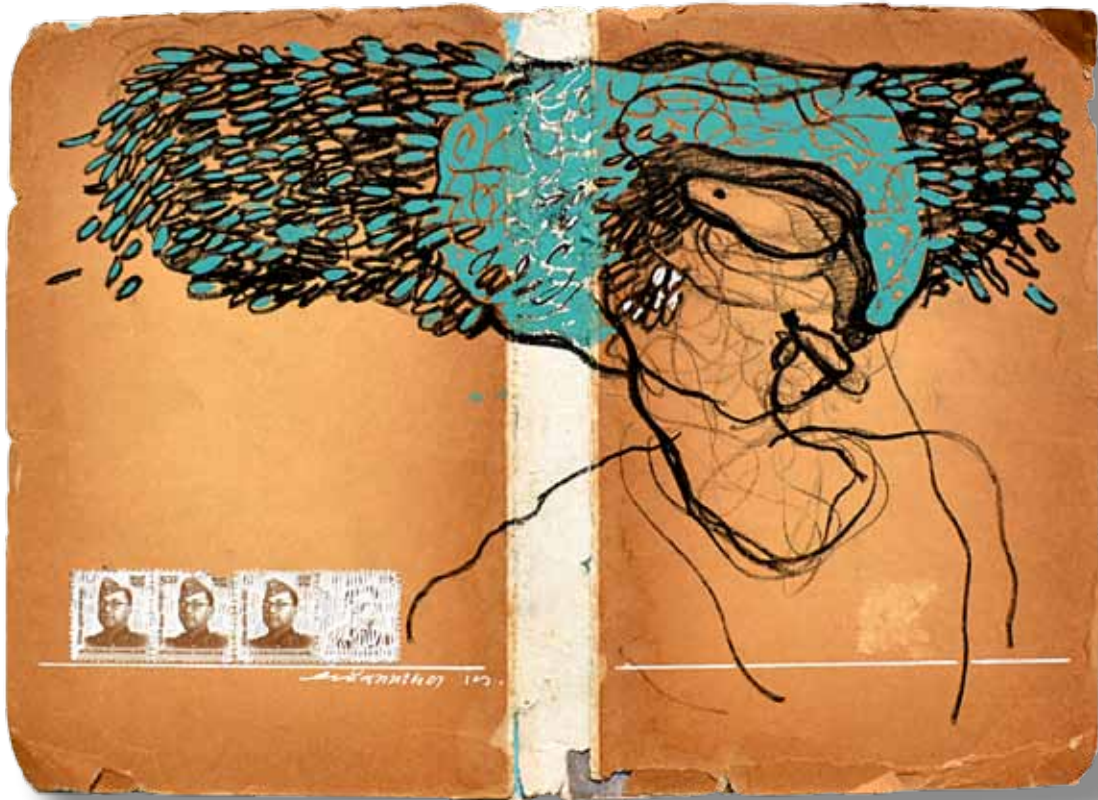


# MYSTERIOUS LINES



a solo by

**DHEERAJ YADAV**

**ART KONSULT**  
ART GALLERY FOR CONTEMPORARY INDIAN ART

Presents



## MYSTERIOUS LINES

a solo by

**DHEERAJ YADAV**

Curated by **VANDANA SEHGAL**

**16 NOVEMBER - 12 DECEMBER, 2019**

**Art Konsult**

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New Delhi-110016

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## STORYLINES... OF DHEERAJ YADAV

Dheeraj Yadav is a versatile artist. The range of his repertoire in terms of medium spans from the wash technique, to bold application of colours in acrylic, to delicate line work with mixed media to installations with metal, wood and scrap. His experiments with lines, which is the basic language of an artist are an endeavour to discover aspects of composition, pushing boundaries with respect to intensity of the line work, the role of background/foreground in not only the perspective depth but also the 'z' axis, and the use of various mediums in terms of variety of paper like rice paper, newspaper and books.

According to Dheeraj, his journey from white paper as background to the spontaneously natural washed paper as one of the layers of the canvas, this journey of bringing the background to the foreground has been made after lot of experimentation. According to him, there is no plan when one

*Expression of Mysterious Lines-I*  
10 x 8 x 1 inches  
Mixed media on Book  
2019



*Expression of Mysterious Lines-II*  
8 x 6.5 x 1 inches  
Mixed media on Book  
2019

picks up the pencil or a pen and a sheet of white paper, there is no inkling as to what will be the outcome and then the hand starts moving, etching lines on the paper that exude energy and can be termed as 'inspired'... and the consecutive lines are drawn with a 'logic' to contrive an aesthetic balance. The forms that are mostly used by him are feminine and are a direct reference of 'mother', the fish form that is one of the most commonly used motif in his work, represents the softness and the nurturing nature of a 'mother'. There is use of figures of animals and birds, which have Adivasi (tribal) roots. These are all interspersed with definitive arrows that indicate movement, give a direction to the eye very consciously and act as path finders for the onlooker. He says that although these supporting figures are small but they justify the blankness around them, which again points towards the basics of composition. There are areas in the work that have flat colour but don't seem so because that space is also divided through lines, which according to Dheeraj divert the mind and eye into the contours rather than the flatness of the paint. The technique of uneven colour is also used to take away the dominance of one colour, so that the lines reign supreme. The 'leaf-like' line-work is used for the alankran (jewels) of the main figures and sometimes, to create textural layers.

