



# HANDMADE HISTORY

KNOTTING & EXPANDING | LOST & FOUND

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AMITAVA DAS | RM PALANIAPPAN | MANISH PUSHKALE  
WAHIDA AHMED | TANMOY SAMANTA

FIVE INDIAN ARTIST - IN RESIDENCE

CG | UNNATI CULTURAL VILLAGE, NEPAL | RF



04 - 24

04

22



रज़ा फ़ाउण्डेशन | THE RAZA FOUNDATION

Supported by Brindco and The Vedanta Varma Foundation

## About Unnati Cultural Village

The Unnati Cultural Village is a unique initiative of the Chaudhary Foundation that fuels the evolution of heritage, multidisciplinary arts, crafts and living knowledge systems of Nepal, through its harnessing, preservation, promotion and resultant economic growth.

Unnati's philosophy of revival of national heritage through forms of arts, dance music, literature, cuisine and traditional habitat is intended to bring the past into the present. It is a sustainable creation of cultural wealth and artistic endeavor that speaks both to the traditional as well as the contemporary. The intention is to incubate a program that is sensitive and holistic.

# Handmade History I

Knotting & Expanding | Lost & Found

Handmade History I, held in collaboration with the Raza Foundation, marked the beginning of an enriching cross-cultural journey at UNNATI Cultural Village. The residency featured five distinguished Indian artists—Amitava Das, R.M. Palaniappan, Manish Pushkale, Wahida Ahmed, and Tanmoy Samanta—who came together to explore the intersections of tradition and transformation. Rooted in shared heritage, the program focused on themes of memory, craft, and preservation—bridging art practices across borders. Through hands-on workshops, collaborative dialogues, and community engagement, Handmade History I nurtured creative exchange and laid the foundation for deeper cultural ties.





## Amitava Das

Amitava Das was born in New Delhi in 1947 and graduated from the Delhi College of Art in 1972. His work is primarily based on human situations, where man is both the creator and the destroyer. The natural and artificial are cleverly fused to show the interdependence of the man-made and natural worlds. He tries to bring out the inner struggles of men placed in difficult times.



**Untitled**  
*Acrylic on Canvas*  
36 x 36 inches





## Manish Pushkale

Manish Pushkale was born in Bhopal in 1973. A trained geologist, Pushkale also studied art at the Art College in Bhopal, acquiring his Master's degree there.

Pushkale's art is intrinsically linked with the mythological, without making overt references to the same. A subdued color palette lends a lingering calm to his works. However, on a closer examination, the motifs and symbols in his art come to light, giving it different meanings. Subtle brush strokes and shading create multi-layered meaning.



**Nepalese Diary**  
*Acrylic on Canvas*  
36 x 36 inches





## Rm. Palaniappan

Born in Devakottai in Tamil Nadu, Rm. Palaniappan often incorporates the syntax of the sciences, such as diagrammatic notations and symbols, in his work.

Palaniappan obtained a diploma in fine arts from Government College of Art and Craft, Madras, in 1980, and took a post diploma in industrial design with specialization in ceramics the following year.

Primarily a printmaker, Palaniappan started making drawings and acrylic paintings later on. He is also a photographer and has worked with digital and computer imagery.



**For Nepal**  
*Acrylic on Rice Paper & Canvas*  
36 x 36 inches





## Tanmoy Samanta

Tanmoy Samanta's iconography representations of everyday objects are rendered in an unfamiliar light by building a composition through multiple layers of rice paper with gouache colors. This instinctive rendition of objects and their relation to other elements in the composition initiates a deeper search for the viewer, for there is mystery concealed in its many layers. With geometric abstraction he gives form to recognizable objects heightened by the treatment of colors and translucence. His division of space, the illusion of depth and, the simultaneous blurring and sharpening in of contour give his compositions a surreal outcome imbued with symbolism. Close attention to his work is rewarded with subtle discoveries and uncertain visual paradigms.



