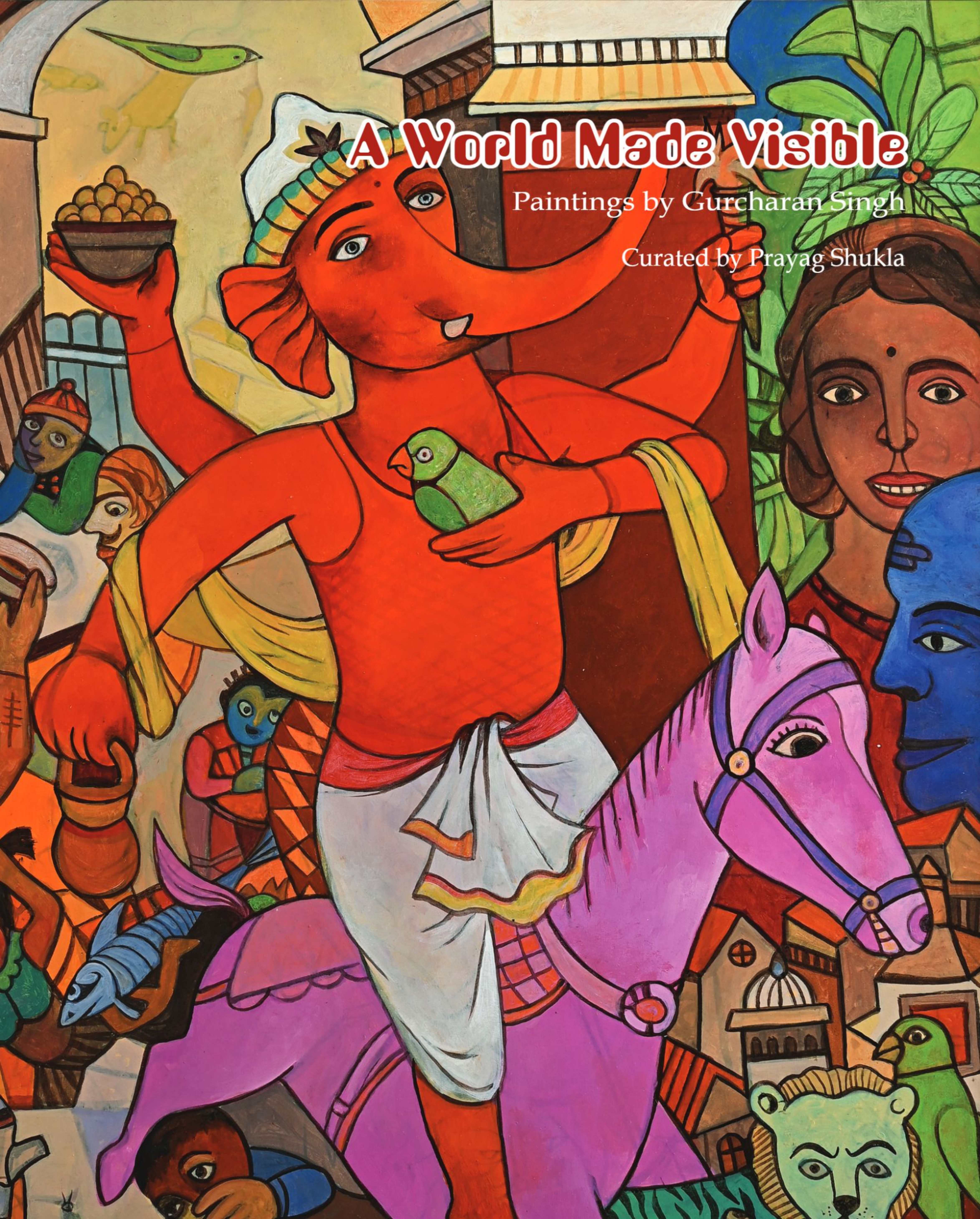


A World Made Visible

Paintings by Gurcharan Singh

Curated by Prayag Shukla



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19 November – 6 December 2025

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Aakriti
Art Gallery

2005-2025

*20 Years of Collecting the
Future, Honouring the Past*

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Prelude

There are artists who look at the world, and there are artists who look into it. Gurcharan Singh belongs to the latter, gifted with a rare ability to transform the everyday into something luminous, layered, and enduring. For over five decades, his art has distilled life as it unfolds across courtyards, streets, verandas, and city corners – where the divine and the domestic, the remembered and the immediate, the visible and the imagined all coexist in vibrant harmony.

This exhibition, *A World Made Visible*, brings together a new body of work by Gurcharan Singh – paintings that reaffirm his enduring engagement with the world around him, and his quiet mastery of figurative expression. Each canvas is an invitation to witness the theatre of the everyday through the artist’s eyes: a child on a goat, a woman holding a lotus, a vendor lost in thought, a parrot poised mid-gesture. These images, rooted in observation yet steeped in poetry, evoke a world that is at once familiar and enchanted.

As Singh once wrote, “People around me are my inspiration... this is my world made visible from the invisible.” It is this act of revelation – gentle, generous, and grounded – that lies at the heart of this exhibition.

Curated by Prayag Shukla, this presentation offers a timely glimpse into an artist’s evolving yet consistent vision – one where form, memory, and emotion coalesce into a language that continues to speak with clarity, compassion, and grace.

Vikram Bachhawat

The Magic In The Mundane: Exploring Gurcharan's Extraordinary Vision

In Gurcharan's art, the mundane morphs into the miraculous—courtyards, streets, and verandas bustling with men and women, children, animals, and gods, all sharing a pictorial space free from hierarchy. The artist rejoices in everyday life, elevating it to the heights of magical realism.

In many of his works, musicians strike jubilant notes, men indulge in feasts, women dance, gaze into mirrors, or cradle children, while couples lean toward one another—forming a revelrous carnival of existence. It is a world where life itself continually reinvents its moments of sorrow and joy. The faces—caught in dreamlike wonder, worry, or wandering thoughts—immediately draw our attention.

Across his canvases, different social milieus and domestic scenes jostle, rejecting hierarchies and the conventions of perspective. Yet despite this density, the works never feel crowded; they remain vibrant, delightful, and deeply emotive. He establishes connections between seemingly disparate contexts and situations, weaving a pictorial tapestry of life with verve and clarity.

The moment we fix our gaze on a particular work, we are drawn into the blissful details of the scenic setting. The depicted activities unfold gently and clearly, allowing us to focus on a detail or subject of our choice.

There are gestures and mudras to ponder, images that invite us to

fathom their intent. Almond-shaped, large eyes, exaggerated forms, and sensual mouths reflect yearning, appetite, and playfulness. In some works, the autonomy of women is rendered fragile, evident in the wistfulness of their faces and postures – a girl looking upward, straining to climb a height that seems just out of reach.