A major component of his work in this exhibition is his line work, mysterious and intuitive, on old books and maps that creates a story within a story. His expressive lines are read in conjunction with the background giving it a new aspect, the traces of the background are seen through the palimpsest of the layers of lines, natural wash, colour and figures, where forms are created with a casual doodling technique. One work is on the chapter called 'Honeymoon'... where he nearly starts depicting it, making the layer of the page of the book part of the line work layer and the observer sees them in conjunction. While in some works, the written matter has a layer of paint but the observer's eye constantly tries to unearth it and connect it with the whole composition. While some works are embedded with scratchings that want to erase whatever was printed on the page but have not been able to wipe that layer. The artist's intention is of creating a mystery, an inquiry that results in a story that weaves it all together. A





few pages have a map that is juxtaposed with a figure, which lends it a context that a blank canvas is devoid of. Sometimes Dheeraj uses things like stamps to create another layer and then uses it to make another layer of line work that raises the complexity. In some works, the canvas is a well-illustrated work, where he uses photographs to weave his own story and makes the backdrop a part of the artwork.

A series of work is done on old books that are opened to a page that might be arbitrary but the fact that it is opened on one particular page sets the canvas base, its slopes and its topography that lend a unique dynamism to the art piece. In some works, different levels are created through cutting a few layers of paper at different places that again create another perspective behind the object which makes the gaze follow into it. Almost done in monochrome, these works have coffee, gold, crème and the black lines with highlights of another shade, which is almost forgotten in the dominance of the monochrome. In some works, he uses the rice paper as another layer over the composition of lines, figures and dark patches of lead, which create this palimpsest, through which, one sees some glimpses of the lines and darkness underneath and some of them are deliberately picked up on the rice paper layer and reinforced.

*Expression of Mysterious Lines-III*  
 10 x 8 x 0.5 inches  
 Mixed media on Book  
 2019



This choice makes all the works different because the blackness below or above makes the dominance of the background vis-à-vis foreground differ.

The canvas work depicting feminine 'mother-like' figure titled 'Ma with me' resonates an energy that is reminiscent of the cubist canvas and a style that is close to surrealist. The dominant chrome with the highlights of gold and red draws one towards it instantaneously. The motifs of the leaf and the omnipresent lines are there, which are unmistakably Dheeraj's very own.

In Dheeraj's work, the subject/ object is almost always a faceless form that the observer is free to name, give character to, as there is this imperfect space that exists between the artist's intention and the viewer, which leaves a lot to interpretation, to weave a story and make it their own. It can be a beautiful woman, a heartbroken spirit or a fulfilled one, a being who belongs or one who does not care!!! The lines in layers of browns of the coffee, the opaque, mustard, orange or purple highlights sprinkled with white specks on these books that have their own story to tell... Dheeraj's work has strength, intensity along with quirkiness and humour... all this with a subtlety and restraint, few artists of his age possess.

Some works have a collage of bits of the same book, a kind of deconstructed canvas becomes the object when washed with coffee and layers of line work that spills on to the other page or the other half of the canvas, overlapping the printed text partially... so the completed work is the canvas and the canvas becomes the work, the layers are completely amalgamated.

The compositions have a sense of continuity that makes the viewer negotiate spaces within it. Since they are so amalgamated, there is no 'this' and the 'other'. It reminds one of the deconstructive theories proposed by Derrida, a contemporary linguist and philosopher, where he is constantly jumbling the syntax to create much more complex syntactical meanings. Dheeraj's current collection showcases that dilemma and positions itself within the contemporary theory of questioning the normal, creating excitement and sometimes also juxtaposing it with wry humour.

**Vandana Sehgal**  
*Architect, artist, academic*



## EXPRESSION OF MYSTERIOUS LINES

With new experiments going on in the field of Modern Art, I too firmly believe in the process and am a follower of the same. I keep on experimenting with my brush to convey a new concept of art and to accomplish it I use lines in abundance as a base to reflect my ideas.

I have also worked on a different variety of books which are ideological to my art genre as they provide possibilities to my imagination. I choose the script, a few chapters or sometimes an entire book to be reflected through my art of lines. One can see the unique density and depth of these shapes elegantly forming many dimensions and expressing the feelings spun into a narrative. The lines with a life of their own, flowing seamlessly, guiding me to invoke myriad tales of the sub conscience.

Through the modulation of these shapes/ forms I respond to the changes occurring around me; the work gradually takes a particular shape, potent in its natural existence. I believe in learning new techniques and applying them into my art work to deliver even more stories as I explore the magical world of forms, colours, and these special mysterious lines.

