



T. VENKANNA
'PANCHA MAHABHUTA' (FIVE GREAT ELEMENTS)

Show Information:

Curator: Abhay Maskara

Preview: March 28, 2013, 6:30pm to 9:30pm

Show Dates: March 29 – May 9, 2013

Location: Gallery Maskara, 6/7 3rd Pasta Lane, Colaba, Mumbai – 400 005

Gallery Timings: 11am to 7pm, Tuesday – Saturday

Gallery Maskara is pleased to announce artist T. Venkanna's fourth solo show at Gallery Maskara titled *Pancha Mahabhuta (Five Great Elements)*. Gallery Maskara celebrates *five* years with the opening of this show. On this occasion we will also unveil a new space at the gallery.

The five elements are *Earth, Water, Fire, Air* and *Sky*. It is believed that all of creation, including the human body, is made up of these five essential elements and that upon death, the human body dissolves into these elements, thereby balancing the cycle of nature. These five elements are also associated with the five senses, and act as the gross medium for the experience of sensations.

The harmony between these elements is increasingly imbalanced due to a variety of reasons. War between countries for land and its natural resources claim innocent human lives and threaten national security. Waterways are more and more congested and polluted with commercial traffic thus reducing the number of species that can survive in this fragile ecosystem. Fire is being used as a weapon against nature to burn forests and reclaim large tracts of land for human habitation. The ozone depletion in the Earth's stratosphere has been steadily escalating since the 1970's, and greenhouse gasses produced by human activity are leading to alarming levels of global warming.

It is against this backdrop, that Venkanna has created five new works on canvas each measuring 12 x 8 feet along with five objects that will depict the delicate state of these five elements. The primary medium for these works is charcoal, ink and collage on rice paper pasted on canvas plus objects made in wood.

About the artist - T. Venkanna

Indian artist T. Venkanna's prolific and prodigious output has gained him the reputation of being one of his generation's most exciting, versatile, and unconventional artist. He holds a Masters in Fine Arts (M.F.A.) in printmaking from the Faculty of Fine Arts, M.S. University of Baroda and Bachelors in Fine Arts (B.F.A.) in painting from J.N.T.U, Hyderabad where he was awarded a Gold medal.

Major shows in 2012 include *Pancha Mahabhuta (Five Great Elements)* at the Kochi-Muziris Biennale, Kochi, India, *Cynical Love: Life in the Everyday* curated by Gayatri Sinha at the Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, Noida, India, a solo presentation at Art Brussels 30th Contemporary Art Fair, ProjectStage at Art Stage Singapore, the India Art Fair, India, the VIP Art Fair, (online). In 2011, Venkanna presented a controversial solo performance at Art