Dogs, goats, cats, and roosters are not just reminders of daily life; they also carry allegorical weight. They mirror the emotional undercurrents that flow through the human figures they accompany.

One can easily feel the artist's deep love for his characters in the theatre he creates. The frozen images have a lyrical, towering vitality, and as our gaze falls upon them, they seem to come alive, beginning to move and breathe. In some works, the festive scenes throb with dense, vivid colours; in others, a more subdued palette evokes an atmosphere of intimacy and tenderness.

To portray life in its full panoramic spectrum – of joy, sorrow, hope, despair, dreams, and aspirations – is no small feat. Yet Gurcharan achieves this with the eye of a muralist. His extensive knowledge and experience in the field of animation have also given him the vision to channel the force of life in an enchanting manner.

The works selected for this show exemplify Gurcharan's artistic mastery and creative depth. He works with passion, guided by a deep connection to nature and the many facets of life, which unfold in a continuous, soothing, wondrous flow. When placed alongside modern

masters and celebrated contemporaries, his works always stand out in good measure.

I have known Gurcharan closely since his Delhi days. He has a keen interest in various issues related to both art and life. We shared a circle of friends including Manjit Bawa, Shamshad, Amitava Das, and others. We would often meet at the Garhi Studios, where J. Swaminathan and Krishen Khanna also had their studios, and we had easy access to both.

Gurcharan is a gentle soul, an artist of great sensitivity and integrity – and all of this manifests blissfully in his work. Spending time in his studio and home in Mumbai recently was deeply cherishable.

Thinking about his art, I am reminded of lines from a poem titled *Miracle Fair* by the Nobel Laureate Polish poet Wislawa Szymborska:

“A miracle, just take a look around: the inescapable earth.
An extra miracle, extra and ordinary: the unthinkable can be thought.”

I believe that through Gurcharan’s art, viewers can witness the ordinary bloom into the miraculous – and feel the quiet wonder that inhabits everyday life.

