

Artist Statement

Love & courage is the belief I exist upon. Only love and courage can carry human society into the future. When you have love you overcome anger, jealousy, cruelty and hate. When you have courage you can cross all odds in life with only the sky as your limit. So Love & Courage is my driving force. I established this idea in 1991. It is the ideology of my paintings, my relationships with people, my art of life, my all-time signature. It is devoid of any religious or political matter. Having travelled intensely across 5 continents, my love and courage mindframe has always opened doors for me to every culture, irrespective of the country.

I am a bi-cultural painter, French of Indian origin. From the age of 19 I've grown up in Paris, grappling a culture diametrically different from my childhood in India. I learnt Western fine arts from the French schools of art driven by the genesis of Modern Art since 1872. There is huge discipline in this art form. At the same time, breaking discipline to create the shock-of-the-new was a great learning for me. From India, I inherited the value of inclusiveness which is a rub-off from living in the extreme social heterogeneity of multiple cultures.

France inspires me as it is extremely secular and inventive; freedom of expression is the social drive here. High aesthetics and imaginative power pervade every act of life. A deep sense of love of human life and the perpetual search for uniqueness distinguishes French society. In search of that artistic sense ingrained in French living style, artists from different parts of the world such as Leonardo da Vinci to Van Gogh, Picasso and Chagall among others, migrated to France.

French art and culture inspired me to invent a new ideology of painting that is "abstract with hidden figuratives." This ideology is not restrictive, rather universal. At first glance viewers may see splashes of colour on the canvas but there will be some mysterious figurative aspect in my paintings that viewers will discover. I even surprise myself when I see the not-to-be-said part.

The gestural treatment of strokes applied with self discipline on imaginative substance is to keep consistency of coherence in the painting style. It gives a structure of consistency to my art, allowing viewers to identify my style. To do my

paintings I always use big size, wide brushes. The wider they are, the more free I feel to express myself. I work in different media like acrylic, conte, pastel, mixed media and water colour, and use different surfaces like canvas and paper from small to big size. This treatment gives the freedom to work covering a vast array of subjects in different parts of the world. Eg. My themes include Breathing France narrating France, Mystic Island talks of Sardinia, Ville Enigmatique is about India. Universal themes are Beauty of Curves, Colour of Dance, Breeze of Desire among others.

My irreverent usage of colours has emerged from my Indian upbringing. Differences of language, food, culture, way of living and dressing radically change almost every 500 kms among India's 1.3 billion population. There is no dogmatism in Indian culture between good and bad as in western society. So everybody has the freedom to use any colour for any occasion. I associate the different cultures applying colours in different ways as meandering zigzags. In contrast the format of a painting canvas is always well defined. So I have happily taken this patternless colour liberty to irreverently use it as my colour palette. By wantonly applying colours on an idea I have for my painting gives me a great trajectory to freely express myself as a painter.