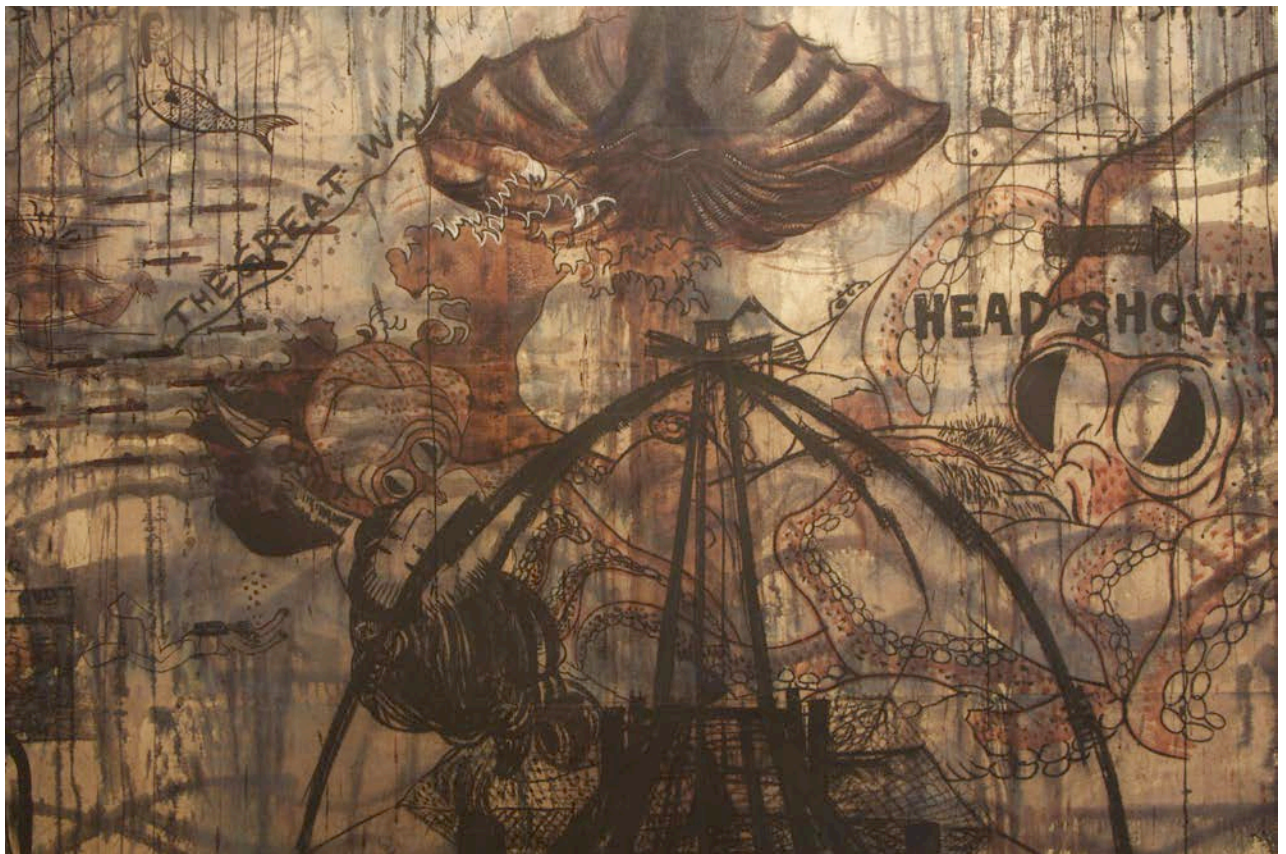
Stage Singapore and was part of New Trends from South India, at the Lalit Kala Academy, Chennai, India. Other key projects during the year included; CROSSROADS: India escalate (India Pavilion) at the Prague Biennale 5, Czech Republic, a solo presentation at the Art Brussels 29th Contemporary Art Fair, Belgium, Fabular Bodies, curated by Gayatri Sinha for the Harmony Art Foundation, Prince of Wales Museum, Mumbai, India, Printmaking: Open Studio, at Gallery Maskara, Mumbai, India, (M)other India at Galerie du Jour – Agnès B, Paris, France and Window in the Wall, Pearl Lam Galleries, Shanghai, China. In 2010 his work was part of Finding India: Art for the New Century, Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) Taipei, Taiwan. His solo show, NERO opened at Gallery Luce in Torino, Italy and he simultaneously showed at Artissima 17 Torino, Italy. He was also the youngest artist featured in the Saatchi Gallery show The Empire Strikes Back: Indian Art Today, London, UK.

Venkanna was one of 20 artists shortlisted for the SKODA prize in 2010 and 2012. His works are in major collections in America, Japan, Russia and Europe including the Charles Saatchi collection (UK), the Burger Collection (Switzerland), Swagemakers collection (Netherlands) and many more in India and across the world. The artist lives and works in Baroda, India.

Reference Images



Pancha Mahabhuta (Earth), 2012 (Detail)
Charcoal, ink, collage and dry pastel on rice paper pasted on canvas
96 x 144 inches (244 x 366 cm)



Pancha Mahabhuta (Water), 2012 (Detail)
Charcoal, ink and dry pastel on rice paper pasted on canvas
96 x 144 inches (244 x 366 cm)

About Gallery Maskara

Gallery Maskara has a clear and compelling mission to taking a *global* and *multidisciplinary* approach to art that responds to the cultural fabric of our time thus fueling critical dialogue, collaboration, and public engagement. More simply put it is to *EXHIBIT AND PROMOTE ART OF THE PRESENT*.

The gallery is located in the heart of downtown Mumbai between 2nd and 3rd Pasta lane in Colaba, and functions as a hub for the exploration of emerging ideas in the contemporary art. The freestanding 3,250 square foot building served as a cotton godown during India's pre independence era and has been renovated by noted conservation architect Rahul Mehrotra to maintain its historic character. With a nearly 50 feet ceiling height and walls that run 100 feet in length, the cavernous space marks a shift from the typical white cube neutral space and is raw yet flexible, making the building extremely well-suited for contemporary art practices.

For more information, visit: <http://www.gallerymaskara.com>

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