Prayag Shukla
Poet and Art Critic
New Delhi

A World Made Visible

Paintings by Gurcharan Singh

Curated by Prayag Shukla



Ref. No. C1789

Introspective Times - I
Acrylic on Canvas
60 x 24 in
signed lower left

Provenance
Acquired directly from the Artist



Ref. No. C1790

The Vision of Celebration
Acrylic on Canvas
60 x 24 in
signed middle right

Provenance

Acquired directly from the Artist



Ref. No. C1791

Colorful Characters
Acrylic on Canvas
36 x 24 in

Provenance

Acquired directly from the Artist

Ref. No. C1792

Introspective Era
Acrylic on Canvas
36 x 24 in
signed lower left

Provenance

Acquired directly from the Artist





Ref. No. C1768

The Lead Roll - II
Acrylic on Paper
40 x 29 in
signed lower right

Provenance
Acquired directly from the Artist

Ref. No. C1767

Unique Vision
Acrylic on Paper
40 x 29 in
signed lower left

Provenance

Acquired directly from the Artist





Ref. No. C1766

Divine Appearance
Acrylic on Paper
40 x 29 in
signed lower right

Provenance

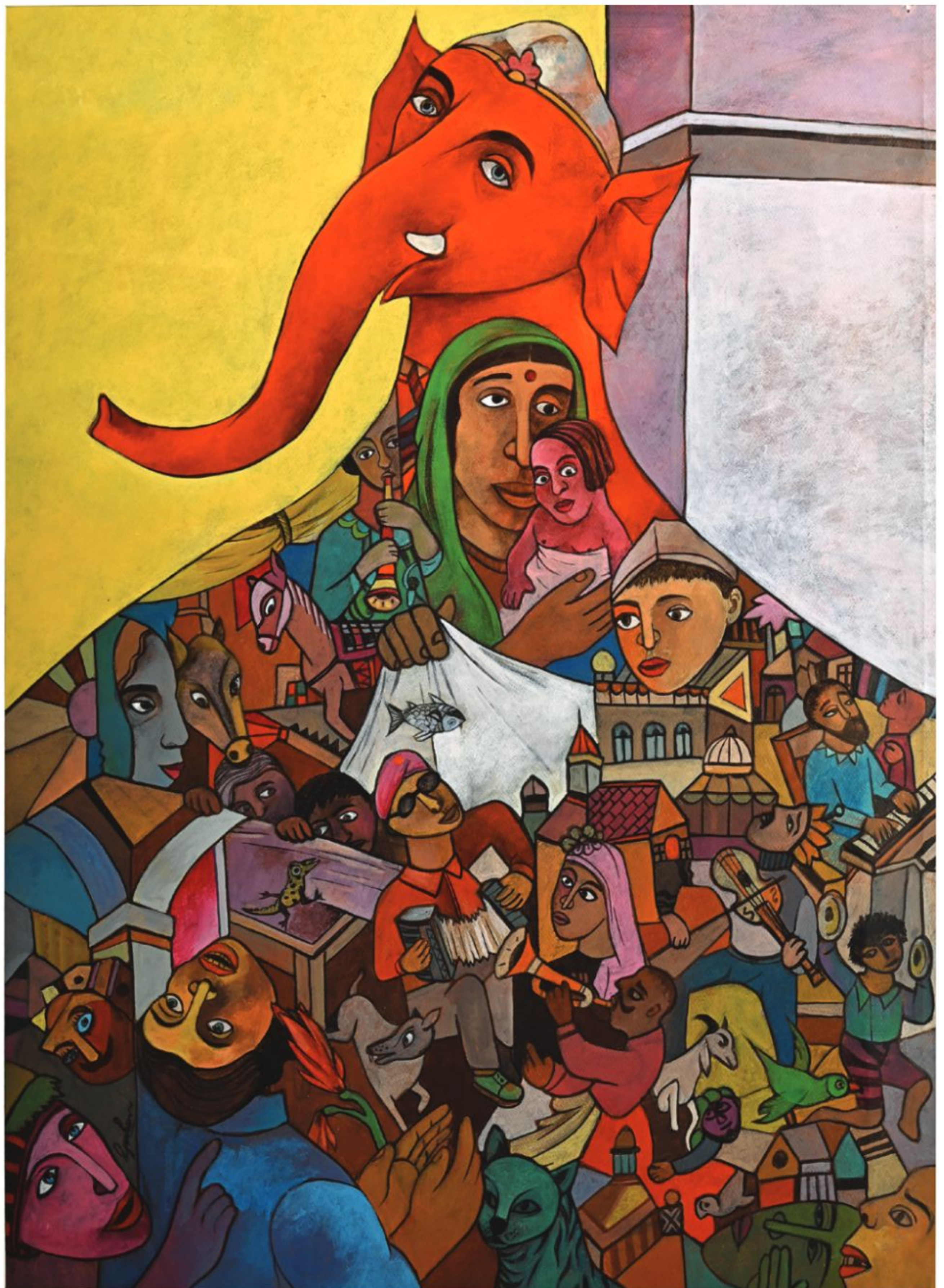
Acquired directly from the Artist

Ref. No. C1765

Oneness
Acrylic on Paper
40 x 29 in
signed lower left

Provenance

Acquired directly from the Artist





Ref. No. C1764

The Detail of Life
Acrylic on Paper
40 x 29 in
signed middle centre

Provenance

Acquired directly from the Artist

Ref. No. C1762

French Conte(Cryon) on Paper
40 x 30 in

Provenance

Acquired directly from the Artist



Ref. No. C1763

French Conte(Cryon) on Paper

