

FROM  
BHAKTAPUR  
TO  
KANTIPUR



An exhibition of traditional and contemporary paintings by artists from Bhaktapur.

April 19 – May 19, 2023



## GALLERY STATEMENT

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Sangeeta Thapa

*Founder Director - Siddhartha Art Gallery / Siddhartha Arts Foundation*

*Founder Chair - Kathmandu Triennale*



*Mahankala*, Devendra Sinkhwal. Pigment color (Kajol).  
48x68cm

Bhaktapur—the ancient city of *bhaktajans* or devotees is a much-treasured jewel of our nation. Since the days of yore, the art, architecture and social fabric of this ancient Newa city was nurtured and shaped by the devotion of its kings and the local populace. Even today, the legacy of the city’s pious past lives on in the genealogies of its citizens. The cultural vibrancy of the city lives on in the arts – in the traditional bhajans, music, dance and jatras that are held by the local community.

My first introduction to the traditional paubha artists of Bhaktapur was in the 1990s at a show organized by the Traditional Artist’s Society at the Nepal Art Council in which a number of artists from Bhaktapur were showcasing their works. It was here that I saw the

works for Purna Hyoju titled ‘Tula Rani’. Awed by the mastery of this beautiful work, I sought him out and invited him to show his work at the Siddhartha Art Gallery. Overtime I was introduced to the works of Surya Bahadur Chitrakar, the Sinkhwal artists, as well as the incredible line works of the late Gyankar Bajracharya and a host of traditional artists from Bhaktapur. This is how the idea of organizing an exhibition of traditional paubha artists from Bhaktapur at the Siddhartha Art Gallery was born.

Purna Hyoju belongs to the group Khwopa Paubha Chwomi Pucha, Bhaktapur, which has 29 members: Purna Hyoju, Sundar Sinkhwal, Ratna Gopal Sinkhwal, Hari Prasad Baidhya, Bala Ram Nhisutu, Krishna Ram Ghemosu, Rabindra Munankarmi, Purn Hyoju, Mahendra Sinkhwal, Devendra Sinkhwal, Indra Sinkhwal, Sashi Dhar Sainju, Rajani Sinkhwal, Rojina Sinkhwal, Ram Hari Sinkhwal, Chandra Krishna Kiju, Shyam Sundar Khyaju, Sundar Shrestha, Muna Gwachha, Roshan Khyaju, Rajan Sangachhen, Shiva Prasad Kiju, Subendra Lohala, Ajay Karmacharya, Dinesh Sinkhwal, Mrigendra Karmacharya, Manoj Sinkhwal and Anu Bohaju. Some members of this group have shown their works in exhibitions in Kathmandu—at the Bodhisattva Gallery, Dev Art Gallery, in the Himalayan Art Festivals and in the annual National Exhibition organized by the Nepal Academy of Fine Art in which the traditional artists from Bhaktapur have won several prestigious national awards. This exhibition marks the first time that all 29 members of the Khwopa group are exhibiting their works together in Kathmandu. The collection of paintings for this show has been over five years in the making, and we are very honored to be hosting this exhibition with the traditional artists of Bhaktapur.

This exhibition also showcases pop culture and music-inspired works of Bhaktapur’s dynamic contemporary artists from the Devotee Artist Circle: Bal Krishna Banamala, Laxman Karmacharya, Sudeep Balla, Narayan Bohaju, Bhushan Duwal, Rakesh Yakami, Minod Bhaila and additional artists—Ashu Ram Khaiju, Mukesh Shrestha, Anjila Manandhar and Rabita Kisi. The Siddhartha Art Gallery has exhibited the works of most of these artists at the Gallery. Some of them have showcased their works at the Kathmandu International Art Festival and at the Kathmandu Triennale. Both the traditional and contemporary artists have also exhibited in the Deities of Népal exhibition.

