



THE AGE OF INNOCENCE

a Solo Show
of
YUSUF ARAKKAL

LONDON

19th - 24th November 2007
10am to 7pm

S.A. Fine Arts, London
&
Galerie Sara Arakkal, Bangalore

Present

THE AGE OF
INNOCENCE

a Solo Show
of
YUSUF ARAKKAL

at
La Galleria
Royal Opera Arcade
5B Pall Mall
London SW1Y 4UY

19th - 24th November 2007
10am to 7pm



YUSUF ARAKKAL

Yusuf Arakkal

Born in Kerala India. 1945.

Diploma in painting from CKP college of Art, Bangalore.
One year specialization in graphic print making at
GHARHI-the National Academy's community studio
in New Delhi.

Besides forty solo shows and many juried shows in India,
Solo shows at New York, London, Katmandu, Singapore,
Hong Kong, Limousin, Le Havre and Dubai.

Major international participations
Sao Paulo International Biennale, Brazil,
Fukuoka International Biennale, Japan,
Bangladesh, Dhaka, International Biennale,
Indian International Triennale, Delhi.
Cairo International Biennale, Egypt and
Florence International Biennale, Italy.

Awards

Many Indian awards that includes the Karnataka state
Academy award and the National award. Special award at
Bangladesh International Biennale, Dhaka.
Lorenzo de Medici Silver and Gold medal at Florence
International biennale 2003 & 2005.

Nominations

As eminent artist to the National Academy of Art, India.
Indian Commissioner to Sao Paulo International Biennale.
Artistic committee member, Arad International Biennale,
Romania. Jury member, Kalidas Samman.

Yusuf Arakkal has extensively traveled the world making
television appearances on BBC, CNN, CNBC, Star Plus,
NDTV and many Indian channels. He writes poetry,
written as art critic for the Times of India, published
numerous articles on art in many English newspapers and
Periodicals.

His works are in many private and institutional
collections all over the world and have been auctioned by
Sotheby's, Christies and Asprey of London and New York
and by Larasati in Singapore.

Yusuf lives and works in Bangalore.

YUSUF ARAKKAL

An article by GIRIDHAR KHASNIS

In private conversations, Yusuf Arakkal recalls vivid images of his childhood. One of them is that of a young boy sitting on a sturdy rock silently gazing at an uncertain future.

Still in his mid-teens, he has run away from his home in Chavakkad (in Kerala) to Bangalore.

Coming out of the railway station with a small bundle of clothes and a princely sum of thirteen rupees in his pocket, he gazes at unfamiliar faces all around. The city holds promise but offers no food or shelter to him. In days to come he has to sleep in the cold confines of an abandoned railway wagon, eat meagerly, wash and drink from public tap. And sit on the rock with fear, anxiety, and insecurity... This is a typical unforgotten self-portrait of Yusuf Arakkal.



In more than four decades as an artist, Yusuf has painted and exhibited countless portraits of men and women. Constructing the life along Ganges on his canvas with new eyes, he has intercepted literary works with artistic vision, interpreted the Crucifixion, and revisited (Pablo Picasso's) Guernica.



The charm and essence of Gauguin's woman, Vermeer's Lace-maker, Picasso's boy, Modigliani's nude, van Gogh's boot, Munch's girl, Chagall's Ida, Joseph Beuy's felt suit, Paul Klee's Equilibrist and, Henry Moore's mother have graced his works. Nude studies, still-life's, abstract constructs... he has made them all. In this wide-ranging repertoire, if one were to point a common element, it would be that of pain and melancholy. In some way or the other, they all carry the latent heat of a sturdy rock on a cheerless winter morning.



Series after series, Yusuf's work has resonated with his own memories, associations and life experiences. In his paintings, he has celebrated the extraordinary power of ordinary people, the abandoned ones, whose hours of

departure are not certified on any official timetable. Exploring the hidden pathways and eerie labyrinths of an uncharted landscape, the artist in him has looked at the protagonists with care and compassion. His 'models' are ordinary people doing ordinary things in ordinary circumstances. Entrenched in solitude, they lead their lives silently concealing their anguish, suffering, insecurity. For Yusuf, they have always remained the poignant voices of the street. Muted voices, yes; lifeless, no.



In his present series too, Yusuf Arakkal carries the murmur of the street to his image. In here he has painted his favorite portraits. That of a child. The child of his vision. The child of his soul. The child of his dream. In these works one can see that the artist is both the 'I' and the 'eye' of the child.