### The Chair

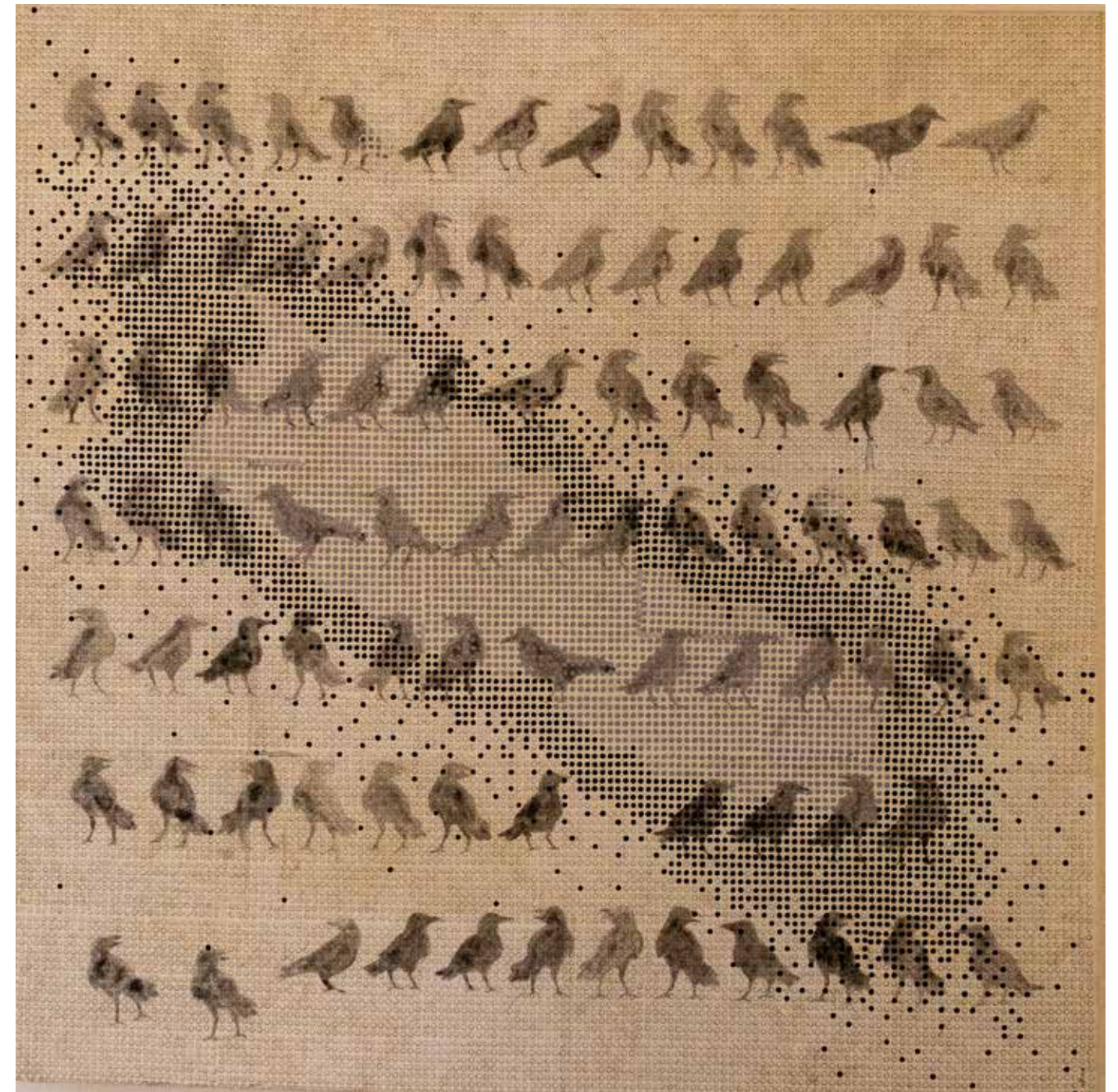
*Acrylic on Rice Paper & Canvas*  
36 x 36 inches





## Wahida Ahmad

Wahida Ahmed is an Indian artist based in Guwahati, Assam, who specializes in multimedia art. Being self-taught, she has developed a unique visual language that draws inspiration from both her modern and traditional backgrounds. Wahida has been part of shows at Apparao Gallery, Anant Art Gallery, Akar Parkar, and Palette in New Delhi. In 2021, she will be part of a group exhibition at the Palette Art Gallery in Delhi. Apart from her visual art, Wahida has also authored two collections of Assamese poetry titled “Bindu Alekh Bindu” and “Jibon Dristi.”



### **Messenger**

*Acrylic on Canvas  
36 x 36 inches*



# Acknowledgments

## **Surabhi Chaudhary**

Executive Director/ Founder  
Unnati Cultural Village

## **UNNATI Team**

Sadikshya Chaudhary  
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