

CITY TALES

A SOLO SHOW BY BANOJ MOHANTY





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ART GALLERY FOR CONTEMPORARY INDIAN ART

Presents

CITY TALES

A SOLO SHOW BY
BANOJ MOHANTY

Curated by **KAINAAT FATIMA**

27 NOVEMBER - 15 DECEMBER, 2021

#1, Basement, Hauz Khas Village,
New Delhi-110016

Curator's Note



Untitled, Mixed Media on Paper, 10 x 10 inches, 2021

Hidden emotions, transitioning society, bits of paper and mediums uniting with the vibrancy of colour embark the journey of the artist Banoj Mohanty.

Banoj Mohanty as an artist, goes beyond his work. His work of art reflects both the whimsical and intelligent aspect of capturing the classic metropolitan experience. He takes his inspiration from the experiences he had while migrating from a tiny town in Orissa to the megacity of Delhi and the stark differences he found in the cityscape. His deft drawing and command of perspective are combined with elements from popular culture. He uses the method of collage to create somber and amusing windows into urban life, with the layering technique complementing the layered motifs.

What makes his work powerful is the way of staying grounded. He believes, and as he says, "Collage becomes the medium of my expression, for every tiny bit that I join relates to the emotions I had during my journey, and the powerful movement which gets highlighted by the end relates it to the strength that keeps me grounded. Hence, it is the collage that takes me closer to being a successful human"

His artworks are often centered on two themes: people who have left an indelible effect on him, such as friends and close acquaintances, and the urban scene. These

themes appear to be highly deviant at times but surviving in a large metropolis necessitates him having dependable individuals to lean back on, and that's where he takes his motivation from. His friends and as the artist mentions were the biggest support for him when he started his life in a big city like Delhi, and that is why they become a major subject of the artwork he produces. One of the Artworks with the title "Friends" stems from the duality of life he has been a part of. Vibrant childhood memories of Rourkela (Odisha) and the current reality of the quiet life of Delhi; Both places reflect distinct personalities. His childhood memories of his hometown conjure up images of a slower pace of existence, where people relish life in the midst of nature and beautiful views, where the air is pure, and the spirit feels as if it is healing at all times. While the present being in the capital, becomes a hotbed of opportunity, with people working tirelessly in their own unique ways to seize those prospects. Such dualities get represented in the work which the artist often correlates to the nature of the society.

Coming from a humble family, his father became his biggest supporter who pushed him into getting admission to the Art college, Bhubaneswar. Mr. Jaspal Singh became his first art teacher, who led him into the world of creativity and taught him the different genres of art. For Banoj, Mr. Jaspal was his first guru and a mentor who inspired him to develop and expand his artistic horizons. As the artist puts it, "It is where I discovered that art and society are inextricably linked and that if you are a responsible citizen, your happiness shines through the works you create". While coming to Delhi, his friends to whom he gives special references in his works help him adjust to the changing environment he comes into. The sudden transition and the cross-cultural effects he witness lead him to develop works that highlight his past, present, and future. His works often relate to the present situations of society. One might see hidden social messages like "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao", or "Clean Delhi Green Delhi." His work also lays emphasis on the fundamental morals on which humanity and society are focused. Positive concepts, practicality, and the importance of life become major components that one frequently finds in his creative art. A large part of the work's depiction is of "Humans". "Humans to the artist plays the central character in the running of society," and his actions determine whether the society is portrayed in a good or terrible shape."

His experiences in a big city like Delhi led him to develop a style that remained grounded to the roots of the motherland yet accentuated the act of change. He feels everything that society undergoes should also keep the potential of changing for good. His artworks like "Urban Life" puts it as propagation on the importance of creating a healthy society where education is given a critical effort to work on. The artist believes, just as the coin has its two sides, humans have their sides, a side that determines society. It is the critical understanding and the importance of education that becomes most necessary in regulating whether the city is good or bad. His work does not just bring out the dualities, and decisive actions of good or bad, his works go beyond what is imagined. He dedicates his art to the frontline doctors and people who work hard in saving the lives of the people in need. For him, these selfless workers are frequently overlooked and overshadowed, and that is where he brings his artwork into action.

Banoj Mohanty is an artist, creative thinker, and environmentalist who believes in both providing and receiving joy, inspiration, and happiness from those around him. He believes in using his creativity to help society grow economically, socially, and politically. He owes much of his success to people like Mr. Sunil Lohia, Mr. Sanjay Barua, Mr. Pradeep Pal, Ashish Mohanty, Prabhas Mohanty, Siddhartha Tagore and Mr. Raju along with his mentor and his parents.