Working this series, Yusuf has once again proved that for him, the art of painting is an act of faith, an act of affirmation, an act of courage. True, he is himself no longer the suffering adolescent sitting on a hard rock on a cold winter morning staring at an uncertain future with fear in his heart. Neither is he a tormented artist groping for an alluring but elusive image to reside on his canvas. The ups and downs of life have taught him to accept things with grace and magnanimity. Yet in the corner of his heart is that little murmur, a drifting whisper, an unforgettable reminder of the child in him. And when that child appears on his screens, his prints, his paints and on his canvas, it recreates a familiar yet fresh magic. A magic where the friendly 'hero' merges with an inner landscape.

The child on the canvas catches you in its gaze. His piercing stare shakes you, wakes you up, and reminds you of its glorious bequest. Bathed in somber light and set amidst abstract nudges, sturdy lines, enduring textures, his expressions are charming yet mysterious. In the midst of diversely-coloured solemnity, you sight his innocence, mischief, cheer, wit, not to forget anger, torment and anguish. And then a crucified figure appears out of thin air. A blessing? A premonition? And as you take him in – singly or in combination - he flashes a winsome smile. If this isn't magic, what is?

The watercolours in this series present a man in solitude. At one level, they seem to be inspired by Vincent van Gogh's Old Man with His Head in His Hands (1882), a fascinating portrait of a man in despair. Yusuf's protagonist shares the desolation; he is a present day figure but his pain is as hurtful. Seated in varying postures, gripped by a melancholic silence...



In essence, be it the child or the man, Yusuf's painting is not really about an individual's predicament. It is not about style or technique. It is about walls and shadows. It is about universal feelings. It is about passages of the soul. In the coldest hour of departure.

GIRIDHAR KHASNIS is a Bangalore-based freelance writer. His articles on art, literature and cinema have appeared in important newspapers and magazines. A self-taught artist and collage-maker, Giridhar has designed book covers for Oxford University Press, New Delhi, Penguin and several other prestigious publications.

Giridhar has recently curated a theme-based art show involving more than thirty painters. He has also developed the concept for a short film on the artist, Yusuf Arakkal. His current engagements include editing a book on three prominent artists of South India, and profiling some of the most important living artists of the country.



T H E C H I L D



“A picture is worth a thousand words”.
Napoleon Bonaparte

The child I
36" x 36"
Acrylic & Oil on canvas





"Art is the desire of a man to express himself,
to record the reactions of his personality to the world he lives in."
Amy Lowell

The child II
36" x 36"
Acrylic & Oil on canvas





“Some painters transform the sun into a yellow spot,
others transform a yellow spot into the sun.”
Pablo Picasso

The child III
36" x 36"
Acrylic & Oil on canvas





“While I recognize the necessity for a basis of observed reality...
true art lies in a reality that is felt.”
Odilon Redon

The child IV
36" x 36"
Acrylic & Oil on canvas





“Things are beautiful if you love them.”
Jean Anouilh

The child V
36" x 36"
Acrylic & Oil on canvas





“The awareness of our own strength makes us modest.”
Paul Cézanne

The child VI
 48" x 48"
 Acrylic & Oil on canvas





“Every artist dips his brush in his own soul, and paints
his own nature into his pictures.
Henry Ward Beecher

The child VII
36" x 36"
Acrylic & Oil on canvas





"If we could but paint with the hand what we see with the eye."
Honore de Balzac

The child VIII
 48" x 48"
Acrylic & Oil on canvas





“No great artist ever sees things as they really are.
If he did, he would cease to be an artist.”
Oscar Wilde

The child IX
48" x 48"
Acrylic & Oil on canvas





“We all know that art is not truth.
Art is a lie that makes us realize the truth.”
Pablo Picasso

The child X
48" x 48"
Acrylic & Oil on canvas





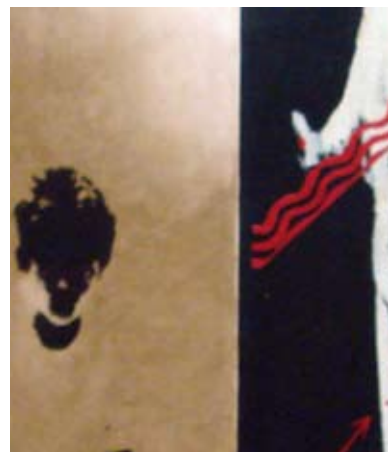
C H R I S T & C H I L D



“Every production of an artist should be the expression
of an adventure of his soul.”
W. Somerset Maugham

The Crucified I
60" x 75"
Acrylic & Oil on canvas





“The aim of art is to represent not the outward appearance of things,
but their inward significance.”
Aristotle

The Crucified II
60" x 75"
Acrylic & Oil on canvas





“In art, all who have done something other than their predecessors have merited the epithet of revolutionary; and it is they alone who are masters.”
Paul Gauguin