28 x 40 in

2024

signed lower middle

Provenance

Acquired directly from the Artist



Ref. No. C1750

The Estatic Procession
Acrylic on Paper
30 x 22 in
signed lower right

Provenance

Acquired directly from the Artist



Ref. No. C1754

Moments of Solitude
Acrylic on Paper
30 x 22 in
signed lower middle

Provenance

Acquired directly from the Artist





Ref. No. C1753

Urban Contact
Acrylic on Paper
30 x 22 in
signed lower right

Provenance

Acquired directly from the Artist

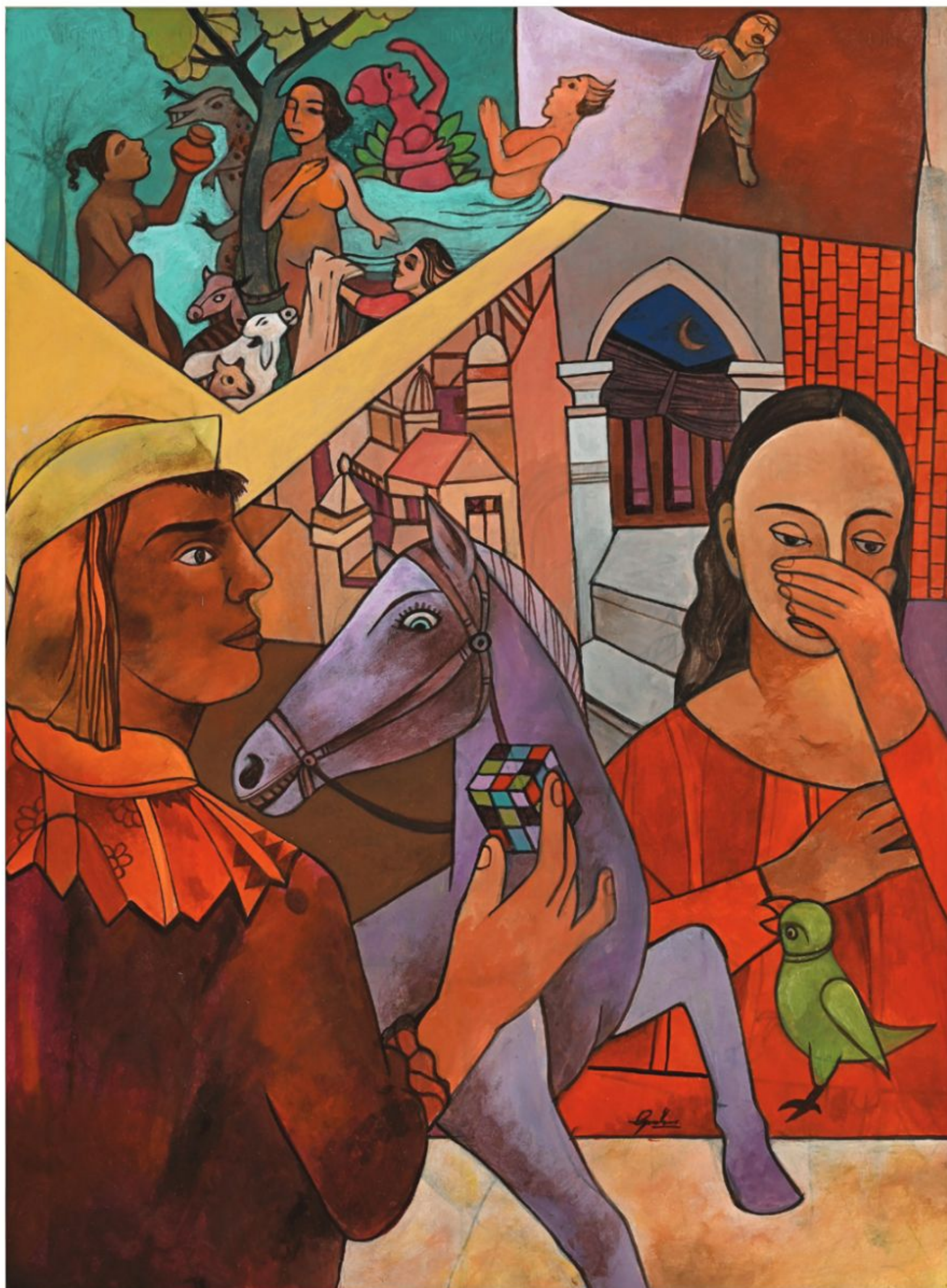
Ref. No. C1752

Foresight
Acrylic on Paper
30 x 22 in
signed lower right

Provenance

Acquired directly from the Artist





Ref. No. C1755

Distant Difference
Acrylic on Paper
30 x 22 in
signed lower right

Provenance
Acquired directly from the Artist

Ref. No. C1756

Second Thoughts
Acrylic on Paper
30 x 22 in
signed lower left

Provenance

Acquired directly from the Artist





Ref. No. C1757

Secret Society
Acrylic on Paper
30 x 22 in
signed lower left

Provenance

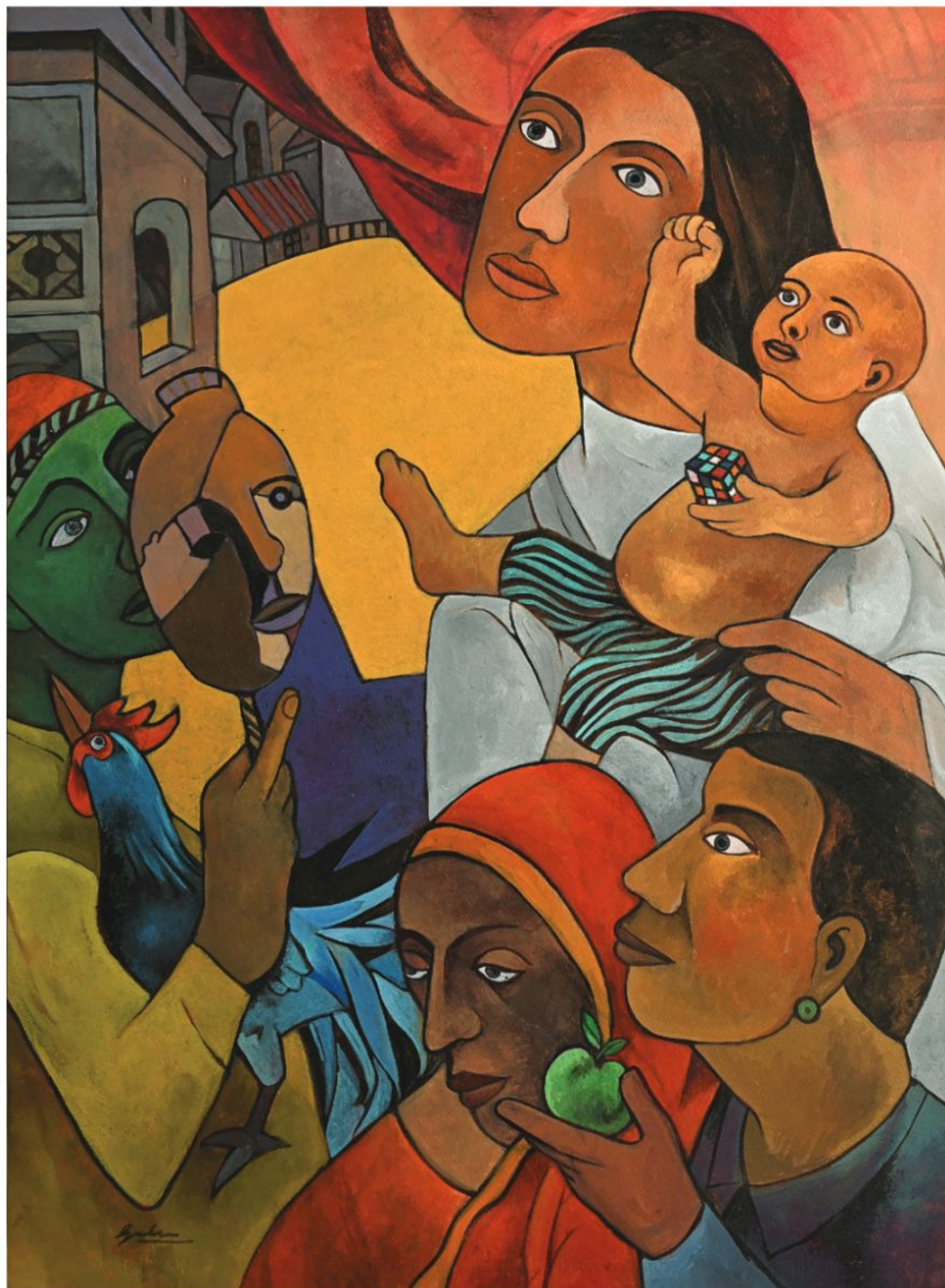
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Ref. No. C1758

Acrylic on Paper
30 x 22 in
signed lower left

Provenance

Acquired directly from the Artist





Ref. No. C1759

Foresight - II
Acrylic on Paper
30 x 22 in
signed lower right

Provenance

Acquired directly from the Artist

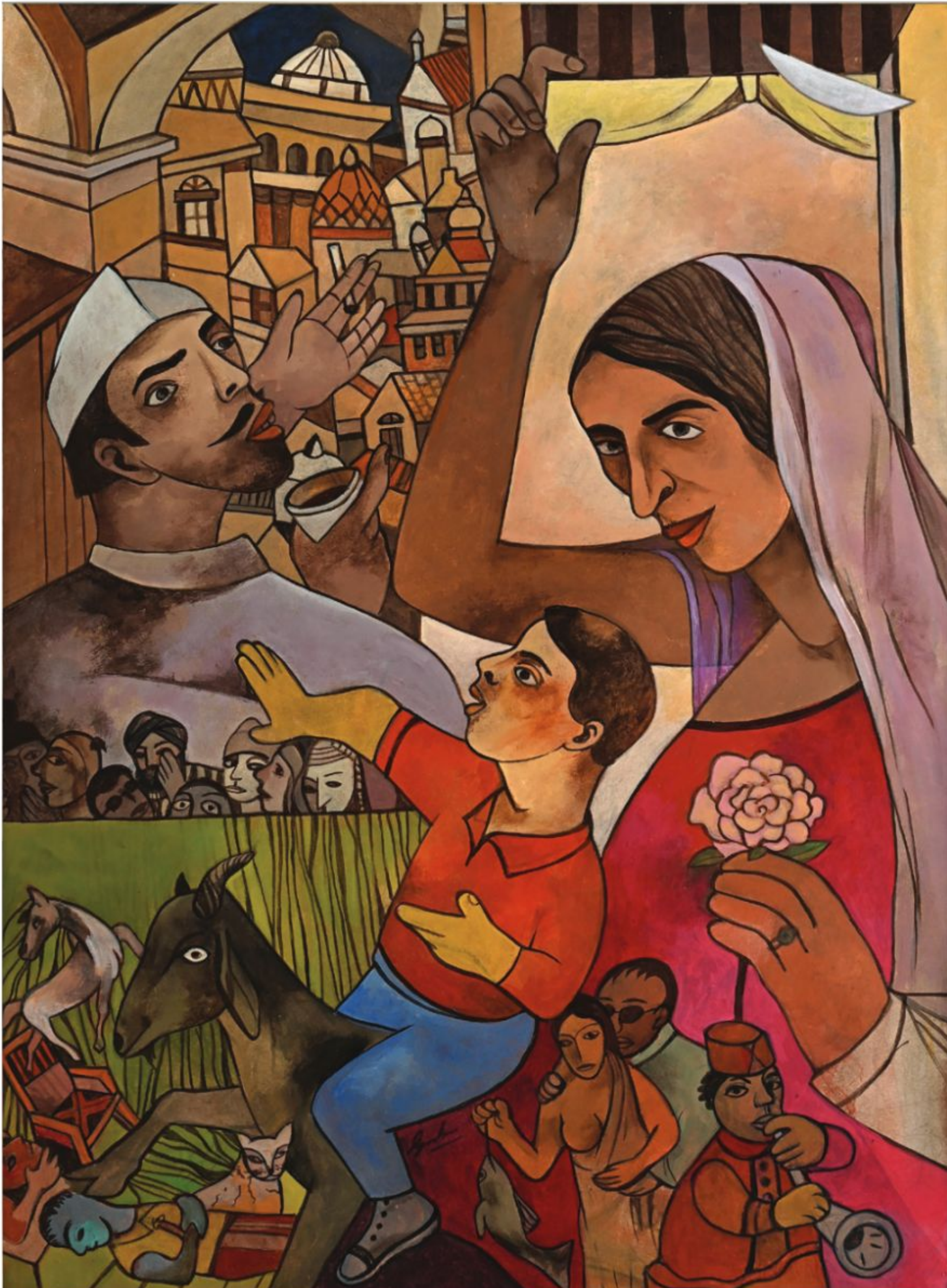
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Foresight
Acrylic on Paper
30 x 22 in
signed lower right

