsky from his book 'Concerning the Spiritual in Art',

"The spiritual life, to which art belongs and of which she is one of the mightiest elements, is a complicated but definite and easily definable movement forwards and upwards. This movement is the movement of experience. It may take different forms, but it holds at bottom to the same inner thought and purpose."



EDUCATION

- 2003 Diploma in drawing and painting Sheth C.N. College of Fine Arts, Ahmedabad.
- 2018 Master in Visual Art, Jalgaon, Maharashtra.

COLLECTIONS

Vandana & Cyril Shroff (Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas)
Aditya Goel (Venture Capitalist)
Vamsi Bandi (Hetero Pharmaceuticals)
Apurva Amin Architects (Ahmedabad)
Quadeye (Gurugam)
Kunvarji Group (Ahmedabad, Dubai)
Jitendra Mistry (Architect)

SOLO SHOWS

- 2022 One-month residency and exhibition at Kalakriti Art Gallery, Hyderabad, India
- 2018 “Urban Uproar” Barataria Art Gallery, New York
 “Urban Uproar” State Lalitkala Academy, Ahmedabad
- 2015 “Face of life” ICAC Art Gallery, Mumbai
 Preview - “Face of life “ State Lalitkala Academy, Ahmedabad.
- 2014 “Life and object” The Art Gallery, Hotel Hyatt, Ahmedabad
- 2013 Preview - “Traveled Emotions” State Lalitkala Academy, Ahmedabad.
 “Traveled Emotions” ICAC Art Gallery, Mumbai.
- 2010 “Traits” Catharsis Art Gallery, Ahmedabad.

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 "Synaptic Odysseys" curated by Satyajit Dave at Iram Art Gallery Ahmedabad
AstaGuru Auction House Pvt. Ltd.
India Art Fair- Iram Art Gallery
Lalit Kala, Goa.
- 2021 "Last Supper" Saffron Art, Mumbai.
- 2020 Group show of paintings and sculptures organised by Art and You Gallery, Gurgaon.
- 2018 "The Turning Of Tales" group show of paintings and sculptures organised by Rukshaan Art Gallery, Mumbai.
The Culture Club, Hutheesing Visual Art Centre, Ahmedabad. organised by Rose Visual Arts, USA - India.
- 2017 "Post-Age" a group show on post card organised by artists' centre, Mumbai, travelled at Mumbai, Chandigarh, South Korea and Ahmedabad
"Satya Art Show", Satya Art Gallery, Ahmedabad.
"The Ahmedabad serigraphs", Amdavadi Ni Gufa organised by Archer Art Gallery, Ahmedabad.
"Art Makes Sense", a charity show with sense international India and Marvel Art Gallery, at Hyatt hotel, Ahmedabad.
- 2016 "Gandhi Mitra" a group show on Gandhiji, Vishala, Ahmedabad.
"The Mirror Show", for charity by leading newspaper Ahmedabad Mirror,
Amdavadi Ni Gufa Ahmedabad
India art affair "Samay" a visual experience of individual time zones, Amdavadi Ni Gufa Ahmedabad.
"Saviskar" to pay homage to Mr Jeram Patel, Rajkot and Ahmedabad.
- 2015 "Sanctity" an experiment with wood, Amdavadi Ni Gufa Ahmedabad
"Chhotti Rickshaw Baddi Savari" Hutheesing Visual Art Centre, organised by Mantra Art Gallery, Ahmedabad.
"Two man show" at Hotel Hyatt, Ahmedabad.
Art Affair-2015 "Experimental Collage" a group show, Faculty of Fine Arts, Baroda.
"Swadeshi" a unique exhibition, Hutheesing Visual Art Gallery, Ahmedabad.
- 2014 Art Affair-2014 "Experimental Collage" a group show, Amdavadi Ni Gufa Ahmedabad.
"Five Fingers" a group show of paintings, Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai
Group Show at Hotel Hyatt, Ahmedabad.
- 2013 "Art affair-2013" Black & White Drawing and Painting, Amdavadi Ni Gufa Ahmedabad.