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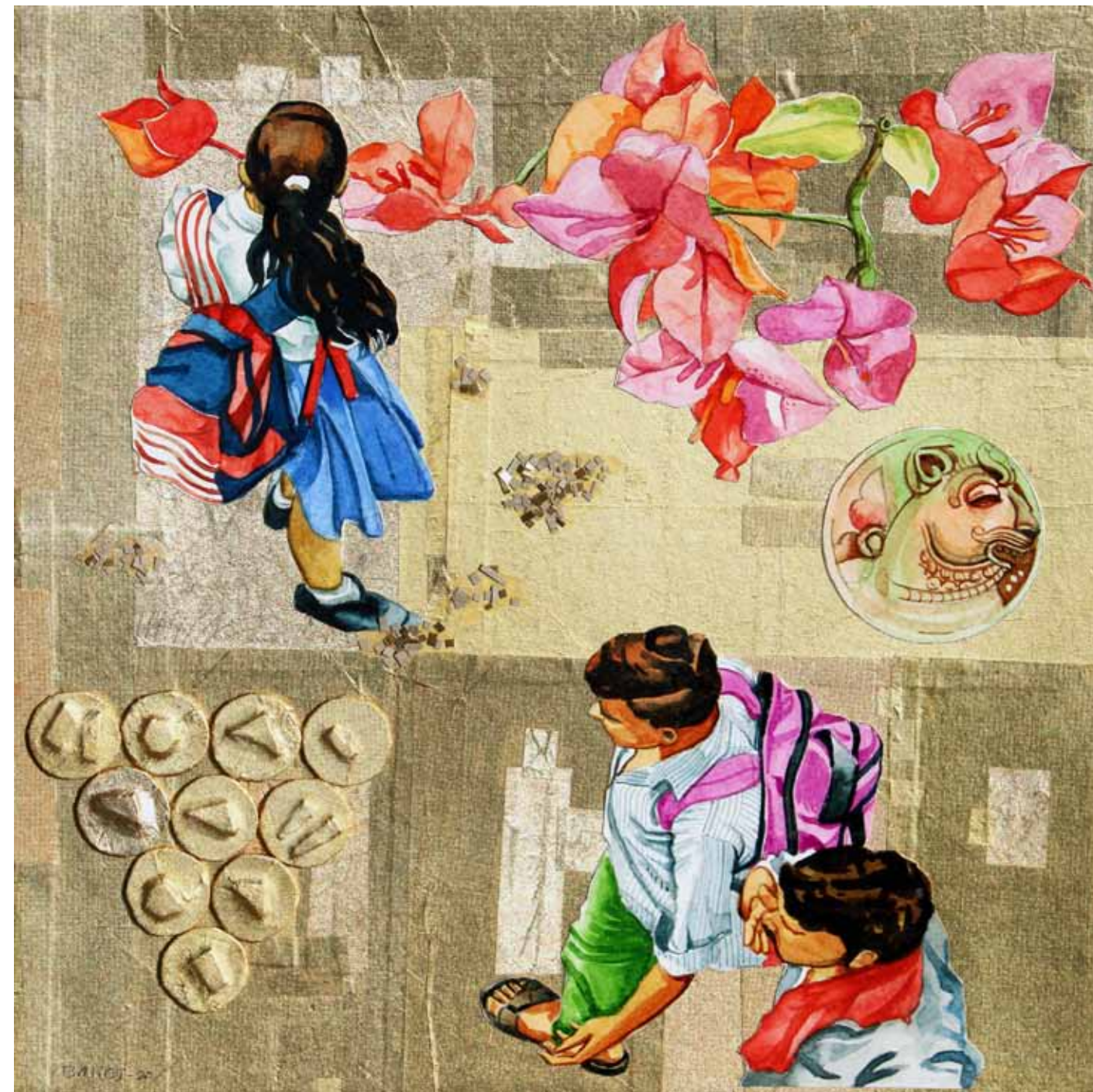