Provenance

Acquired directly from the Artist





Ref. No. C1761

Foresight
Acrylic on Paper
30 x 22 in
signed lower middle

Provenance

Acquired directly from the Artist

Ref. No. C1769

The Sacrifice

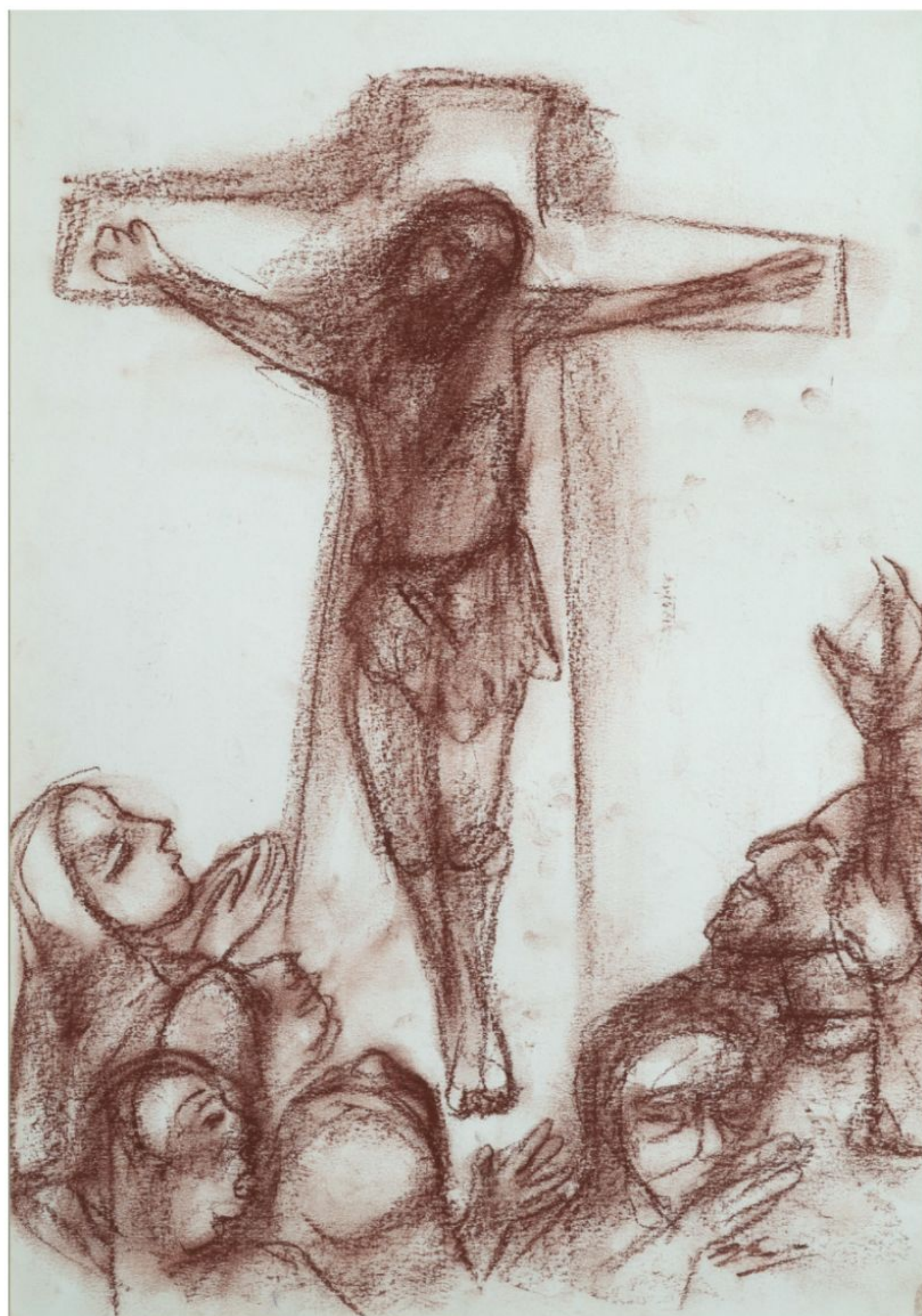
French Conte(Crayon) on Paper

15 x 11 in

signed lower right

Provenance

Acquired directly from the Artist





Ref. No. C1780

The Moment
French Conte(Crayon) on Paper
15 x 11 in
signed lower right

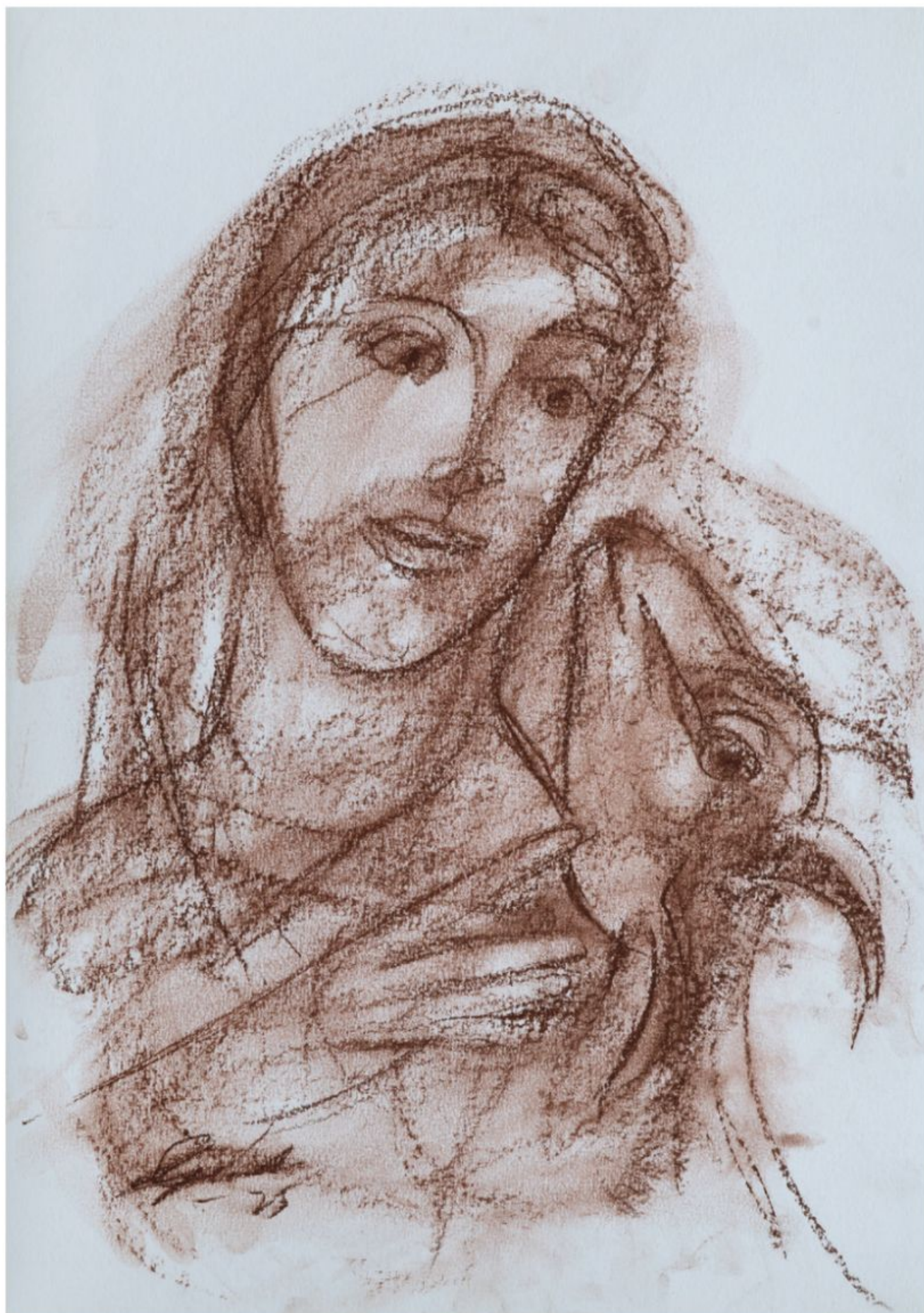
Provenance
Acquired directly from the Artist