The Crucified III
 60" x 60"
 Acrylic & Oil on canvas





“The true work of art is but a shadow of the divine perfection.”
Michelangelo

The Crucified IV
 60" x 60"
Acrylic & Oil on canvas





THE INNER CHILD



"I like to pretend that my art has nothing to do with me."
Roy Lichtenstein

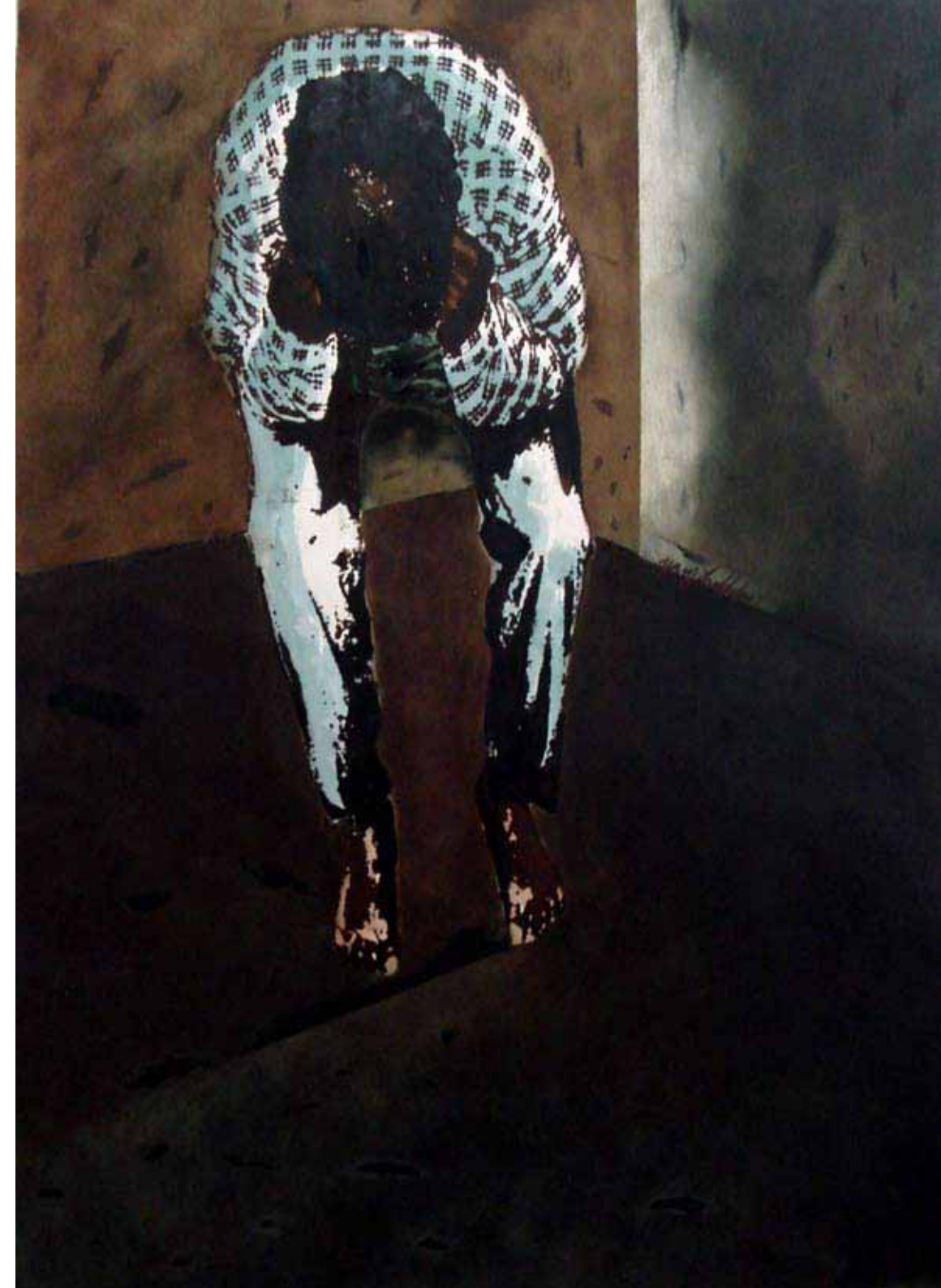
In Solitude I
54" x 36"
Water colour on paper





