

Flight of the
rugged/ Rusty
Hopes/ Dreaming
with Colors/
Fragile hopes/
Limited Colors/
Broken Wings/
Wild Mushrooms/
Broken Flights/
Forest of Dreams/

VULNERABLE DREAMS

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This exhibit showcases the works of students of Shuru-Art highlighting the trials and tribulations of being part of vulnerable communities in India

The exhibit will be on display at The American Center, 24 K.G. Marg New Delhi 110001 from February 24, 2017 to March 10, 2017 (10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.)

VULNERABLE
DREAMS

by the artist
SHURUA(R)T



It is an honour and pleasure to host this exhibit, Vulnerable Dreams, at the American Center in New Delhi. The exhibit features 20 works by 17 very talented students from the Faculty of Fine Arts of Benares Hindu University. The exhibit, conceived and organized by Shuruart serves to highlight the challenges faced by marginalized communities in India. It also serves to introduce New Delhi to the work of some very talented contemporary Indian artists.

We must not forget the critical role the arts play in modern society. Economically, the arts, through product design, marketing design and much more makes or breaks a company. Our physical surroundings are often beautified through the arts. Our spiritual lives are enriched through the arts. The arts are important for our psychological welfare. Finally, the arts serve to highlight issues of social concern, bringing people together and serving as a catalyst for thoughtful discussion regarding these issues.

The paintings in this exhibit serve many of these purposes and more. They contribute to our psychological and spiritual well-being. They add beauty to our lives and highlight issues of social concern. I would like to congratulate the artists who have contributed to this exhibit and thank Shuruart for this most instructive and important initiative.

Dr. Craig L Dicker
Counselor, Cultural Affairs
US Embassy, New Delhi

Foreword

Art exhibitions play a crucial role in the career of an artist. The stories that are shared through the artworks are quite common. But it is only through the eyes of the artists we're able to see the issue in a new light.

The paintings that are on display here at "VULNERABLE DREAMS", are all narratives of the experiences that the artists either have experienced themselves or have seen these stories in their surroundings, and were compelled to express it. Migration, sexism, child labor, struggles of a woman, and many more issues have been beautifully touched by the students of Banaras Hindu University.

SHURUA(R)T is a platform that strives to provide the student artists from tier 2/3 cities such opportunities. Exhibitions like these strengthen the profile of the artists and help them develop as a professional. Getting to interact with people about the artwork is as crucial as making it.

We sincerely hope that these paintings stimulate your thoughts, and serve their very purpose.

Acknowledgement

TEAM SHURUA(R)T is very grateful to The American Centre (New Delhi) for this opportunity. It wasn't only a learning experience for us but quite a memorable one for our students as well. Getting to exhibit their creations at a place of such value and honor means a lot for our students and of course for us.

Opportunities like these help us to bring forward the hidden talent from a small town like Banaras, (which the students had never dreamt of).

Such exposure is crucial for the confidence of the artists and plays an important role in helping them improve the quality of their thoughts and thus works.

Cheers

Sana Sabah

CEO, SHURUA(R)T

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Woman And Her Weapons *Acrylic on Canvas 36x40"*



Ajay Prakash (Final year student of MFA, BHU)

In our millions of women laborers working in the unorganized sector, Ajay sees the form of Goddess Shakti, an incarnation of Goddess Durga with several hands. A reservoir of energy, she deftly handles several responsibilities of a mother, a worker, a homemaker. She is the one growing farm produce, working at construction sites, selling goods at the roadside stalls.

Ajay feels that as a society we have failed to give the respect our women.



Life Of The Size Of A Newspaper *Acrylic on Canvas* 36x30"



Amaresh Kumar (Fourth-year student BFA from BHU.)

Who are these women, begging on the streets, holding toddlers? Where do they live? What do these kids dream of?

Amaresh has been troubled by this sight. He believes that basic human conditions denied to such woman not only make their life miserable, but also takes the ambition out of the lives of their children. They end up working as child laborers, a huge loss to our nation.



Indian Women And The Differences *Acrylic on Canvas 35x18"*



Anand Verma (Third-year student BFA from BHU.)

The women from different castes are treated differently. When she belongs to a poor family, she's married at an age that isn't good for her. She has to kill all her aspirations and get stuck with dealing with daily chores, family and children. Whereas women who come from richer families are given the opportunity to explore their career.

Life Inside The Caged Land Acrylic on Canvas 30x23"

