

OBAYYA

Artist Statement



I am an artist from Puttur, South India. My artistic practices arrive from various observations from the travels I have encountered during and after my academic years, which took me to Mysore, Kolkata, Ahmadabad, Puttur and Mumbai. In the last decade each travel has contributed towards the evolution of my artistic process. Since the pandemic struck, I had to leave Mumbai and head back to my homestate. I am practicing my art from Mysuru currently. 2022, I received the Hebbar Foundation Grant.

Crowd and India are synonymous to my mind. Depictions of bulging populous overflow in full strength be it at the stations, queues, at temples or festivities. An 'individual' in its multiplicity forms a mass, a Crowd. 'Anthropology of Crowd' as my interest, and an 'Individual as my protagonist' forms my pictorial narratives. Celebrations of the rituals of the everyday homogenize people of all faith into a composite identity enduring communal harmony within my works. My engagement as visual documenter allows me to bring in the Urban-Rural panorama of India onto my canvas as travelling experiences.

Within some of my recent works I have depicted the spaces of transit, like - 'in Waiting for general compartment', here the daily work force wait at the overflowing railway stations for the sardine packed trains. Other subjects such are - 'I am a good painter I want a job', 'the Motherland', 'Someone Else Flowers', 'Fallen Flowers', 'Search For Something'.

For my current suit of works, some of which were created as a part of the 2022 Hebbar Foundation grant, I explored culture and people of Mysuru. Unlike Mumbai which was a fluxed crowd, Mysuru led me to explore the local landscape, labourers and such, arriving from my experiences with the place and its people. Between 2012-14, while I was completing my Masters degree my works have been monochromatic, one may see these inclusive repetitions as a part of my practice in the current suit of works.

The post pandemic current suit of works are inclusive of paintings, sculpture, interviews and documentary film making, as my response to the time and my local landscape.