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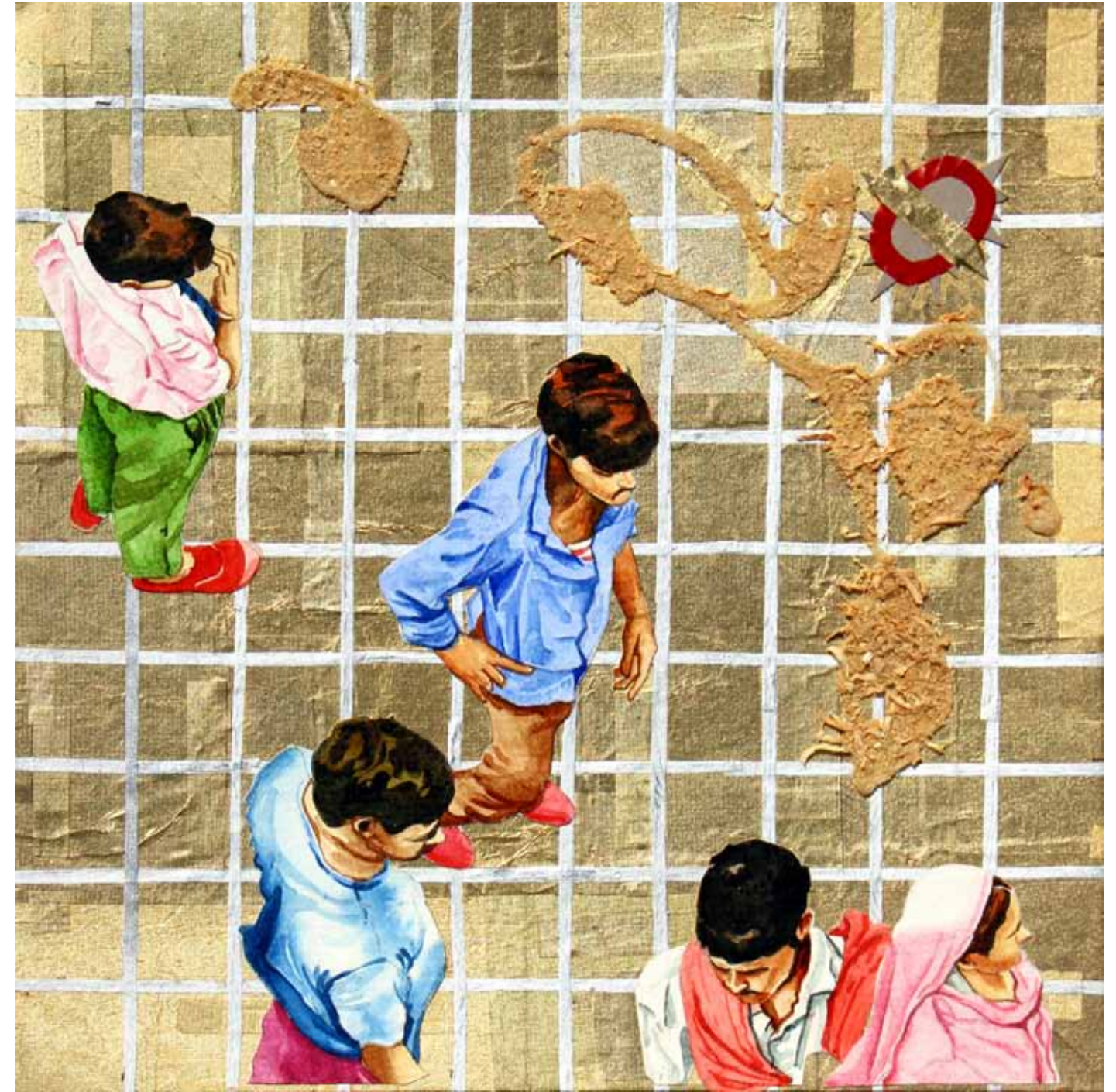
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