**Dheeraj Yadav**

**November, 2019**

*Expression of Mysterious Lines-IV*

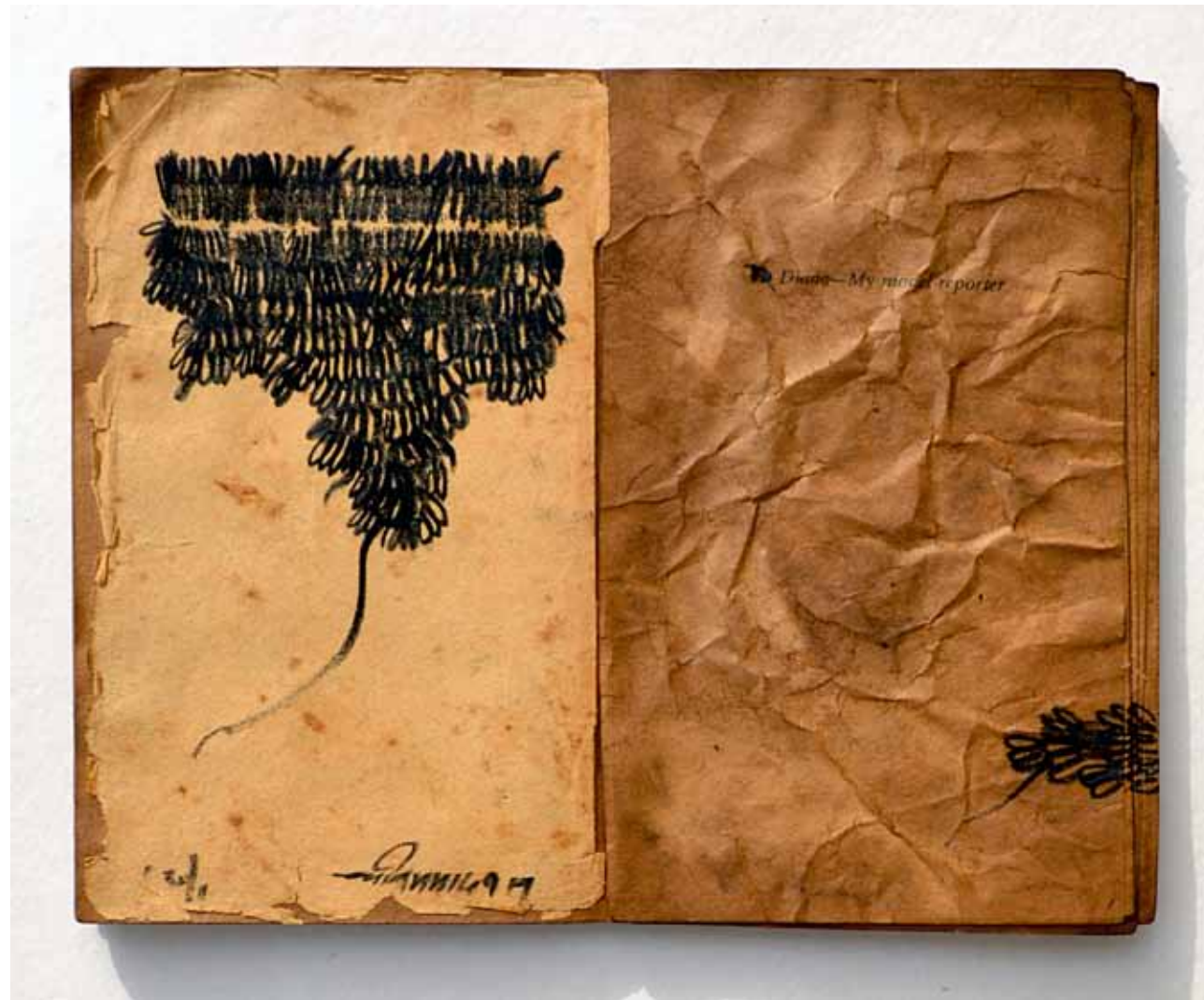
9 x 7 x 0.5 inches

Mixed media on Book

2019





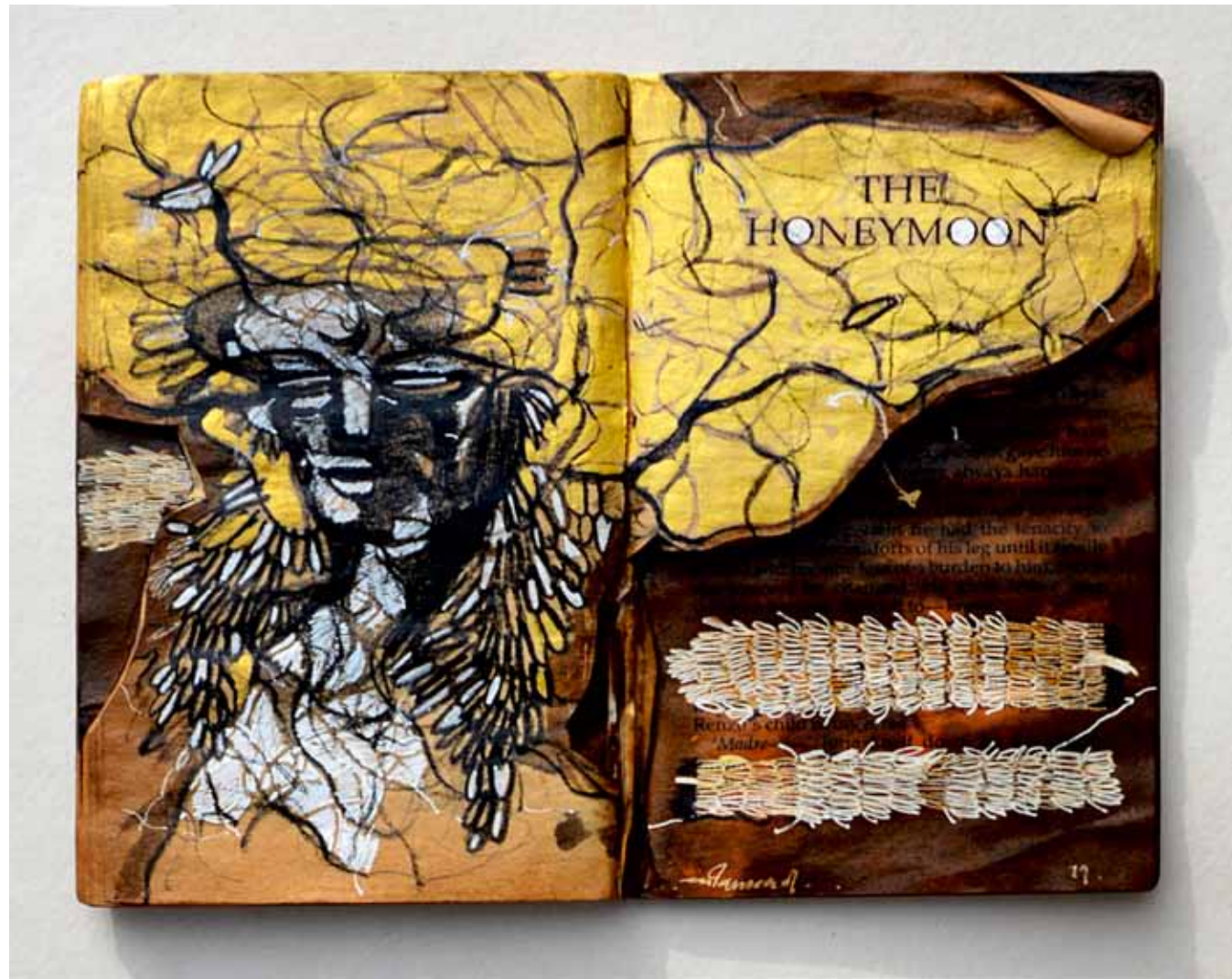


Expression of Mysterious Lines-V  
9 x 7 x 0.5 inches  
Mixed media on Book  
2019