“The most profound things are inexpressible.”
Jenny Holzer

In Solitude II
54" x 36"
Water colour on paper





"A picture is a poem without words."
Horace

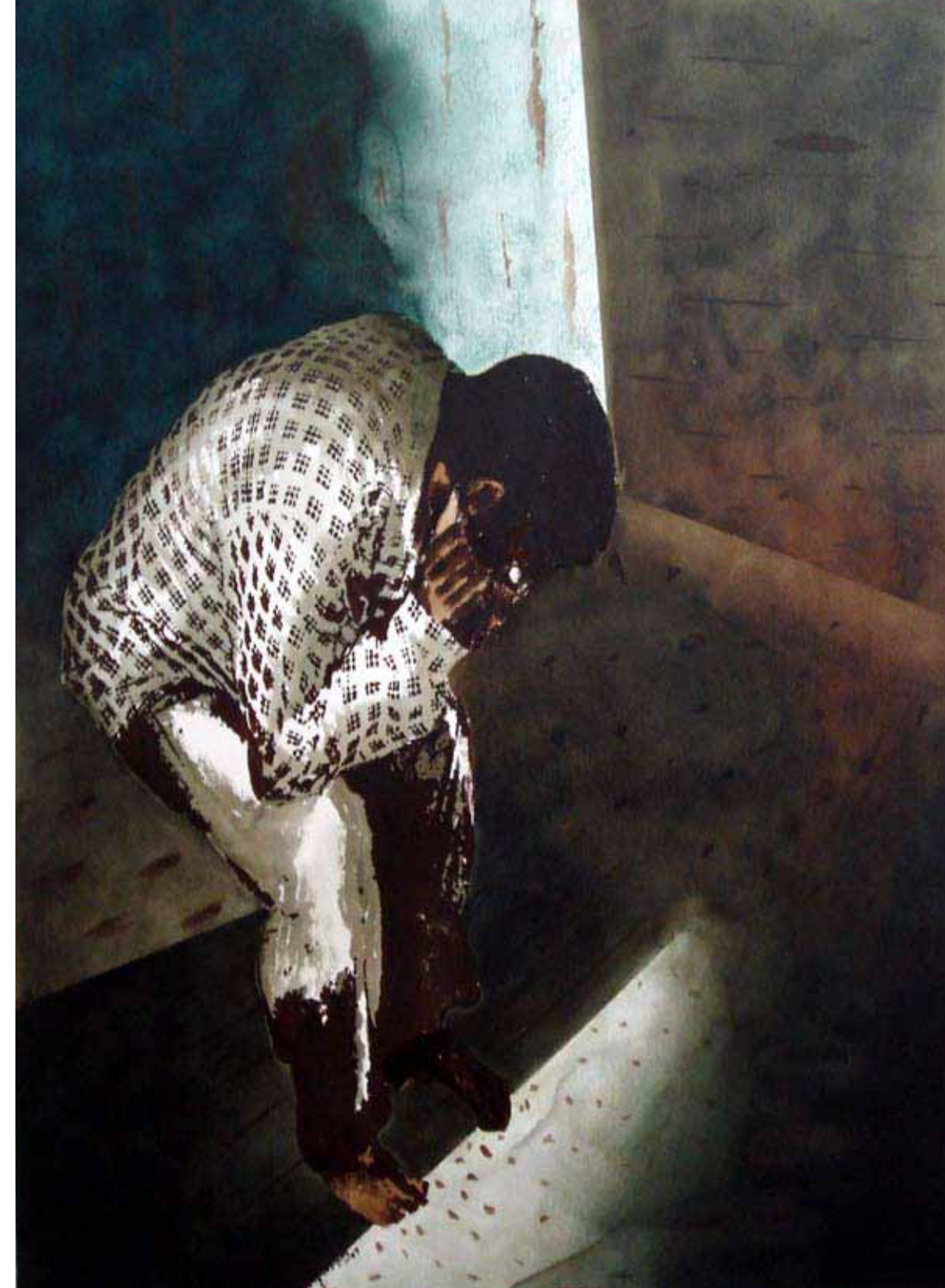
In Solitude III
54" x 36"
Water colour on paper