The idea of showcasing these two very different shows from Bhaktapur serves two purposes—it sheds light on how the traditional and spiritual still shapes the contemporary narrative of a younger generation of artists and how a bold and ever-expanding younger generation of artists from Bhaktapur is asserting their space in the contemporary scenario with works that celebrate Bhaktapur’s culture, agrarian landscape, pressures of the urban, and with socio-politically informed works. It is interesting to note that the traditional artists from Khwopa Paubha Chwomi Pucha and the contemporary artists from the Devotee Artist Circle have not exhibited their works together, and we hope this exhibition will make way for future collaborations that will serve to assert Bhaktapur as a hub for the arts.

We take pride in showcasing the exhibition ‘From Bhaktapur to Kantipur’, welcoming the Newa artists of Bhaktapur to Kantipur with the Siddhartha Art Gallery.





*Naag Pasa*, Hari Prasad Baidhya. Sakura Color on Cotton Canvas. 81x49.5cm

## ORGANIZATION INTRODUCTION

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### Khwopa Paubha Chwomi Pucha



Khwopa Paubha Chwomi Pucha was established in 2000 with the sole intention of promoting Newari Paubha art and artists. The organization was established with ten committee members with Surya Bahadur Chitrakar as president, Nhuchhe Kaji Bajracharya as vice-president, Purna Prasad Hyoju as secretary, Sundar Sinkhwal as junior secretary, Late Gyanker Bajracharya as treasurer and Ratna Gopal Sinkhwal (the current treasurer), Hari Prasad Baidhya, Krishna Ram Ghemosu, Bala Ram Nhisutu and Ram Sundar Khyaju. Shyam Sundar Dhaubadel, Om

Charan Amatya and Nil Krishna Tamrakar are the organisation's advisors. Rabindra Munankarmi is the newest member.

From the very beginning of our establishment, we have been organizing talk programs, get-togethers, training and a total of six group art exhibitions. We had the privilege of honouring the Late Siddhi Muni Shakya, Late Prem Man Chitrakar and Late Amir Man Chitrakar in our first three group exhibitions held in 2001, 2002 and 2003, respectively. The 4th exhibition paid tribute to all the great artists of our field; Bakhat Man Chitrakar, Ananda Muni Shakya, Manik Man Chitrakar, Siddhi Muni Shakya and Bishnu Bahadur Chitrakar. Our 5th exhibition was held in 2012, and it showcased 36 different artworks from 36 artists. Our 6th group show, held in 2017, involved artworks by 85 artists. Senior artists Mukti Singh Thapa and Narayan Laxmi Karanjit were honoured in this exhibition.

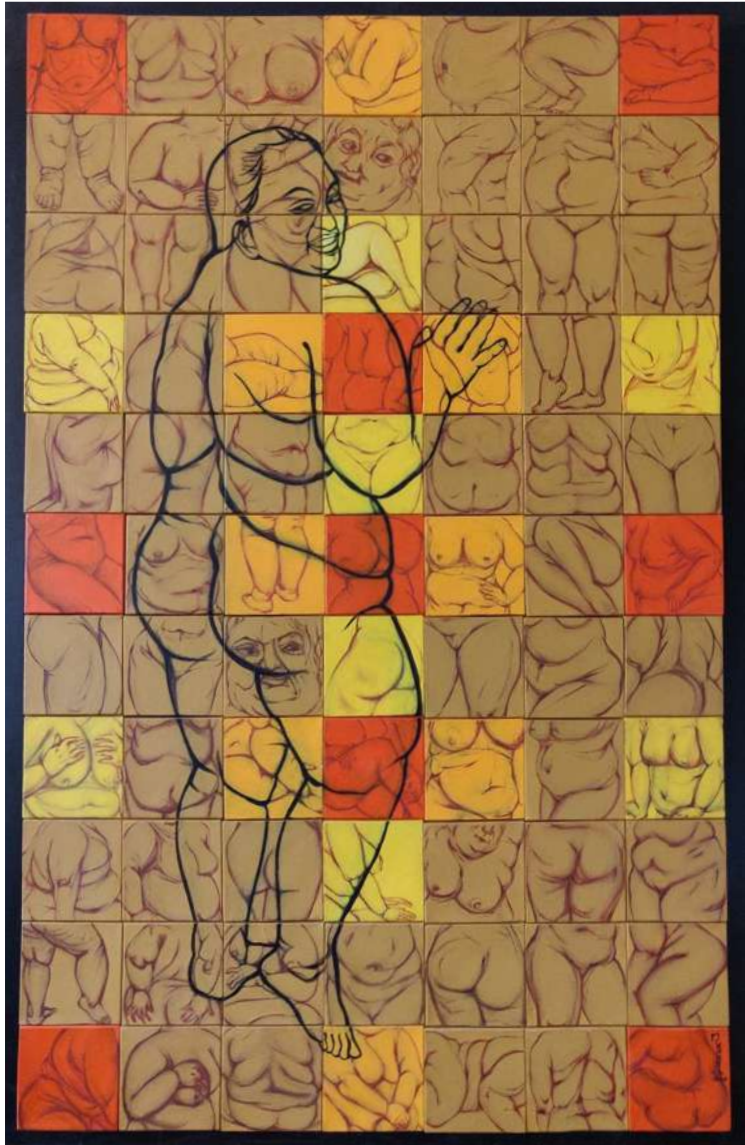
Khwopa Paubha Chwomi Pucha is and always will be dedicated to promoting Newari art and artists. We express gratitude to all the artists and art enthusiasts who have been continuously supporting us. We count on your patronage in the days to come.