Expression of Mysterious Lines-VI  
10.5 x 8 x 0.5 inches  
Mixed media on Book  
2019





Expression of Mysterious Lines-VII  
8.5 x 7 x 1 inches  
Mixed media on Book  
2019



Expression of Mysterious Lines-VIII  
8.5 x 7 x 0.5 inches  
Mixed media on Book  
2019





*Expression of Mysterious Lines-IX*  
10.5 x 7.5 x 1 inches  
Mixed media on Book  
2019



*Expression of Mysterious Lines-X*  
9 x 7 x 1 inches  
Mixed media on Book  
2019





*Mysterious Lines (Set of 18 drawings)*

12 x 9 inches (each)

Mixed media on Paper

2019





*Expression of Mysterious Lines-XI*  
10 x 8 x 1 inches  
Mixed media on Book  
2019



*Expression of Mysterious Lines-XII*  
7 x 9.5 x 1 inches  
Mixed media on Book  
2019





Expression of Mysterious Lines-XIII

10 x 8 x 1 inches

Mixed media on Book

2019



Expression of Mysterious Lines-XIV

10 x 7 x 1 inches

Mixed media on Book

2019





*Expression of Mysterious Lines-XV*  
16 x 10 x 0.5 inches  
Mixed media on Book  
2019



*Expression of Mysterious Lines-XVI*  
17 x 10.5 x 1 inches  
Mixed media on Book  
2019





*Maa with Me*

84 x 192 inches

Mixed media on Canvas

2017



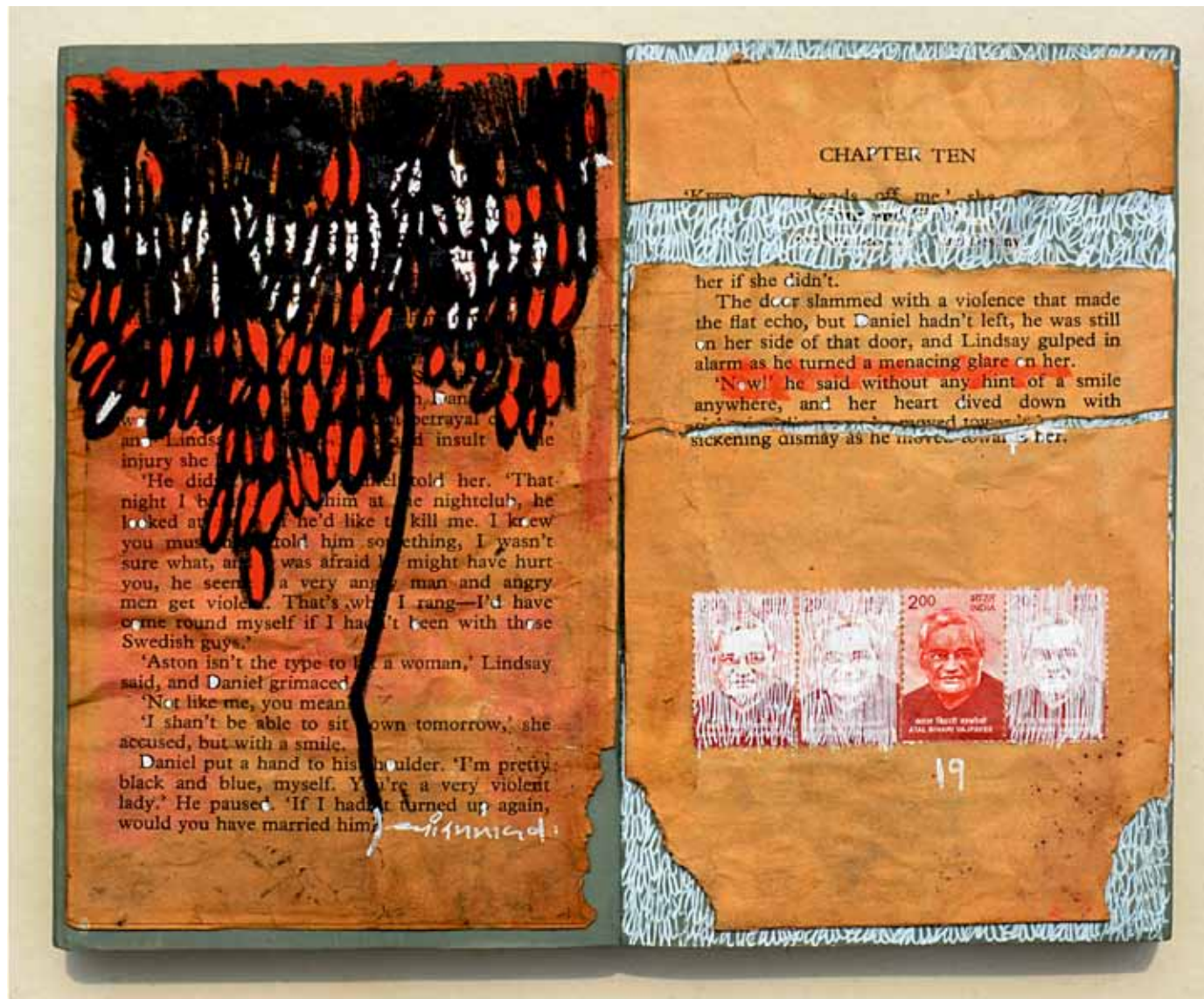


Expression of Mysterious Lines-XVII  
27 x 11 x 1 inches  
Mixed media on Book  
2019