“The principles of true art is not to portray, but to evoke.”
Jerzy Kosinski

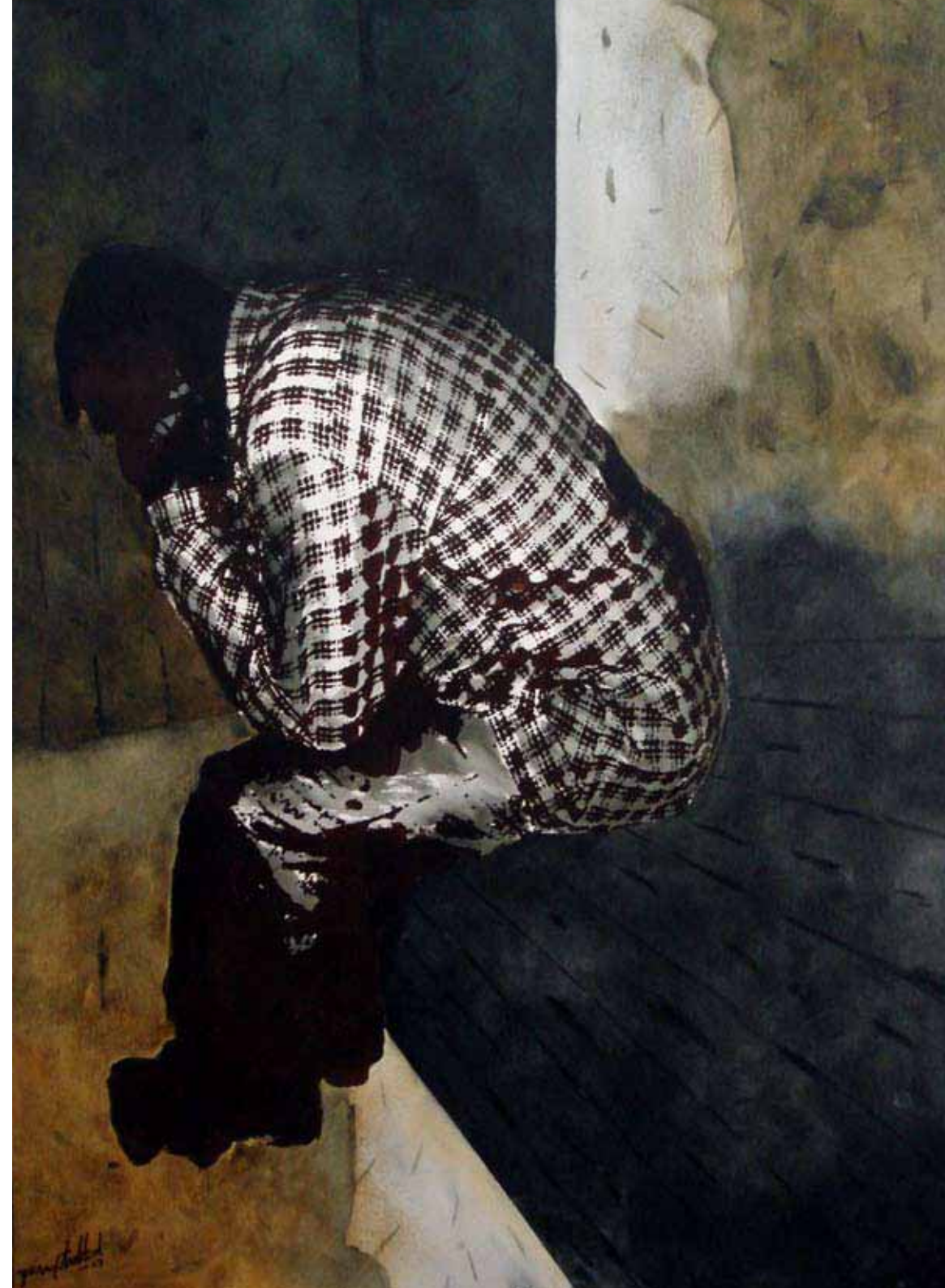
In Solitude IV
54" x 36"
Water colour on paper





“An artist is always alone - if he is an artist.
No, what the artist needs is loneliness.”
Henry Miller