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Purna Hyoju  
Sundar Sinkhwal  
Ratna Gopal Sinkhwal  
Hari Prasad Baidhya  
Bala Ram Nhisutu  
Krishna Ram Ghemosu  
Rabindra Munankarmi  
Puran Hyoju  
Mahendra Sinkhwal  
Devendra Sinkhwal

Indra Sinkhwal  
Sashi Dhar Sainju  
Rajani Sinkhwal  
Rojina Sinkhwal  
Ram Hari Sinkhwal  
Chandra Krishna Kiju  
Shyam Sundar Khyaju  
Sundar Shrestha  
Muna Gwachha  
Roshan Khyaju

Rajan Sangachhen  
Shiva Prasad Kiju  
Subendra Lohala  
Ajay Karmacharya  
Dinesh Sinkhwal  
Mrigendra Karmacharya  
Manoj Sinkhwal  
Anu Bohaju

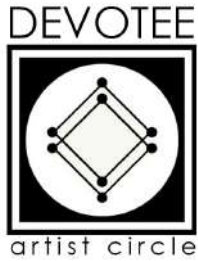


*Love Your Body*, Mukesh Shrestha. Acrylic on Canvas. 108x172cm (77 pieces)

## ORGANIZATION INTRODUCTION

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### Devotee Artist Circle



The Devotee Artist Circle takes its name from city of Bhaktapur which is referred to as the city of devotees. This artist's circle was established in 2022 by Narayan Bohaju, Bal Krishna Banmala, Sudeep Balla, Laxman Karmacharya, Bhushan Duwal, Rakesh Yakami and Minod Bhaila. The mission of the organization is to bring together a younger generation of artists from Bhaktapur—to promote contemporary art practice, conduct studio visits, discourses and organize exhibitions. They plan to expand the group of artists in the future.

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Bal Krishna Banmala  
Laxman Karmacharya  
Sudeep Balla  
Narayan Bohaju

Bhushan Duwal  
Rakesh Yakami  
Minod Bhaila  
Ashu Ram Khajju

Mukesh Shrestha  
Rabita Kisi  
Anjila Manandhar



*Love on Fire*, Laxman Karmacharya. Acrylic on Canvas. 48x36in



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Sangeeta Thapa,  
Founder Director - Siddhartha Art Gallery / Siddhartha Arts Foundation,  
Founder Chair - Kathmandu Triennale, Nepal

Siddhartha Art Gallery Team: Binod Adhikari, Binod Bhujel, Urza Acharya

Rajani Sinkhwal

Special thanks to



*Kubera*, Ratna Gopal Sinkhwal. Gouache on cotton Canvas. 50x63cm



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