Expression of Mysterious Lines-XVIII  
11 x 8 x 1 inches  
Mixed media on Book  
2019



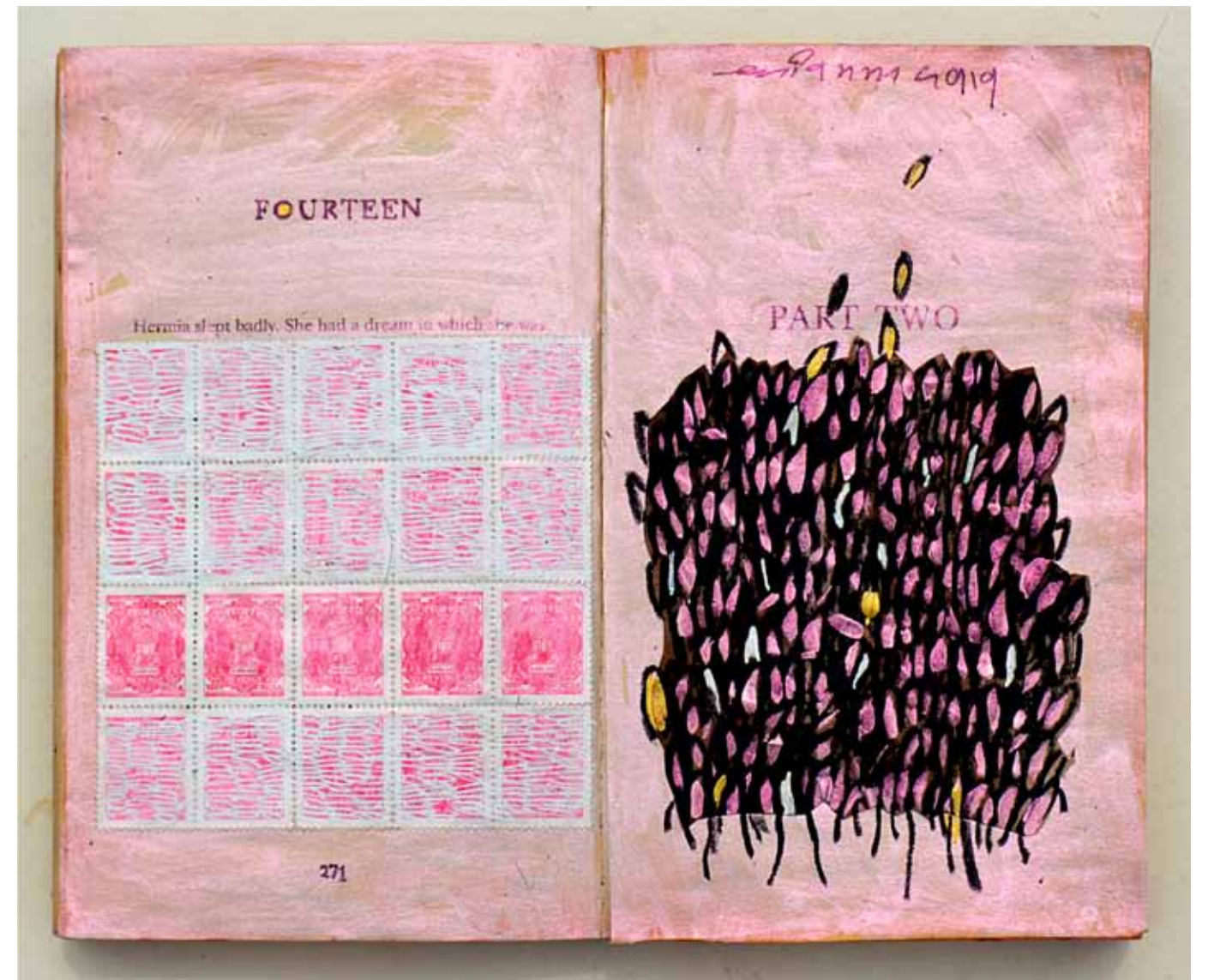


Expression of Mysterious Lines-XIX

9 x 7 x 1 inches

Mixed media on Book

2019



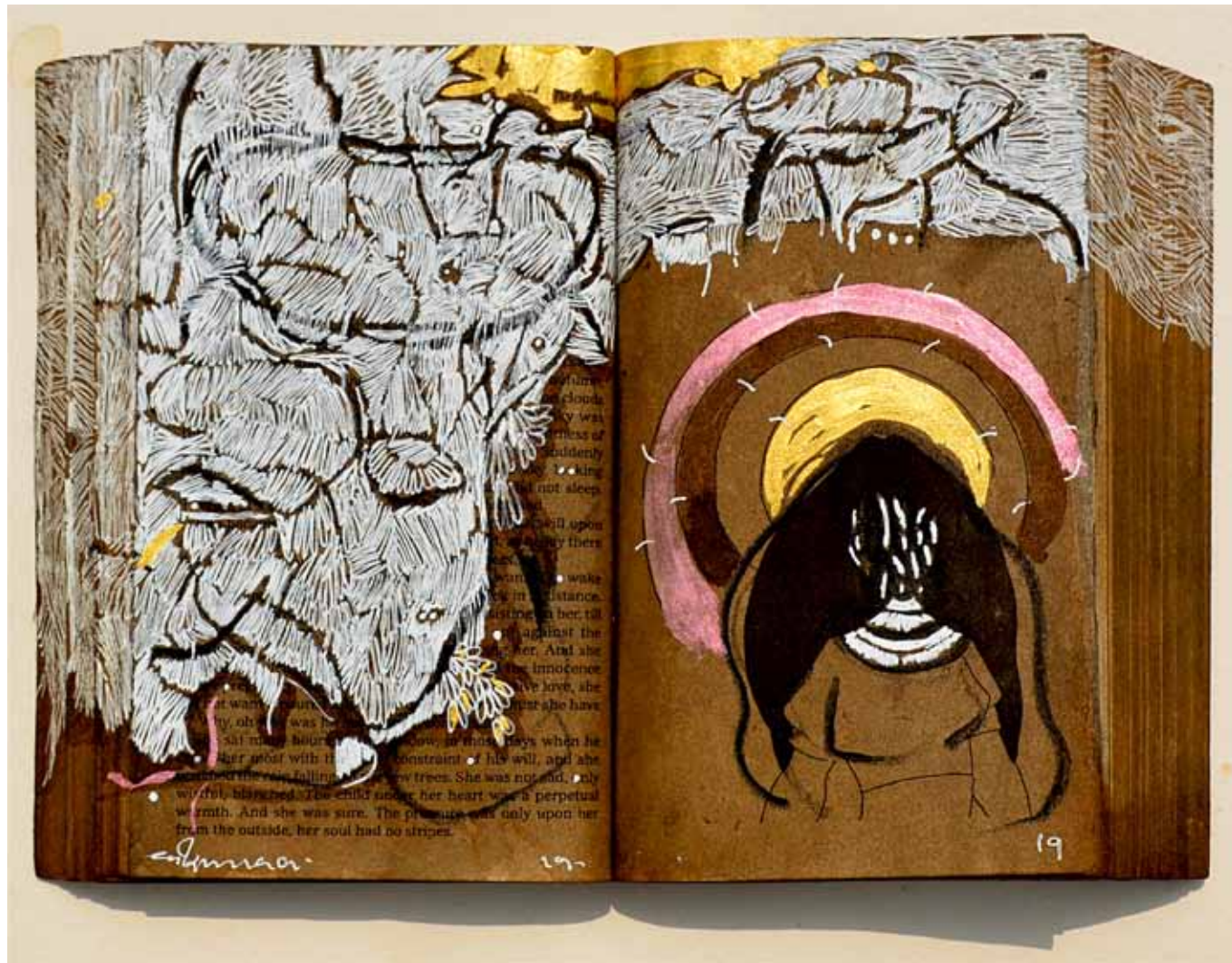
Expression of Mysterious Lines-XX

9 x 18.5 x 1 inches

Mixed media on Book

2019



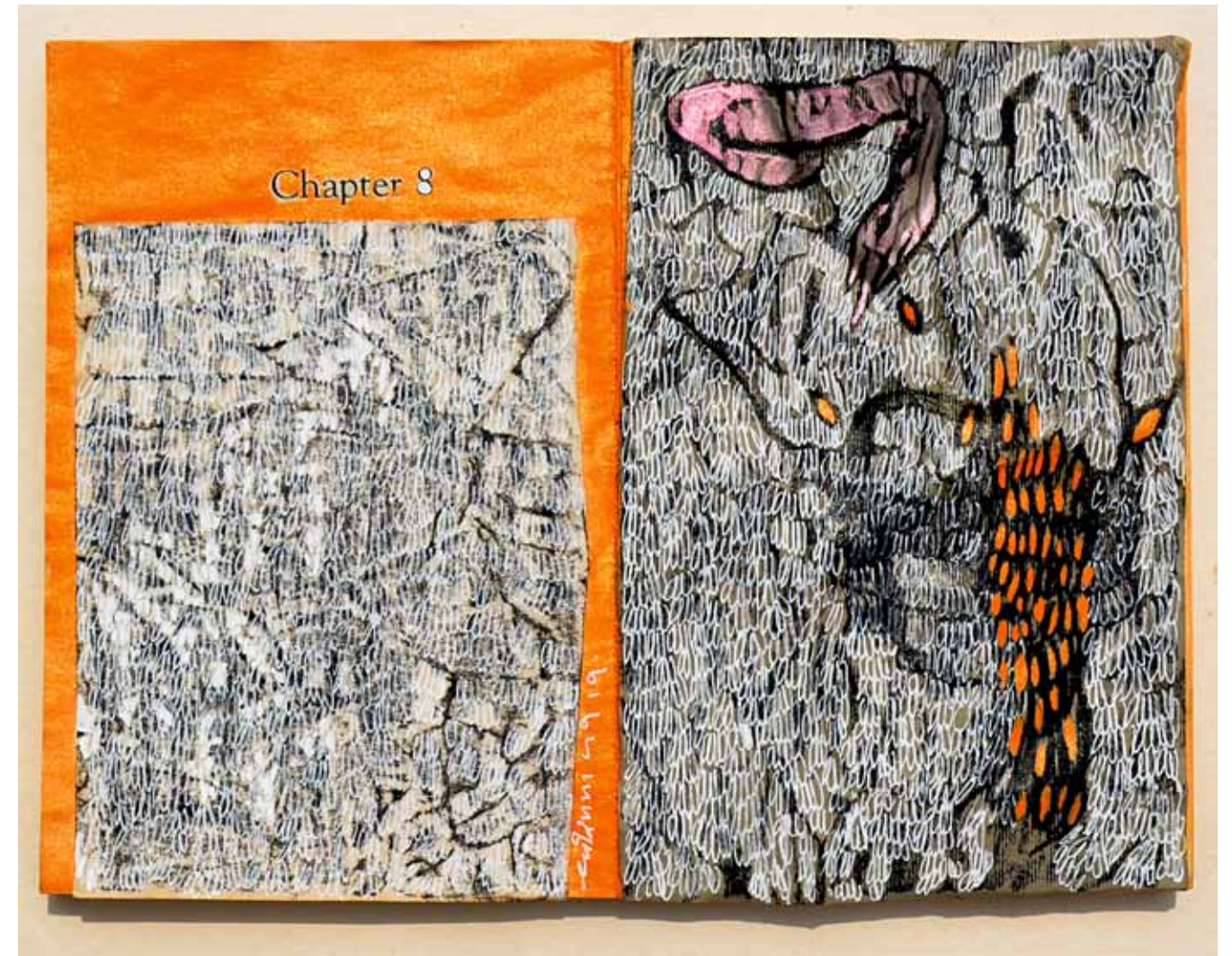


Expression of Mysterious Lines-XXI

10 x 7 x 1 inches

Mixed media on Book

2019



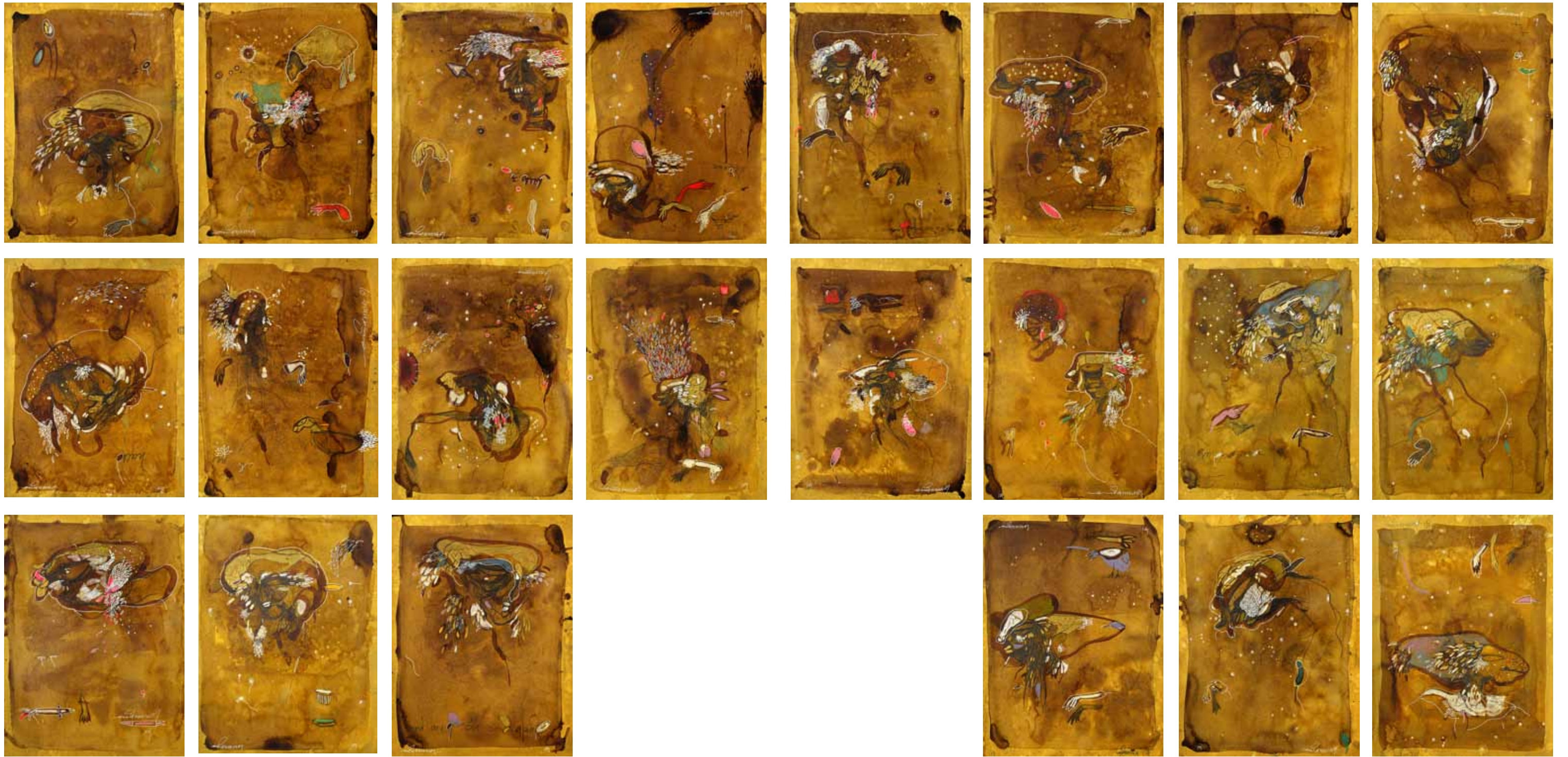
Expression of Mysterious Lines-XXII

9 x 7 x 1 inches

Mixed media on Book

2019





*Mysterious Lines (Set of 22 drawings)*

12 x 9 inches (each)

Mixed media on Paper, 2019





#### **DHEERAJ YADAV (b.1989)**

Educational Qualification