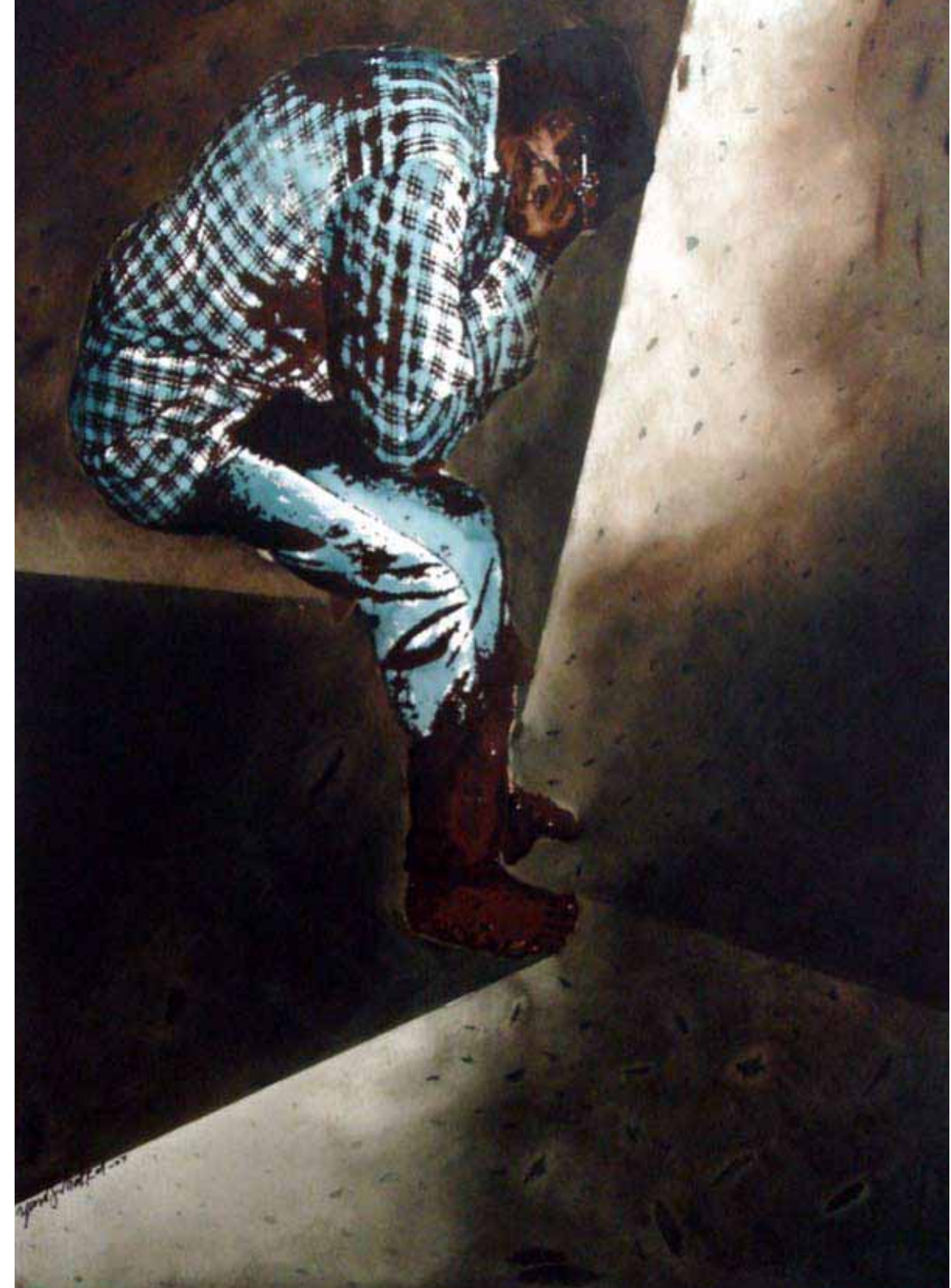
In Solitude V
54" x 36"
Water colour on paper

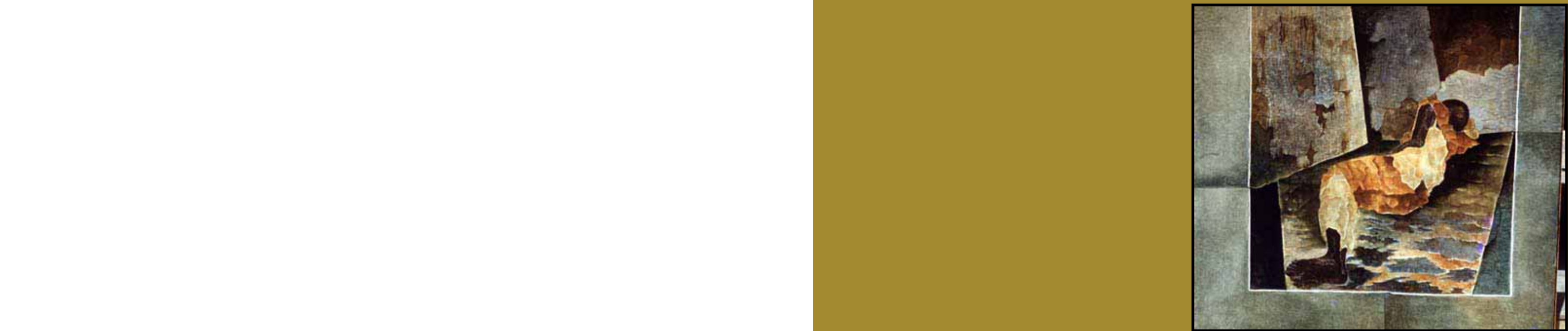




"I don't paint things. I only paint the difference between things."
Henri Matisse

In Solitude VI
54" x 36"
Water colour on paper





A P P E N D I X



About Galerie Sara Arakkal

Galerie Sara Arakkal began its art promotion journey 9 years ago as 'Art in Crafts', which mainly focused on reproductions, Artifacts and crafts based on Indian contemporary artists' works.

In order to achieve higher possibilities, Art in Crafts began exhibiting contemporary artists works in India and globally.

A few curated exhibitions to be mentioned are 'a tribute to Universal motherhood' during the Dubai Shopping Festival 2000.

Curated solo shows of Eminent Artist Yusuf Arakkal at the Emirate Towers, Dubai in collaboration with Axis International and at the Nehru Centre in UK 2001 & 2002.

These activities demanded a permanent set up which lead to the establishment of Galerie Sara Arakkal at a creatively designed space in Bangalore that houses an art shop and the gallery space.

