

NISHIL MARK MATHEW

Artist Statement



The world we live in relies heavily on technology. We all have tools and devices that we depend on in our daily lives. However, our individual relations with these machines and devices makes each of them unique and instils in them a life of their own. My work aims to explore the threshold at which nature and machines co-exist by blurring the line between the man-made and the living. Robert Pirsig, in *Zen and The Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*, describes three ways of looking at things: the classical way, which is purely logical and objective, the romantic way, which is subjective, and the third way, which is how he defines 'quality', is the amalgamation of the two in a way that is unique to each individual. The pursuit of this 'quality' is what I believe defines the artistic process. It is with this approach that I construct my images. I use inorganic elements, from geometric patterns to parts of machines (usually mechanical clocks and automata) in a style inspired by technical drawings and diagrams which, to me, represent an objective way of thinking. These are combined with elements such as plants and animals, which represent organic instinct, to disrupt and obscure the diagram-like feel of those elements. I try to arrange these elements in such a way that it creates ambiguity and makes the viewer question whether they are looking at a mechanized life form or a machine that has come to life. I manipulate and distort the nature of the elements in my compositions, their scale, volume, weight and transparency to enhance this ambiguity.