B.F.A.AllahabadUniversity, Allahabad, U.P. India ,2012; M.F.A. Allahabad University, Allahabad, India 2014

#### **SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

Nirala Art Gallery, Allahabad, India2011, 12, 13; Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi, India 2016; Lalit Kala Akademi Regional Center, Lucknow, India ,2017; City mall, Lucknow, U.P.India, 2017; City mall, Lucknow, U.P. India, 2018; Hotel Lebuva, Lucknow, U.P., India, 2019

#### **GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

Nirala Art Gallery, Allahabad, India, 2009, 11; Amrita Art Gallery, Gorakhpur,U.P., India, 2009; Annual Art Exhibition, Visual Art Department, Allahabad, u.p. India, 2011; Gandhi Art Gallery, N.C.Z.C.C., Allahabad, U.P. India 2011; Nicholas Roerich beads All India Art Exhibition, Allahabad Museum, Allahabad. India 2012; Jamini Roy based All India Art Exhibition, Allahabad Museum, Allahabad, U.P. India 2013; Lalit Kala Akademi, Regional Center, Lucknow, U.P.India 2014; Zero Art Show at Noida, U.P. India2015; Lalit Kala Akademi, Rabindra Bhawan ,New Delhi, India 2015; Artique Art Gallery , Bangalore, India 2015; Academy of Fine Art Gallery , Kolkata, India 2016; Academy of Fine Art, Gallery Goa, India 2016; Lalit Kala Akademi , Regional Center, Lucknow, U.P. India 2017; NCZCC, Allahabad, U.P., India, 2018; Nehru art gallery, Bhilai, Steel plant, Chhattisgarh, India, 2018; Books in the art form, book fair, Lucknow, U.P., India 2019; Gallery Art Konsult, New Delhi, India, 2019