Ref. No. C1781

Clarity
French Conte(Crayon) on Paper
15 x 11 in
signed lower middle

Provenance
Acquired directly from the Artist





Ref. No. C1779

The Connection
French Conte(Crayon) on Paper
15 x 11 in
2025
signed lower left

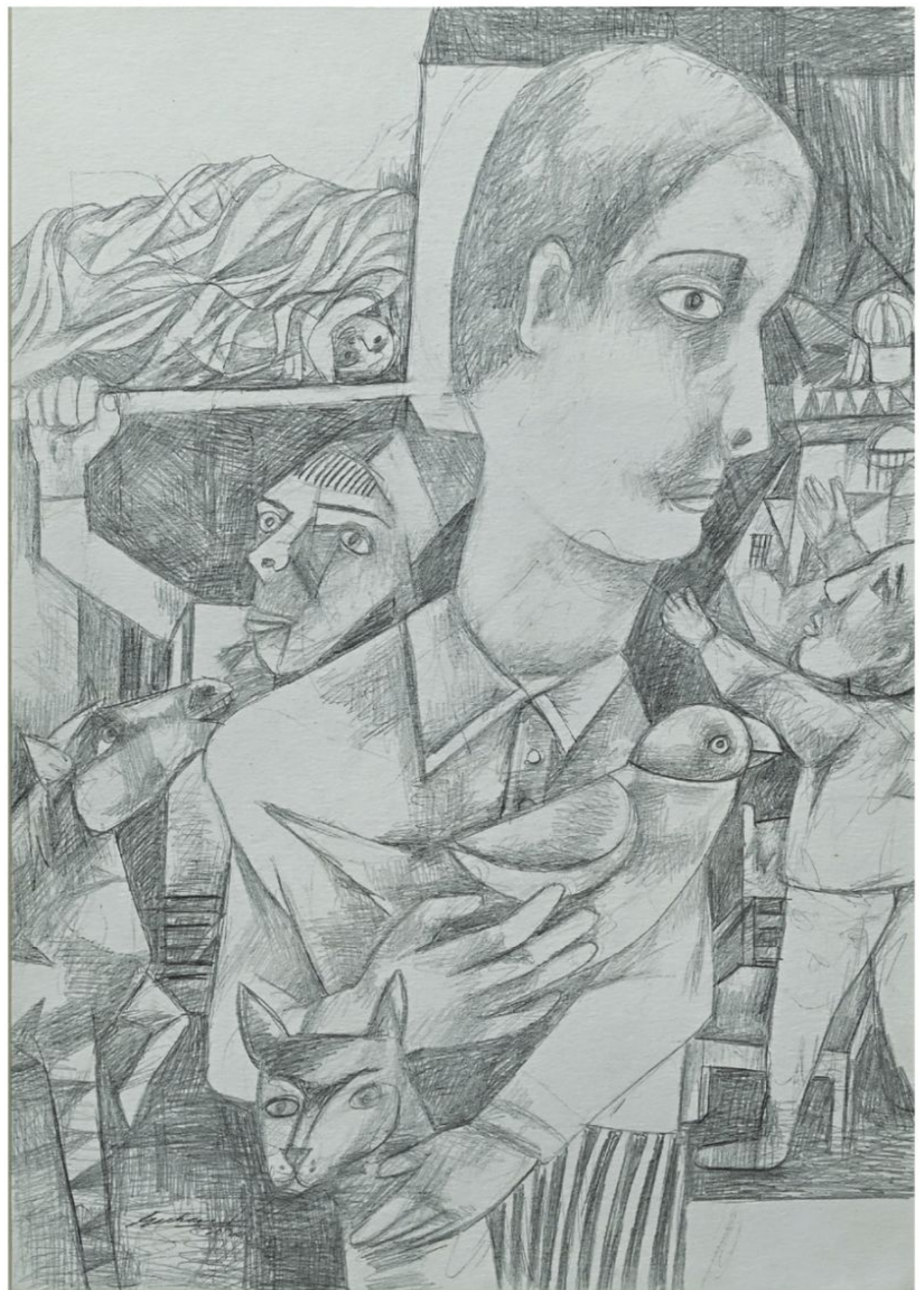
Provenance
Acquired directly from the Artist

