



ARTIST BIO

Nilisha Phad was born and raised in Mumbai, India. She currently works at her home studio in Mumbai where she creates figurative art. As a student of Portraiture, it became evident to her that the entire body serves to narrate experiences and expressions of existence. Her interest in human physicality, emotions and the figure as a 'form' manifested itself throughout years of art education.

While exploring the anatomical presence of humans, she was intrigued to sense and reveal their psychological presence. She sought to give a visual form to abstract emotions such as experiences, memories, and internal turmoil that are embodied within the human body. Through this, she attempted to bridge the gap between the observer and the observed.

In her current work, she is taking this concept further by exploring the identities of her subjects. The diverse personalities of her subjects intrigued her; they became inadvertent muses channeling the concepts of her paintings. Her paintings seek to capture this shift in identities through oil painting on linen canvases. She often overlaps and superimposes multiple figures portraying the same individual to represent the multiple personalities that each person has within themselves. These personalities reveal themselves in different identity roles related to work, social life, and family. She explores these diverse personalities of a single person through objects or situations that best describe them and represents them as visual forms in her figurative compositions.

She constantly experiments with different mediums, varieties of compositions and diverse ways of execution that visually and conceptually support her intended expressions. Her artistic journey is to create paintings that speak to her world. It is a journey of going out into the world but also a journey of going 'within' herself and her subjects. So she stays updated about current affairs, flags out the social issues of the times she lives in, research's subaltern voices and seeks to represent her findings using her characteristic sensibilities in an authentic and aesthetic way.

The artist works primarily in oil paint on linen canvases combining it with mix media. Nilisha's exhibitions include group shows at the Jehangir Art Gallery Mumbai, The Lalit Kala Academi, New Delhi, the 'OmniDe' Art Gallery in Belsize Park, London, the 'Mini Bottle Gallery' in Oslo, Norway and more.

She is also the recipient of numerous awards from the Prafulla Dahanukar Art Foundation, the Camlin Art Foundation, the Art Society of India and The Bombay Art Society.

She is a recipient of the 'Elizabeth Greenshields Foundation' Grant from Canada in 2021 and 2024. She has also received a 'Young Artist' fellowship from the Cultural Centre for Resource Training (CCRT), Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

Adding to her artistic contributions, she has participated in numerous private and government art residencies and camps held all over India such as Kashmir, Hyderabad, Karnataka and Delhi.

Nilisha received a B.F.A. Degree in Fine Art from Sir. J.J School of Art, Mumbai in 2018 with a First class Distinction from Mumbai University. She further completed M.F.A specializing in Portraiture in 2020 with a Distinction from Sir. J.J School of Art.