

## Artist Statement

I always aim to tell the bitter truth of human existence through my image making. My artworks are mostly figurative narrative paintings dealing with landscape.

Landscape for me is an abstract form of nature, depicting the solid expression of the vastness of the whole land - Earth. In my paintings I render vast land horizons of the planet or sometimes just a small part of it. I attempt to portray the bizarre imagery of ruthless-merciless-animalistic human behavior towards nature for his existence on Earth. Domination on one another leading to violence and thereafter destruction of nature. Humans are trying to control this planet. The predator with his authoritarian dictatorship, using all the power he has dominates weaker beings than him. Humans kill nature, other innocent fellow beings for their own needs, creating an imbalance.

As a visual artist, I express my thoughts through my paintings/art. I visualize an image in my mind; my hands react to the mind in the form of drawing to my imagination. I search for referential images according to my layout of visuals and ideas. I then manipulate the source image and convert into layout, sometimes I recreate the source image according to my base thought. My image making simply illustrates the theme of the subject matter. Painting, Printmaking and drawings are the mediums I regularly deal with.

Creating hauntingly attractive images I attempt to express the story behind the concept. The inconvenient truth depicted through these bizarre images. I feel it is my way of reacting to the situations, a kind of protest towards the particular matter. Staying in Vadodara (Gujarat, India), communal riot is the topic unknowingly enters into my mind and haunts me. Terrorist attacks in my country and elsewhere in the world affect me as an artist to think of violent conflict and political instability.

Exploring figures and landscape that are both abstract and filled with angst.

I call my landscape works as *futuristic landscapes*. I believe humans are going to face something similar in the near future.

I paint keeping the common audience in mind so that the work is understood at the same time evokes and stirs thoughts. The scale of my works also matter in the making of my painting, a huge size can create an unsettled reminder on viewer's mind leading to think about the unsettling, revolting truth.

As a subject matter, it is vast if I look deep into this; most act of a human being is interlinked to this subject matter. Like, for example, politics, violence,

discrimination, urbanization and so many. So, my main concern is the behavioral patterns of humans towards nature. Destruction of nature transits into violence and war.

I find my present works progressive and fresh. We humans live in a three dimensional world - a lot to learn and explore in the time where we belong.

In daily newspapers or social media, most of the time I come across bomb blasts, people killing each other; violence is filled in the world everywhere. The images and visuals of violence, war and injustice strike me again and again, my reaction to them is I then start making quick sketches and drawings based on the thoughts and ideas triggered by such text and images.

While I was doing research for references and reading about artists in the past who have worked with these ideas, I came across Francis Bacon's works, the British legendary artist first and the foremost. I read and saw a lot of about his work and life. Another artist I would like to mention who has a lasting impression on me is Francisco Goya the Spanish master. His war series painting moved me, specially his painting titled "The third of May 1808"

I personally like Francis Bacon's work and style. It has influenced and inspired me in my work.

The idea of this series actually came from my regular printmaking process, when my prints some times get failed registration in color printing process. In printmaking it is called as 'Registration-off.'

In this process I found an interesting aspect in my works, if you watch my artworks through *3D anaglyph glasses*, my painting images will create an illusion of 2D surface. A kind of moving images, the blurred images, travels as a clear image. And I found it very interesting and captivating realizing how a certain technique is important to the work.

I often utilize a purposeful "Off Register" technique look that lends tension and vibration to my subject matter. These visuals give some alienation feel to my work. My colors and print technique radiate emotive hues. My works look like 3D images, whereas they are hand painted and completely drawn by hand.

The scale of my work also matters in the making of my painting as huge size can create an unsettled reminder on viewer's mind and to make them rethink about the ugly truth. Painting by using stencils, rice paper pasted on canvases and dry-point prints and woodcut prints all these techniques plays an important role in expressing

my subject matter. Each and every medium has their certain temperament and sensitivity which I use as mediums throughout my works.

Constant learning and thought process keeps me engaged. My recent woodcut series are the *solutions - reasons* (self created) for my questions on destruction, war and violence. One of my works titled '*Peacemakers*' I penned down the following text "*sky is already painted let's paint the earth with peace.*" The text is an abstract metaphor of present situations all over of war and violence.

The activism in me comes out in the efforts of mine to bring peace on earth through my works.

- Durgaprasad Bandi, 2020