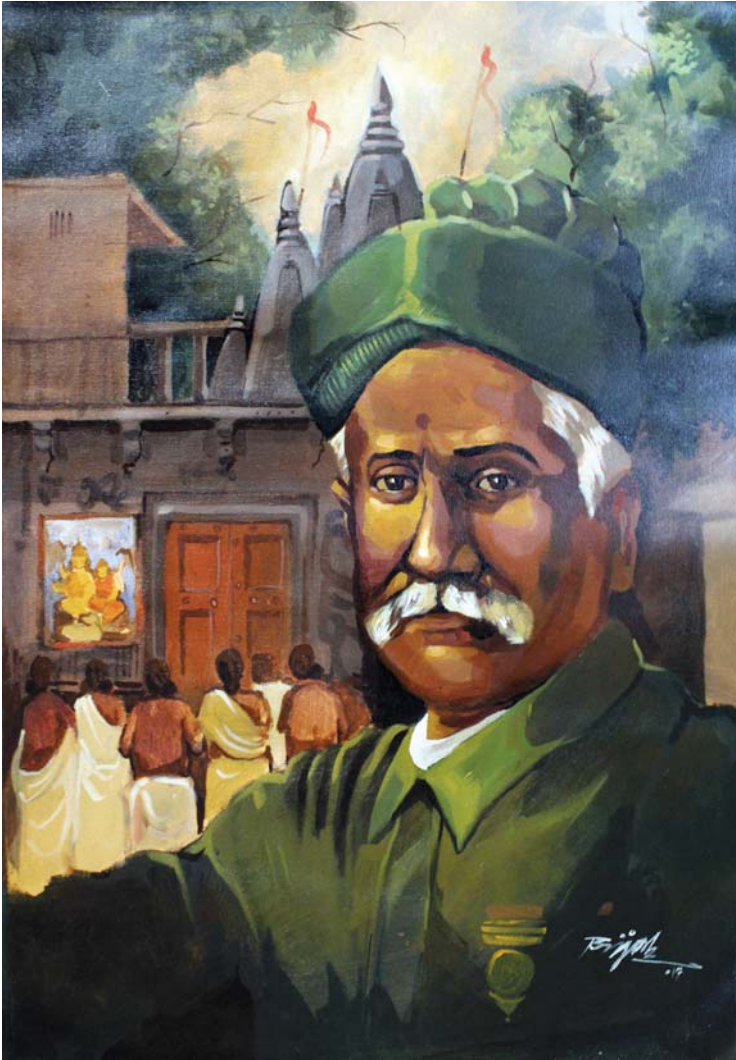


A Crippled Future Acrylic on Canvas 18x34"



Ashish Kumar Gupta (MFA from BHU and is currently preparing for NET exams.)

Every single day we read about how child labour is a major concern for our nation. But the question is what have we ever done for a child selling tea at Tapris, or doing the dishes at restaurants, or for the child who comes at home to do the chores? (Both the paintings are about the same issue)



Bringing Gods Out: Raja Ravi Varma In Perspective Acrylic on Canvas 29x20"



Brijesh Vishwakarma (Fourth-year student of BFA from BHU.)

For many years, temples in India didn't allow dalits, the untouchables, to enter the temple premise and worship. Raja Ravi Varma, a renowned painter brought the Gods out, from the temples, to the canvas and thus made Gods accessible to all section of society.

He believes this to be an important event. He cites this as an example of how artists improve our society.



Flight Of Dreams *Acrylic on Canvas* 15x12"



24x30"



12x15"



Deepika Sharma (Completed MFA, from BHU in 2016.)

When we were young, we all had simple dreams. Paper planes and boats gave us the pleasure and joy. It was a shared joy, a dream that people from all class and castes can dream, but when we grow in age, things change significantly.

She is troubled by the inequality of opportunity afforded to people from different background.



The Stitched Life Acrylic on Canvas 29x35"



Hitesh Chaudhary (Third-year student of BFA from BHU.)

Our health, our life depends on sanitation workers. These are people who ensure our surroundings are clean, yet they aren't respected nor valued for their important contribution. They live in ghettos, living away from the very society they clean.

He believes that we, as a society, should give the respect sanitation workers deserve.



Original Painting Of Arunima Sinha *Acrylic on Canvas 30x24"*



Neelam Gupta: (Third-year student BFA from BHU.)

Neelam has told the story of Arunima Sinha through her painting. Arunima Sinha (born 1988) is the first female amputee to climb Mount Everest. She is also the first Indian amputee to do so. She was a national level volleyball player who was pushed from a running train by thieves in 2011 while she was resisting them. She walks with an amputated leg, but the fighter in her is still whole.



Chained Freedom Acrylic on Canvas 48x36"



Original Painting Of Saint Teresa Acrylic on Canvas 16x12"



Pankaj Verma 1 (Third-year student BFA from BHU.)

Pankaj has made this painting that explains the dilemma of a woman. She's supposed to live a life according to the norms set by the society. Although she has dreams and aspirations of her own, but all of that have to be given away so that the society remains pleased. The burden of keeping everyone happy, by keeping herself chained, the idea has been very beautifully portrayed.

2. Raised the issue of female foeticide through his painting. He explains that a mother never wants to kill her own child. It's the social and family pressure that makes her do such a heinous act.



A Life In Service: Saint Teresa Acrylic on Canvas 24x30"



Rajat Arvind Pandey
(First-year student BFA from BHU.)

This painting is about the loving and nurturing aura of Mother Teresa. Rajat is a student of BFA from Banaras Hindu University.



The Inclusive Growth *Acrylic on Canvas 48x36"*



Rohit Gupta (Fourth-year student BFA from BHU.)

We are so attached with our past our decaying traditions, that even though the weight of it isn't letting us move forward, is destroying our present, we deny to move ahead without it. And a destroyed present doesn't allow us to have a better future. Generations pass and we're stuck in the vicious cycle of carrying the traditions forward.