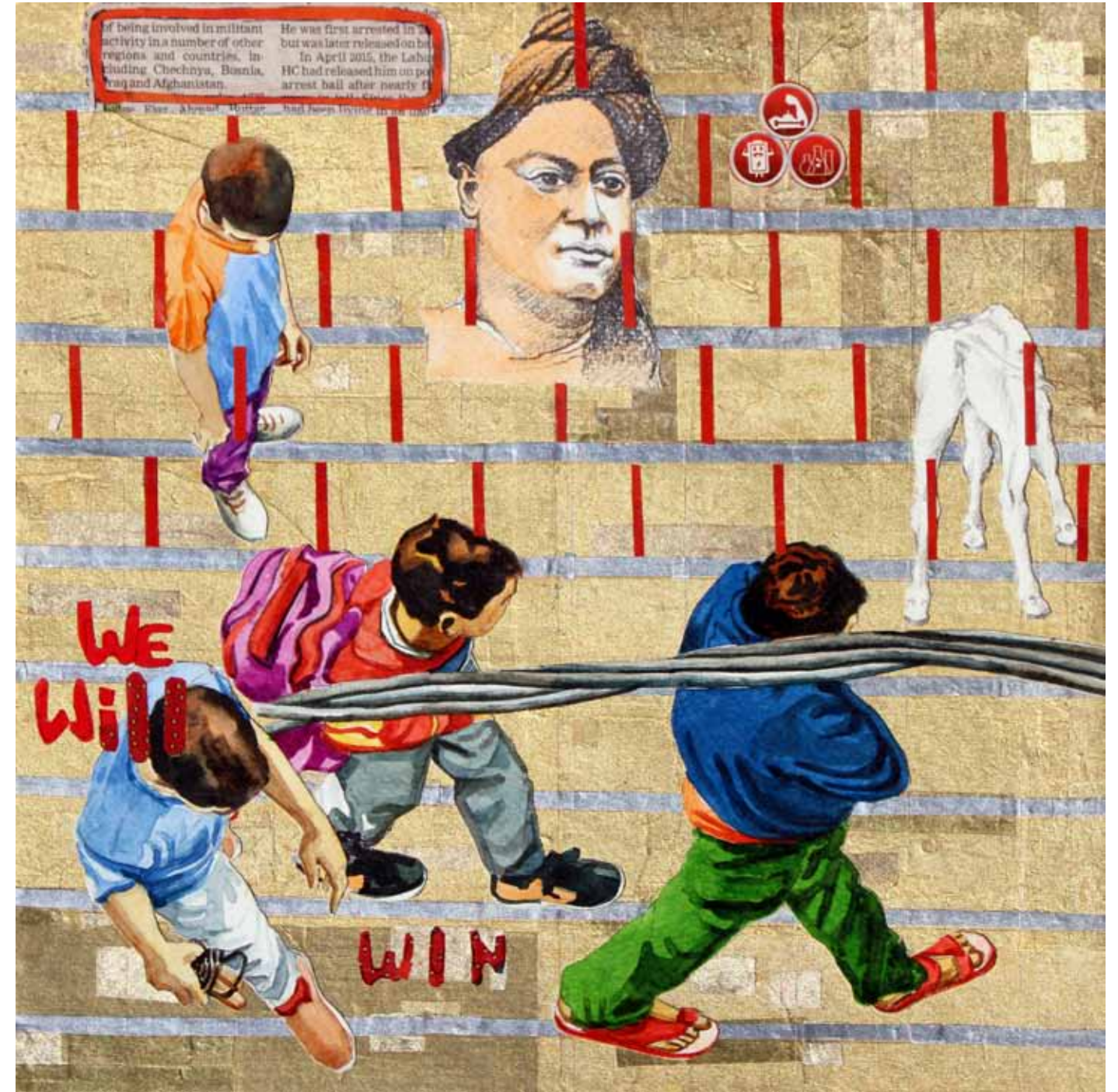
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