Ref. No. C1775

Extended Family
Lead Pencil on Paper
15 x 11 in
2020
signed lower left

Provenance

Acquired directly from the Artist





Ref. No. C1770

Ecstatic Reunion
Lead Pencil on Paper
15 x 11 in
2020
signed lower right

Provenance
Acquired directly from the Artist

Ref. No. C1777

Everydays
Lead Pencil on Paper
15 x 11 in
2020
signed lower middle

Provenance
Acquired directly from the Artist



Ref. No. C1773

Social Contrast

Lead Pencil on Paper

11 x 15 in

2020

signed lower middle

Provenance

Acquired directly from the Artist

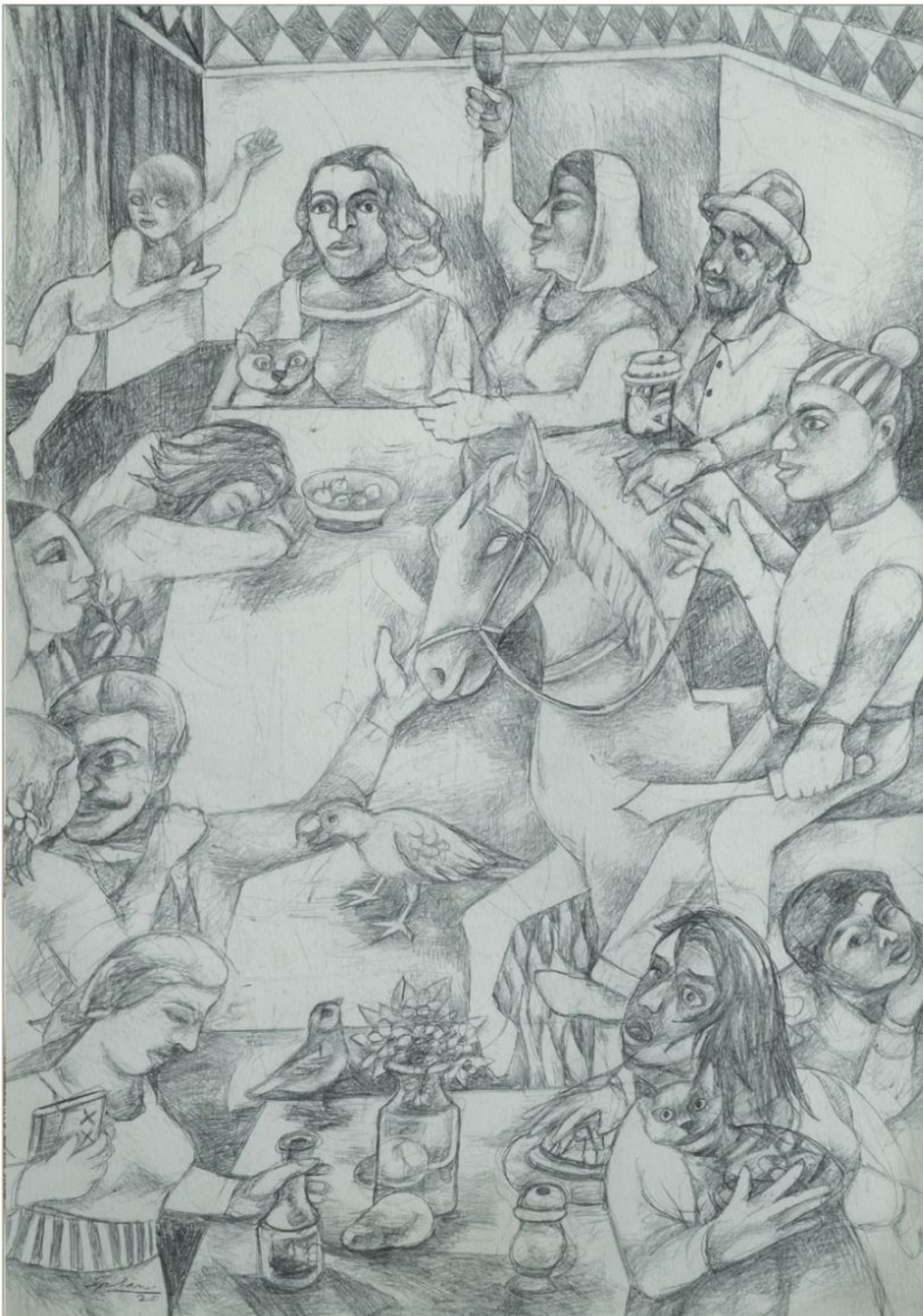


Ref. No. C1771

Olden Days
Lead Pencil on Paper
15 x 11 in
2020
signed lower left

Provenance
Acquired directly from the Artist





Ref. No. C1778

Calm Communion
Lead Pencil on Paper
15 x 11 in
2020
signed lower left

Provenance
Acquired directly from the Artist

Ref. No. C1772

Embrace
Lead Pencil on Paper
15 x 11 in
signed lower right

Provenance
Acquired directly from the Artist



Ref. No. C1774

Rehearsal Days

Lead Pencil on Paper

11 x 15 in

2019

signed lower right

Provenance

Acquired directly from the Artist

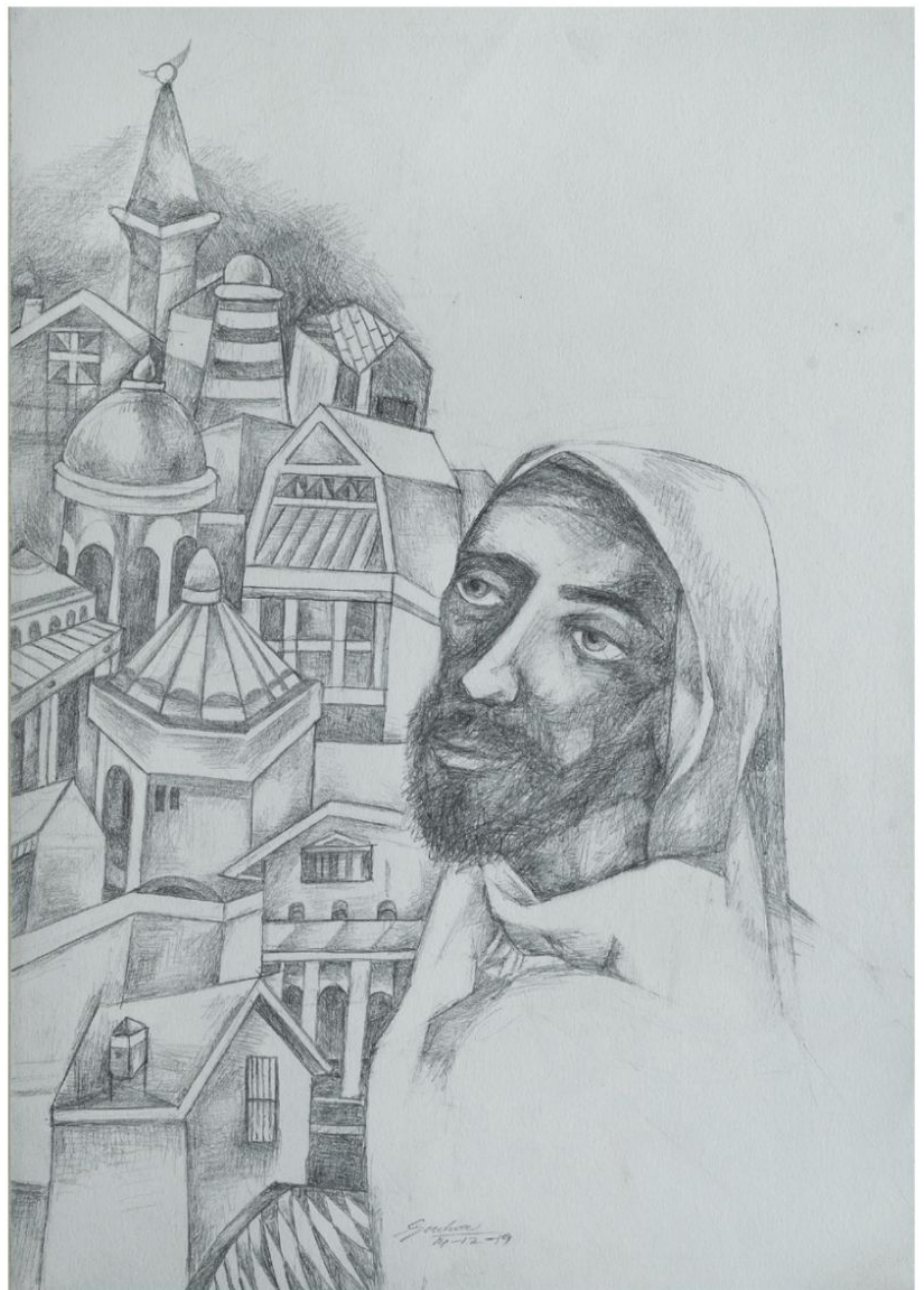