Galerie Sara Arakkal continues to promote contemporary art in a major way focusing on the new developments and progressive trends. Galerie Sara Arakkal had organized shows like 'The Feminine Eye' an exhibition of 25 Indian women artists, 'Chapter One' show of two photographers and a painter, 'Use & Throw' show of 10 young contemporary Indian artists from Bangalore and Baroda in 2005, Annual Shows from 2003 to 2007.

Galerie Sara Arakkal
156, 4th Main
Beml Layout
ITPL Main Road
Bangalore 560066
Telefax: +91-80-41162622
Email: gsal56@vsnl.com
www.artincrafts.com



About S.A. Fine Arts, London

Founded by Sangeeta Ahuja, an alumni of Christie's Education in London, the company was established in the UK in 2005 to promote modern and contemporary art from India and other Asian countries to an European audience. The mission of the company is to create a platform in Europe to exhibit works of senior and emerging artists to art lovers in London, Geneva & Paris.

S.A. Fine Arts collaborates with leading Asian galleries and artists to source exclusively produced works of high quality and authenticity for sale to discerning European collectors. The firm deals primarily in new works produced by living artists and endeavours to initiate a dialogue between the artist and the collector – thereby introducing a live format of sale, which creates a unique and interactive experience.

Major Events Organized:

2005: Solo show of Thota Vaikuntam at The Air Gallery, London

2006: TATVA – Group show of 6 Indian Masters at The V&A Museum, London
Exhibiting artists – Anjolie Ela Menon, Jogen Chowdhury, Arpana Caur, Yusuf Arakkal, Paresh Maity & Prabhakar Kolte

2007: An Indian Summer – Group show of 10 eminent artists from India at The Gallery in Cork Street, London
Emerging India – Group show of 45 young contemporaries from India at the Henry Moore gallery in The Royal College of Art, London

S.A. Fine Arts
11 Oak Hill Lodge
Oak Hill Park
Hampstead,
London NW3 7LN
Tel: +44-0-7722031895
Email: sangeeta@safinearts.com
www.safinearts.com

YUSUF ARAKKAL

1945 Born in Kerala.
1973 Diploma in painting from Chitrakala Parishath College of Art, Bangalore.
1980 Specialisation in graphic print making from the Indian National Art Academy community studios, Garhi, Delhi.

Solo Shows in India

Since 1975- Over forty shows at Bangalore, Madras, Hyderabad, Trivandrum, Calicut, Cochin, Trichur, Calcutta, Mumbai, New Delhi.
Works exhibited include mediums like Oils, Water colours, Graphics, Collages and Sculptures – In Bronze, Terra-cotta, Wood, Granite, Steel, Paper, Fibreglass etc.

Group Shows in India

Since 1969 most major juried shows, State and All India level shows. National exhibitions and exhibitions organised by private galleries and groups.

Solo Shows Abroad

1992 Relays De Monts-Siux, Limousin, France
1993 Gallerie Taormina Del Arte- Le Havre, France
1994 Srijana Contemporary Art Gallery- Kathmandu, Nepal
1994 Art Forum Gallery, Singapore
1996 Wallace Gallery, Chelsea, New York
1996 Air Gallery, Dower Street, London
1998 A Gallery, 521 W 23nd Street, 10th Avenue, New York
1998 The Discerning Eye Gallery, H.K.Museum , Visual Art Centre, Hongkong
2001 At the Emirates Towers Dubai, UAE.
2002 The Nehru Centre, South Audley Street, London.
2007 Easel Art Gallery, Singapore
2007 Aicon Gallery, Palo Alto, California