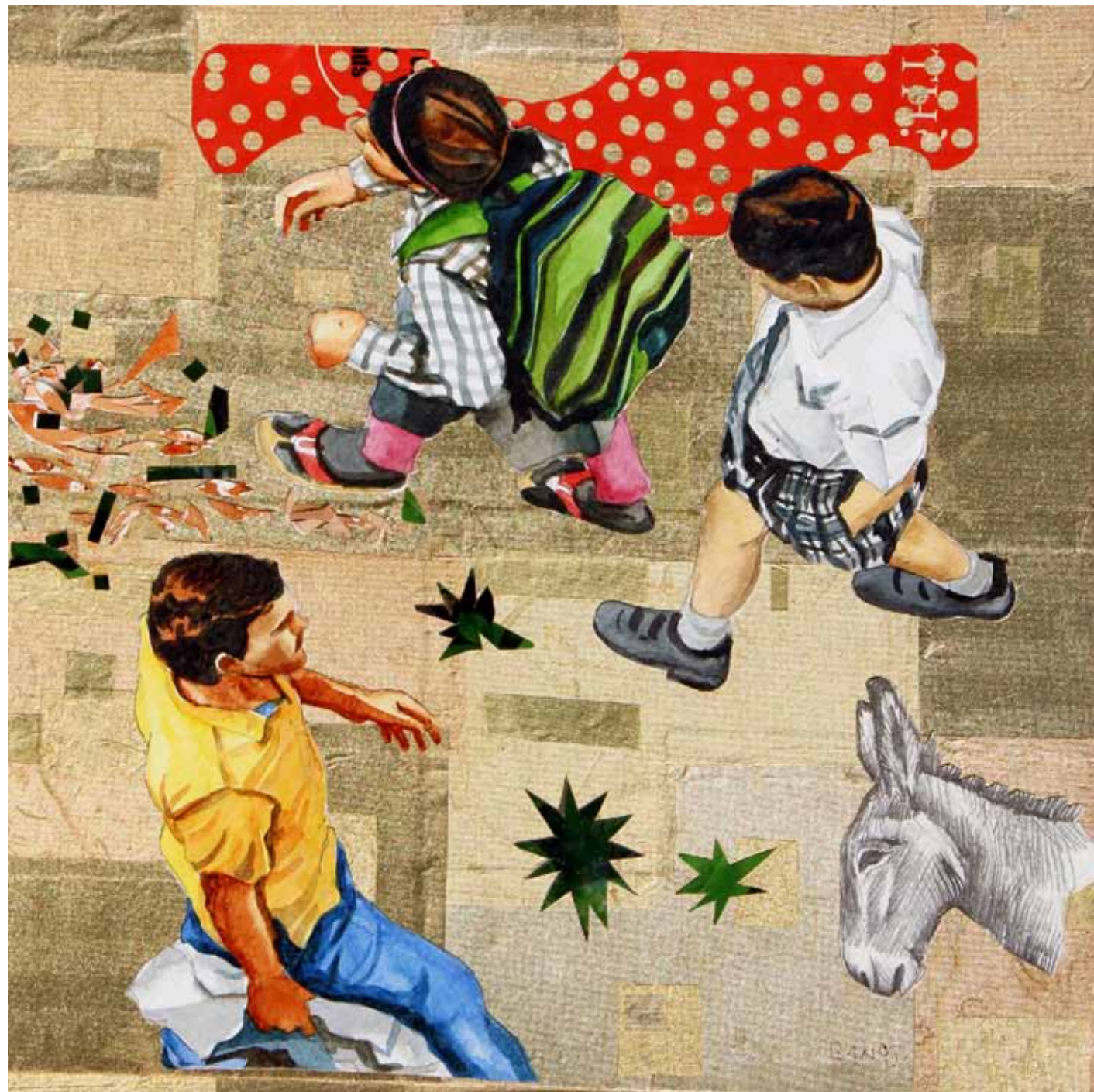
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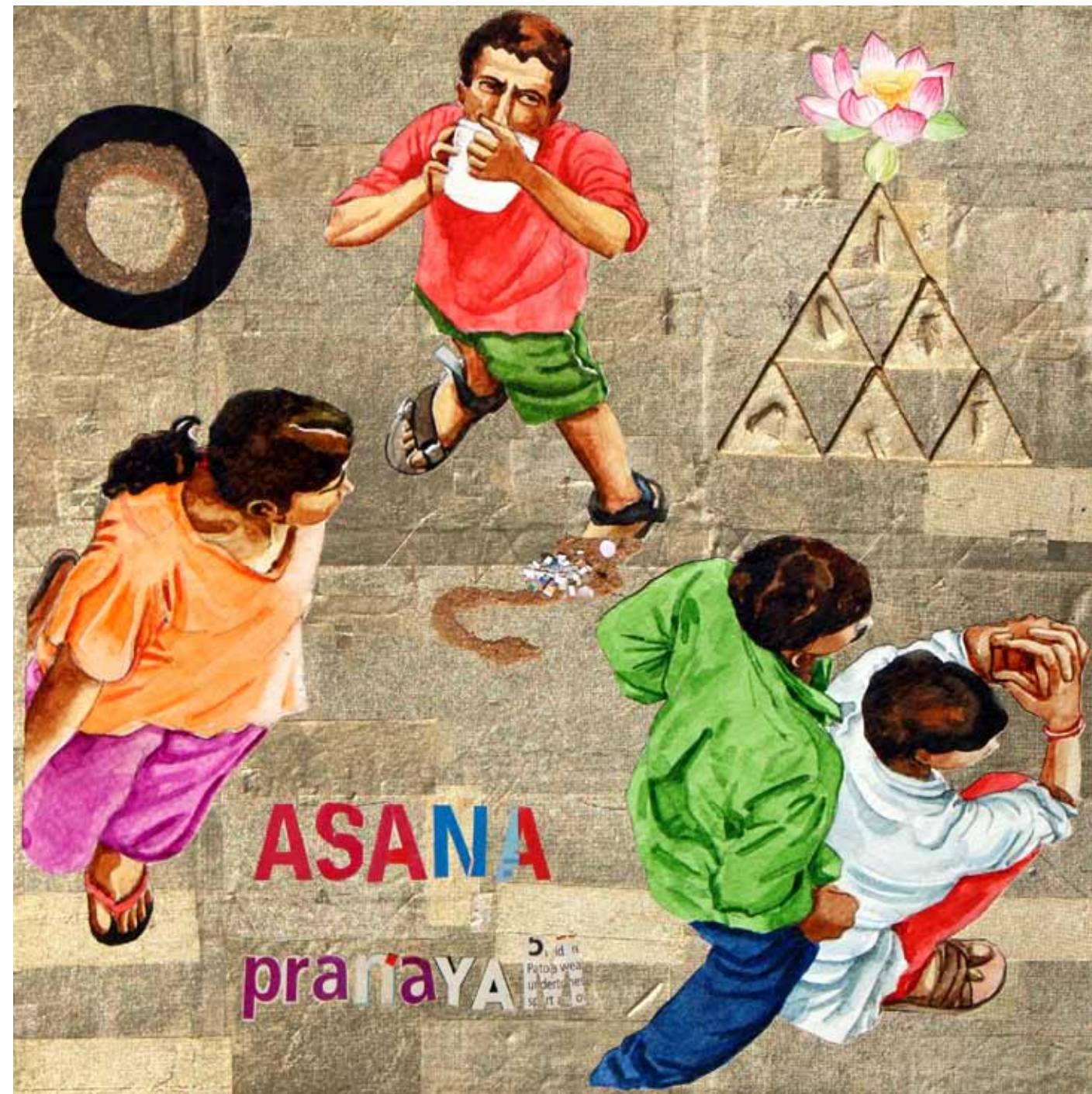