Ref. No. C1784

The Lonely Walk
Lead Pencil on Paper
15 x 11 in
2019
signed lower middle

Provenance

Acquired directly from the Artist





Ref. No. C1783

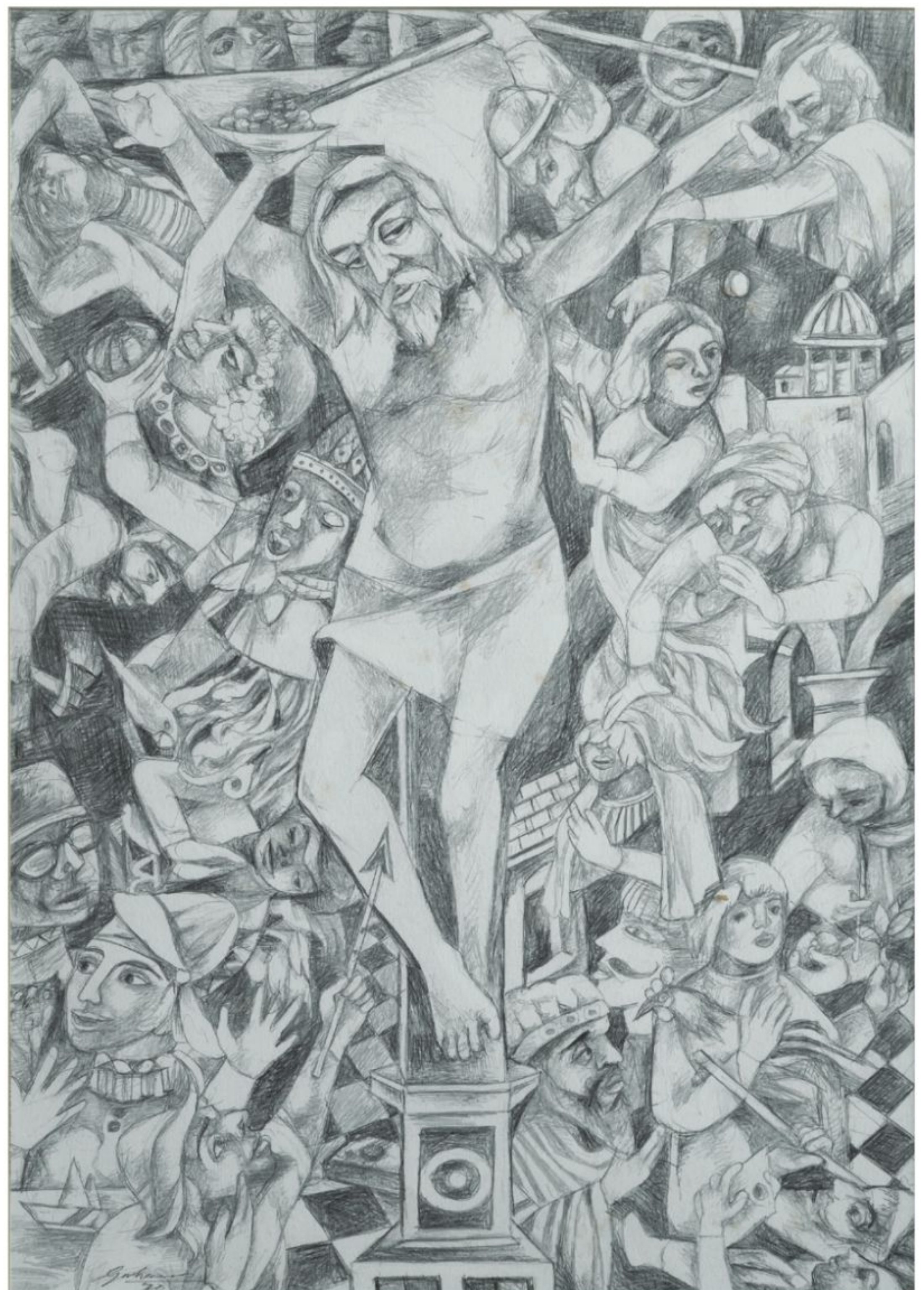
Dramatic Inclusion
Lead Pencil on Paper
15 x 11 in
2020
signed lower middle

Provenance
Acquired directly from the Artist

Ref. No. C1776

The Mystery
Lead Pencil on Paper
15 x 11 in
2020
signed lower left

Provenance
Acquired directly from the Artist



Ref. No. C1782

The Visionary

Lead Pencil on Paper

11 x 15 in

2019

signed lower right

Provenance

Acquired directly from the Artist



Ref. No. C1785

Family Routine
Lead Pencil on Paper
15 x 11 in
signed lower left

Provenance

Acquired directly from the Artist





Ref. No. C1786

Dreamers Destiny
Lead Pencil on Paper
15 x 11 in
2019
signed lower right

Provenance
Acquired directly from the Artist

Ref. No. C1787

The Rhythm of Life
Lead Pencil on Paper
15 x 11 in

Provenance

Acquired directly from the Artist





Ref. No. C1788

Gratitude
Lead Pencil on Paper
15 x 11 in
signed lower right

Provenance
Acquired directly from the Artist

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