International Shows

1971 Indian Artist at Belorussia and Moscow
1985 Thirty Contemporary Indian Artists at Havana, Cuba
1985 Contemporary Indian Art Show at the National Museum, Mexico City, Mexico
1985 Second Asian Art Show, Fukuoka, Japan
1985 Indian Printmaking, Festival of India, USA
1986 Sixth Biennale de beaux Art, Beaumont, France
1986 Third Asian Art Biennale, Dhaka, Bangladesh
1986 Inaugural Exhibition of the National Museum of Modern Art, Seoul, Korea
1986 Sixth International Triennale, New Delhi, India
1987 Ninth International Biennale de Sao Paulo, Brazil
1993 Nine Indian artists CCA Gallery, New York
1994 Indian Printmaking show, Maltwood Art Museum & Gallery Victoria, British Columbia
1994 Indian Contemporary Art Show, Gallery Maya, Hongkong
1995 Heads and Faces – an exhibition by Gallery Maya, Visual Art Centre, HongKong
1995 “Save the Children” auction by Sothebys, Bombay
1995 Auction of Indian Contemporary Art by Christies, London
1996 Indian Contemporary Art Show, Nagai Garo, Tokyo, Japan
1996 32 Contemporary Indian artists – exhibition and auction by Christies, London
1996 Women in Indian art, by The Gallery, Visual Art Centre, HongKong
1997 Auction of Indian Contemporary Art by Christies, London
1998 Spirit And Soul, The Rotunda Exchange Square, HongKong
1998 Bayer – RPG Show, Munich, Germany
1999 Universal Declaration of Human Rights- International Print Portfolio- Exhibition Durban – South Africa.
2000 The Eternal Embrace - a Tribute to Universal Motherhood, Dubai, UAE
2000 UDHR Exhibition at the United Nations in Geneva (U.N.O.G)
2000 Contemporary Woman, Modern Indian Artist - Visual Art Centre, HongKong
2000 Participation in The UDHR International AIDS Portfolio in South Africa
2000 Participation in ARTISTS INTERNATIONAL DIRECT SUPPORT, International AIDS Portfolio Project, Canada.
2001 Cairo International Biennale.
2001 Best of Indian art – a show of Indian artists, Singapore.
2003 4th Florence International Biennale of Contemporary Art, Italy.
2005 Indian International Triennale, New Delhi.
2005 Inaugural show of Arad International Biennale
2005 Participated in Sothbey's art auction at New York
2005 5th Florence International Biennale of Contemporary Art – Italy.
2006 Tatva, The Elements – Victoria & Albert Museum, London.

Awards and Recognitions

Several Awards since 1970 for Paintings, Sculptures, Graphics, Portraits and Drawings that include The Karnataka Lalithkala Academy Awards for 1979 and 1981.
The National Award in 1983, a special Award at the Third Asian Art Biennale- Dhaka, Bangladesh in 1986 and the Karnataka Lalithkala Academy honouring 1989, Karnataka Rajyotsva Award 1999, 2003 won Lorenzo-De-Medici the magnificent, silver medal for his painting at the 4th Florence International Biennale of Contemporary Art, Italy, 2005 won the government of Karnataka Venkatappa award.
2005 – Lorenzo-De-Medici Gold medal at 5th Florence International Biennale of Contemporary art, Italy.

Nominations

1984 the National Acedemy of Art as an eminent artist.
1987 Nominated as the Indian Commissioner for the 19th Sao Paulo International Biennale.
1988 the Karnataka Lalitkala Academy.
1992 the Kerala Lalitkala Academy (could not accept).
1999 the National Academy of Art as eminent Artist (Could not accept).
2002 as jury of ‘Kalidas Samman’ for Art.
2005 One of the fifteen International Committee members of Arad International Biennale.
2007 International Artistic committee member – Contemporary Art Biennale of Adana, Turkey.

Collections

Several individual and institutional collections in India, United States, United Kingdom, Japan, South Korea, UAE, Mexico, Brazil, Netherlands, Switzerland, Germany, France, Hong Kong, Australia, Singapore, Indonesia, Nepal, Canada, Iran, Pakistan, Kenya, Kuwait, South Africa, Italy, Thailand, Malaysia, Romania.

Commissions

1986 Created a contemporary mural in granite for the corporate complex of Unilever at Bangalore.
1988 Large mural in metal for the headquarters of Hindustan Aeronautics.
1989 Large out door terracotta mural for the Central Silk Board Complex.
1992 Large out-door granite mural for the Satellite Centre of the Indian Space Research Organization.

1995 Steel and granite mural for the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Research at Bangalore.
1998 Large Indoor mural for GE – BEL, Bangalore.
2000 12 Feet high copper sculpture for The Biocon India Groups-Syngene International.
2002 10 Feet stainless steel sculpture for Essen co., Corporate office, Bangalore.
2003 21 Feet public sculpture in stainless steel on MG Road, Bangalore.
2004 Large out-door 20 Feet dia Stainless steel sculpture for The Biocon India Groups.
2005 Large outdoor 17 X 30 Feet Stainless steel Mural for The Biocon India Groups.
2006 40 Feet Stainless Steel and copper Hanging installation for BBPL (Biocon Biopharmaceuticals Pvt Ltd).

Travels

Extensively traveled and worked in The US, France, Britain, Germany, Brazil, Italy, Switzerland, Netherlands, Egypt, Iran, Hong Kong, UAE, Thailand, Singapore, Israel, Russia and Turkey.

General

Television appearances and Interviews on CNN, BBC, STAR PLUS, CNBC and many Indian language channels.

Writings

Published numerous articles on art in several major English newspapers and periodicals. Writes poetry in English.

Studio

663, Ist Main, ‘C’ Block, AECS Layout, Bangalore – 560037, India.
Phone: 080-28475307, 28475340.
E-mail: arakkal@hathway.com arakkal@vsnl.com
Website: www.yarakkal.com