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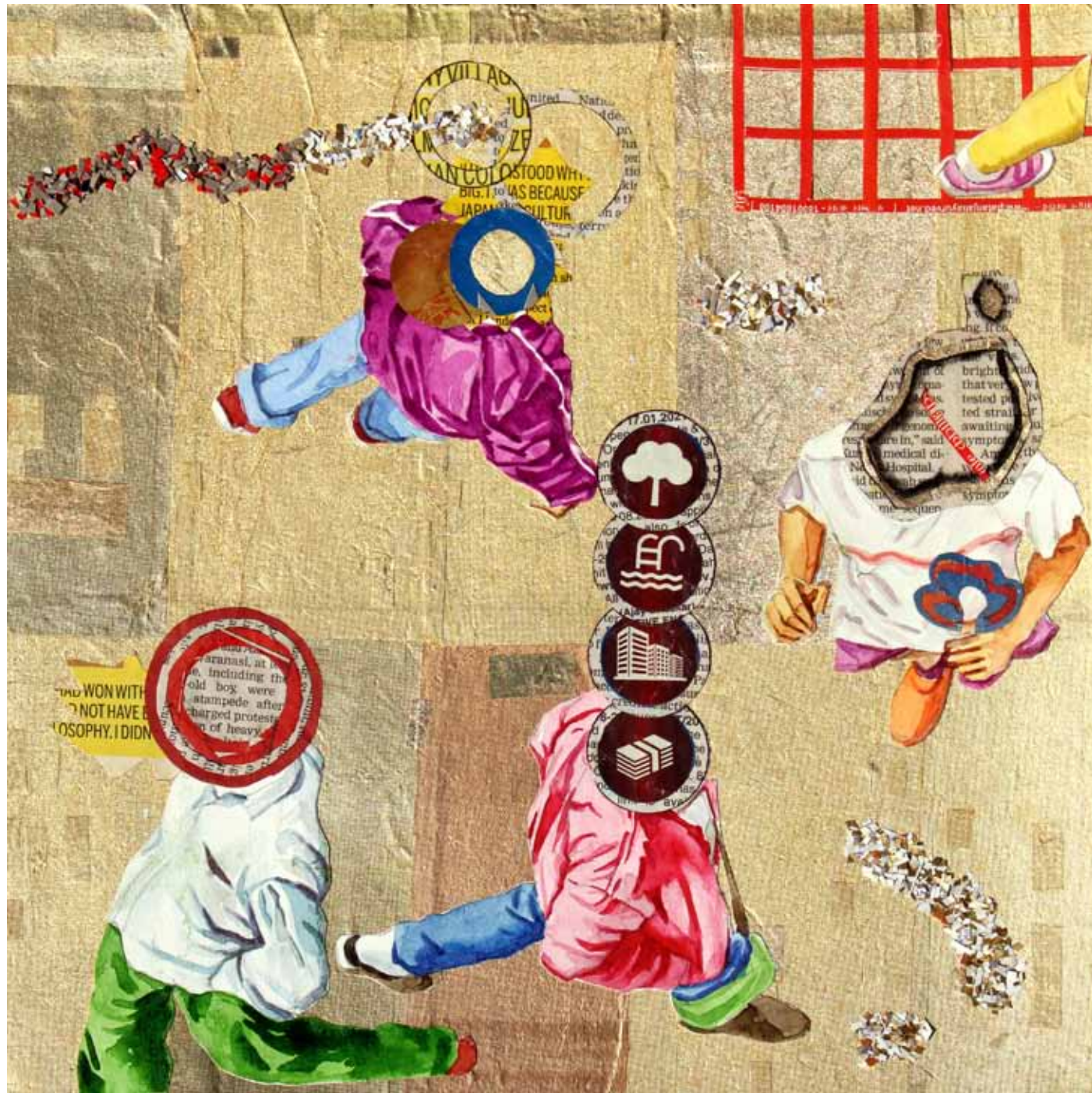