- "The Smart Show" Amdavadi Ni Gufa Ahmedabad.
 "Unconditional Love" launch show at studio-A, Ahmedabad. Amdavad Ni Gufa and Hutheesing Visual Art Gallery.
 "The Cine Art Show" Amdavadi Ni Gufa Ahmedabad.
 All India print making show at Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai. organized by ICAC Art Gallery.
 "Purva". L & P Hutheesing Visual Art Centre, Ahmedabad.
- 2012 "Art Affair-12" Black & White Drawing and Painting, Amdavadi Ni Gufa Ahmedabad.
 "The Smart Show" Amdavadi Ni Gufa Ahmedabad.
 "Lord Ganesha", Hutheesing Visual Art Centre, Ahmedabad.
 "Purva" show. L & P Hutheesing Visual Art Centre, Ahmedabad.
- 2011 "The One Square Foot Show" a charity show for animals. Sanskar Kendra, Ahmedabad.
 "Germination" a group show, Anyaas Art Gallery, Ahmedabad.
 "The Smart Show" Amdavadi Ni Gufa Ahmedabad.
- 2010 "Nexus Art Show" Amdavadi Ni Gufa, Nexus Art Gallery, Ahmedabad
 "Boxes and Bookends", The Strand Art Room, Mumbai.
 "Incredible Collection" Amdavadi Ni Gufa Ahmedabad and Faculty of Fine Arts Baroda. organised by ICAC Art Gallery, Mumbai.
 "Lord Ganesha Adorned By Contemporary Artist" Lemongrasshopper Art Gallery, Ahmedabad.
 "The One Square Foot Show" a charity show for animals. Amdavadi Ni Gufa Ahmedabad.
 "The Smart Show" Amdavadi Ni Gufa Ahmedabad.
 "The Smart Show" Faculty of Fine Arts, Baroda.
 "We Walk" Suchitra Art Gallery, Mumbai, organised by Samsara Art Gallery, Mumbai & Catharsis Art Gallery.
 "Art Clique", Amdavad Ni Gufa organised by Navdeep Pratisthan Ahmedabad.
 "A Charity Show", Sarjan Art Gallery, Baroda Catharsis Art Gallery, Ahmedabad.
- 2009 "Colours & Motions"- group show of six young artist, Amdavadi Ni Gufa Ahmedabad
 "We Walk " - Catharsis Art Gallery, Ahmedabad.
 Group Show - paintings, graphics, ceramics, drawings and photography, Contemporary Art Gallery, Ahmedabad.
- 2006 "Three Man Show", Bajaj Art Gallery, Mumbai.
 "Outreach"- L & P Hutheesing Visual Art Centre, Ahmedabad.
 L & P Hutheesing Visual Art Centre, Ahmedabad.
- 2005 "Monsoon Show" organized by Bajaj Art Gallery, Mumbai.
- 2003 L & P Hutheesing Visual Art Center, Ahmedabad.
- 2001 Contemporary Art Gallery, Ahmedabad. organised by Gujarat Visual Young Artist Association.

AWARDS AND GRANTS

- 2020 Gujarat State Lalitkala Academy .
- 2018 International Grant from Gujarat State Lalitkala Academy .
- 2017 Gujarat Kala Pratishthan.
- 2016 Winner for Chaalo Gujarat- World Gujarati Conference, New Jersey, USA
- 2015 Grant from Gujarat State Lalitkala Academy. : Grant from Gujarat State Lalitkala Academy.
- 2013 Gujarat State Lalitkala Academy.
- 2012 Kankaria Carnival Satkar Samarambh, Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation 2011 : Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation.
- 2010 Anti Tobacco Campaign, organized by Gujarat Cancer Society.

EVENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- 2018 Judge at Gujarat Ecology Commission, Forests and Environment Department, Government of Gujarat.
Post-Age a group show on post card collaboration with artist's centre, Mumbai and Navjivan trust, Ahmedabad.
- 2017 Judge at "JG Fiesta" by JG Colleges, Ahmedabad.
Organised- Exhibition and Inspirational Talk, "Solitude" glory of being alone, Ahmedabad Ni Gufa, Ahmedabad.
- 2016 Invited by SCAD University of Art and Design, Hongkong.
- 2015 Site specific art installation, Diwali celebration for city, Ahmedabad.
Judge at "Talent Hunt Show" by leading newspaper Ahmedabad Mirror, Ahmedabad
- 2012 Judge at Navneet art competition, organised by Navneet Publication.
- 2011 Judge at Gujarat Artist Association.
- 2010 Judge at youth festival, Kadiwala University, Ghandhinagar- curated project