Flying In A Fixed Region *Acrylic on Canvas* 30x24"



**Sadhana (Fourth-year student
BFA from BHU.)**

Sadhana from SHURUA(R)T has raised some serious issues through her painting. Why is it that even after attaining ones goals a girl is never secure in regards of her career? Why is it still so hard to be lead by a woman?



The Limited Flight: Women in 21st Century India *Print on Paper 42x34"*



Sandeep Kumar Prajapati
(Third-year student BFA from BHU.)

Sandeep has portrayed the fact that when a woman is given a chance to soar the skies through her education, she can do wonders. Whereas when she is denied education darkness surrounds her life, which is clearly unfair.



Urbanization and the Displaced *Acrylic on Canvas 37x25"*



Flight Of Dreams *Acrylic on Canvas 23x23"*



Sandeep Kumar Verma 1 (Fourth-year student BFA from BHU.)

Migrating from hometowns to big cities, for jobs, or for education isn't new. Sandeep here raises the issues of migrants. It's not just about making ends meet. It's also about the struggle they have to go through in order to accommodate themselves in the new environment, at the cost of their culture and values. Values that define us who we are. The lack of opportunities back at home does not only make people leave for better options but also leaves their town stagnant on the economic grounds.

2 Tells us the story we all are a part of. It narrates that how the pressure becoming successful has snatched the joy away from our souls. We no longer relate to our joyous self from our childhood, as becoming successful has become more important than remaining happy.

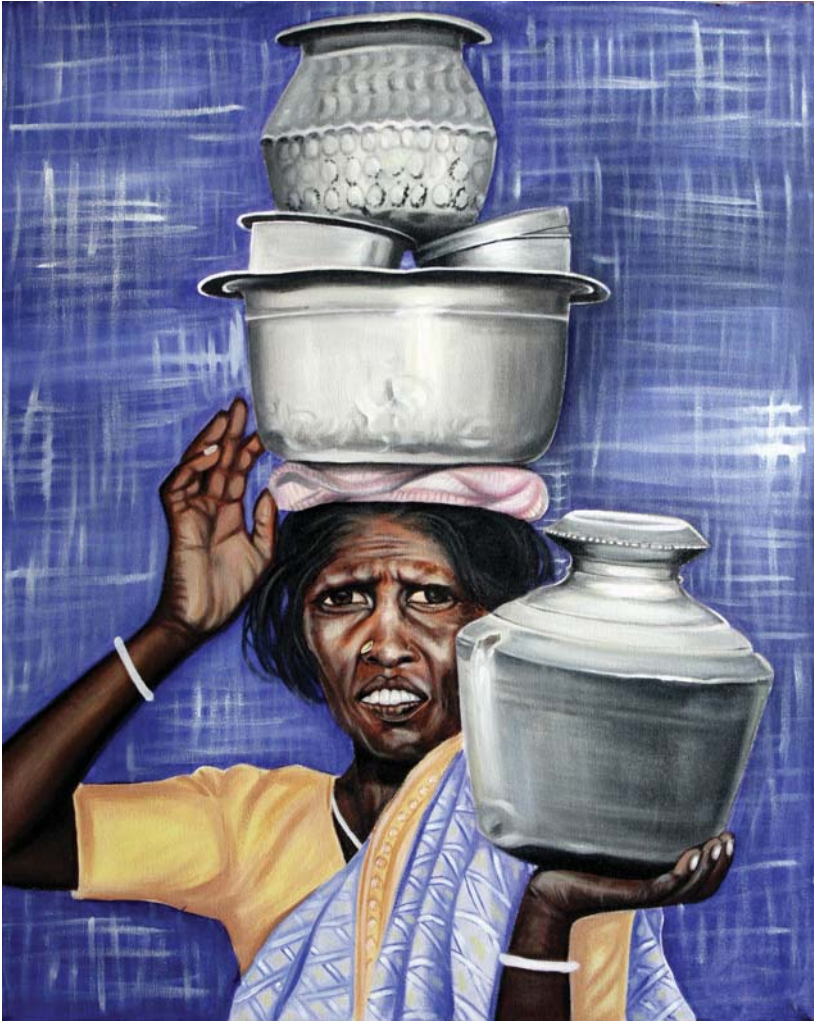


The Settled Occupation *Acrylic on Canvas 31x37"*



Shiv Pujan Prasad (Currently doing his Masters of Fine Arts from BHU.)

The society decides what a girl should be like, what she should want and what she should not. This patriarchal mindset has been very beautifully represented through Shiv's painting.



Woman and her weapons *Acrylic on Canvas 24x30"*



Shivanshi Vishwakarma
(Third-year student BFA from BHU.)

This painting is about a woman labourer. Even though these people have limited means, that does not stop them from bearing a smile on their tired and wrinkled faces.



Original Painting of Saint Surdas *Acrylic on Canvas 36x24"*



Suneel Kumar Maurya
(Third-year student BFA
from BHU.)

This painting is about
Soordas. Although Soordas
was blind, but he didn't fail to
spread light in our lives with
his spirituality.

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