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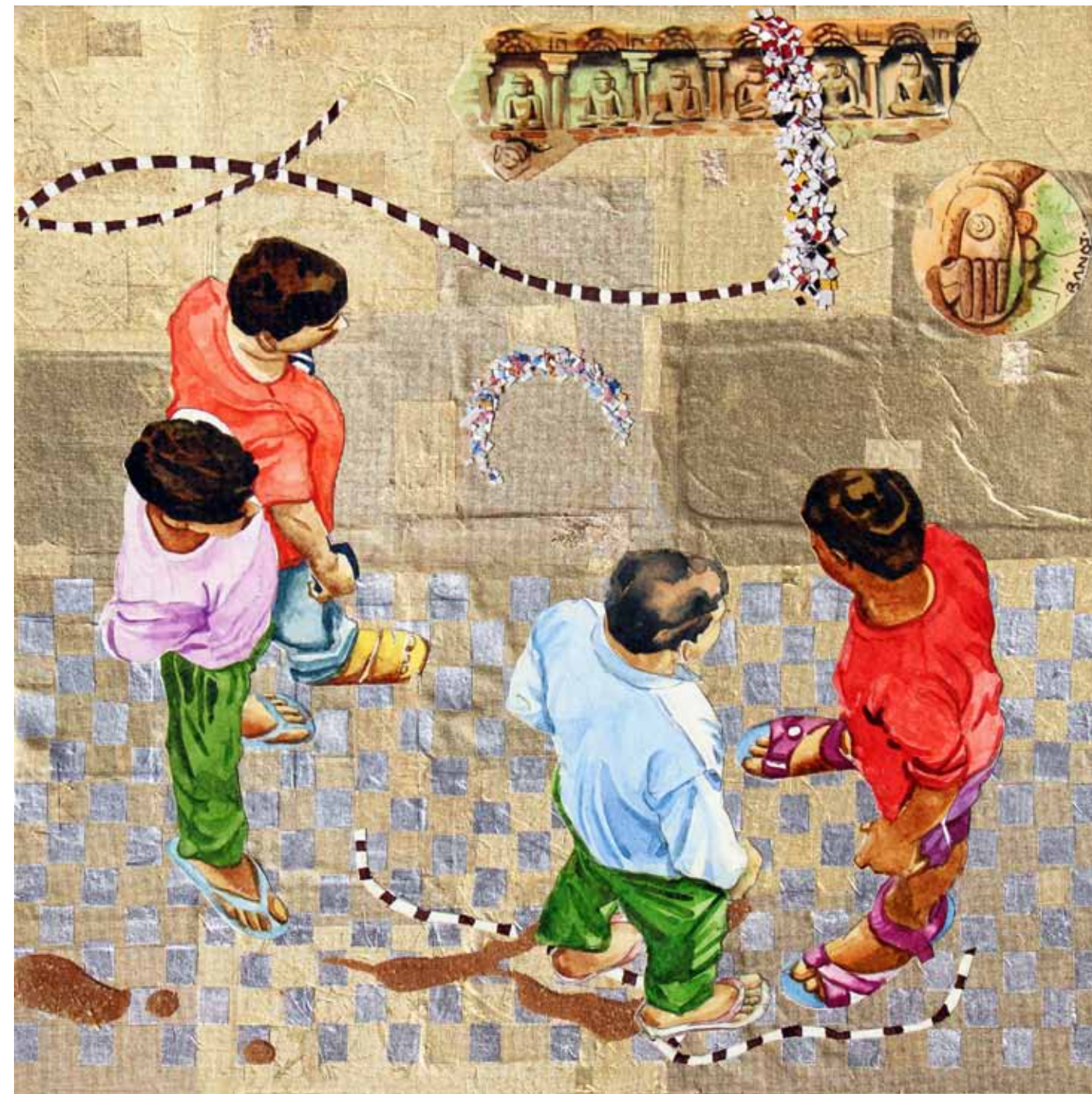
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