#### **CAMPS**

Summer School,Visual Arts Department Allahabad, U.P. India, 2009; Jamini Roy based All India Artist Camp, Allahabad Museum, Allahabad, India, 2013; NicholasRoerich based All India Artist Camp, Allahabad Museum, Allahabad, U.P. India, 2014; Black on Handmade Nirala Art Gallery, Allahabad, U.P., India, 2013; Installation Camp at Lalit Kala Akademi, Regional Centre ,Lucknow, U.P. India, 2014; National Camp at ICAC Art Gallery ,Mumbai, India, 2015; Art Conclave by Lalit Kala

Akademi, NewDelhi, 2016; D.P.Dhar Memorial Trust , Srinagar, Kashmir, India 2016; ART- HEART All India camp Mumbai, India, 2017; Jabalpur art and music festival, Ityaade Art Foundation, Jabalpur, M.P., India, 2017; South zone cultural centre, Thanjavur, Tamilnadu, India, 2017; North central zone cultural centre , national painting camp, Allahabad, U.P., India 2018; State Lalit Kala Akademi, national artist camp, U.P., India, 2018; AIFACS artist camp, New Delhi, India, 2018

#### **SELECTIONS**

9th Northern Region Camlin Art Exhibition ,New Delhi, India2009; 12th All India art Exhibition ,State Lalit Kala Akademi, UttarPradesh, India, 2011; 30th Annual art Exhibition, State Lalit Kala Akademi ,Uttar Pradesh, India, 2012; 4thBheeku Ram Jain Art Award, Art Mall, New Delhi, India, 2011; 13th All India Art Exhibition State Lalit Kala Akademi, Uttar Pradesh, India, 2013; 31st Annual Art Exhibition, State Lalit Kala Akademi, Uttar Pradesh, India, 2013-14; 13th Northern Region Camlin Art Exhibition, Delhi, India, 2013; 27th All India Exhibition, Lok Manya Tilak Award, Pune,India, 2014, 87th Annual Art Exhibition AIFACS ,New Delhi, India, 2014; 124thAllIndiaAnnualArtExhibition, The Bombay Art Society, Mumbai, India, 2016; 7th All India Digital Art Exhibition AIFACS ,New Delhi, India 2016; 83th All India art exhibition, Indian Academy of Fine Art , Amritsar, india 2017; 14th All India exhibition of art photography, state Lalit Kala Akademi, U.P., India, 2016-17; 33rd Annual Art Exhibition, State Lalit Kala Ackademy, Uttar Pradesh, India, 2018; All India Art Competition & Exhibition, State Gallery of Art, Hyderabad, 2018; 14th International exhibitors competition, Ruse, 2018; 127th All India art exhibition, the Bombay art society, Mumbai, India, 2019; Nature art cube exhibition of Geumgang art biennale Korea 2019.

#### **RESIDENCE**

Artists In-Residence Programme, Rashtrapati Bhavan,India 2017

#### **AWARDS**

29th Annual Art Exhibition, State Lalit Kala Akademi,Uttar Pradesh, India, 2010; 11th Northern Region Camlin Art Exhibition, New Delhi, India, 2011; 26th All India Exhibition, Lok Manya Tilak Award, Pune, India, 2013; 1st State Level Art Exhibition Gayatri Fine Art Society, Allahabad, U.P., India, 2012; Regional Art Exhibition State Lalit Kala Akademi ,U.P., India, 2013; 1st Prize in State Level Painting at Prafulla Dahanukar Art Foundation,Mumbai,India,2015; 10th Annual Art Exhibition Royal Akademi, Karnataka,India, 2015; Ravi Jain Annual Award, Dhoomimal Art Gallery, New Delhi, India, 2015-16; 88th Annual Art Exhibition AIFACS, New Delhi,india2015; 57th Lalit Kala Akademi National Award, New Delhi, India, 2016; Prafulla Dahanukar Art Foundation, Central Zone Gold Award, Mumbai,india2016; Prafulla Dahanukar Art Foundation, Citi award, Mumbai, India 2017; Recognition of SANCHAARI Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh, India, 2017; Confluence 16, Galerie art Aterne, New Delhi, India, 2016; Prafulla Dahanukar Art Foundation, state award, Mumbai, India 2018; The international special award, Dushyant gallery, Noida, India, 2019.

#### **SCHOLARSHIP**

Lalit Kala Akademi Scholarship ,New Delhi, India, 2015-16

#### **PERSONAL COLLECTION**

Kiran Mazumdar Shaw ,The Chief of Biocon and India's Leading Art Collector, Bangalore,india; Prabhat Tandan, Art Collector, Allahabad, U.P, India; Mohit Mehrotra, America; G.C.Mehrotra, Allahabad ,U.P., India

#### **COLLECTION**

Visual Art Department, Allahabad University, Allahabad, India; J.K.Institute, Allahabad University, Allahabad, India; Allahabad Museum, Allahabad, India; Royal Akademi, Karnataka, India; Rashtrapatibhawan, India; Dhoomimal Art Gallery, New Delhi, India; Double tree by Hilton Ahmedabad, India

Text: Vandana Sehgal, Dheeraj Yadav

Design: Prashanta Seal

Co-ordination: Rajul Bisht

Printed at: Creative Offset, New Delhi





  
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