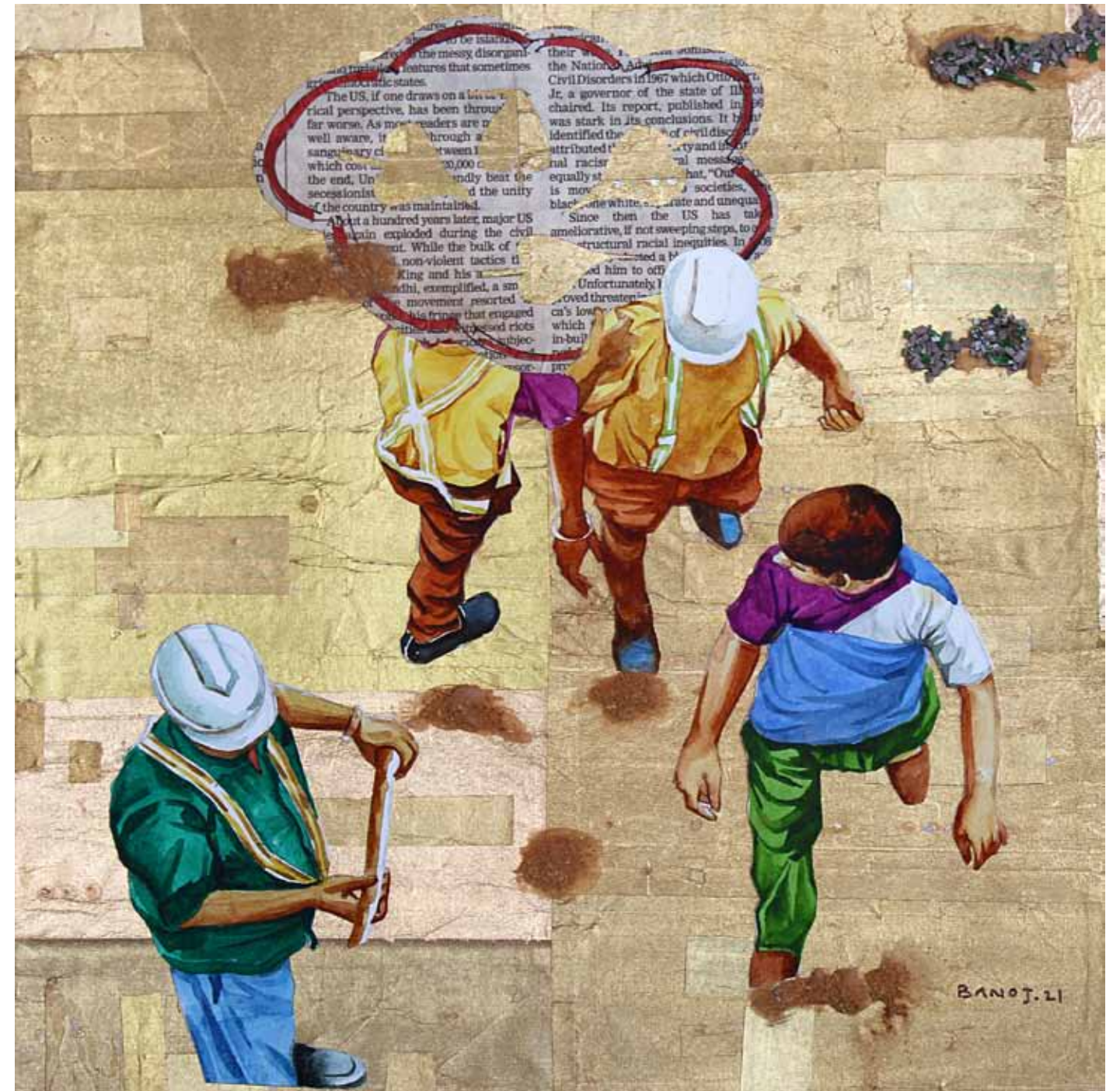
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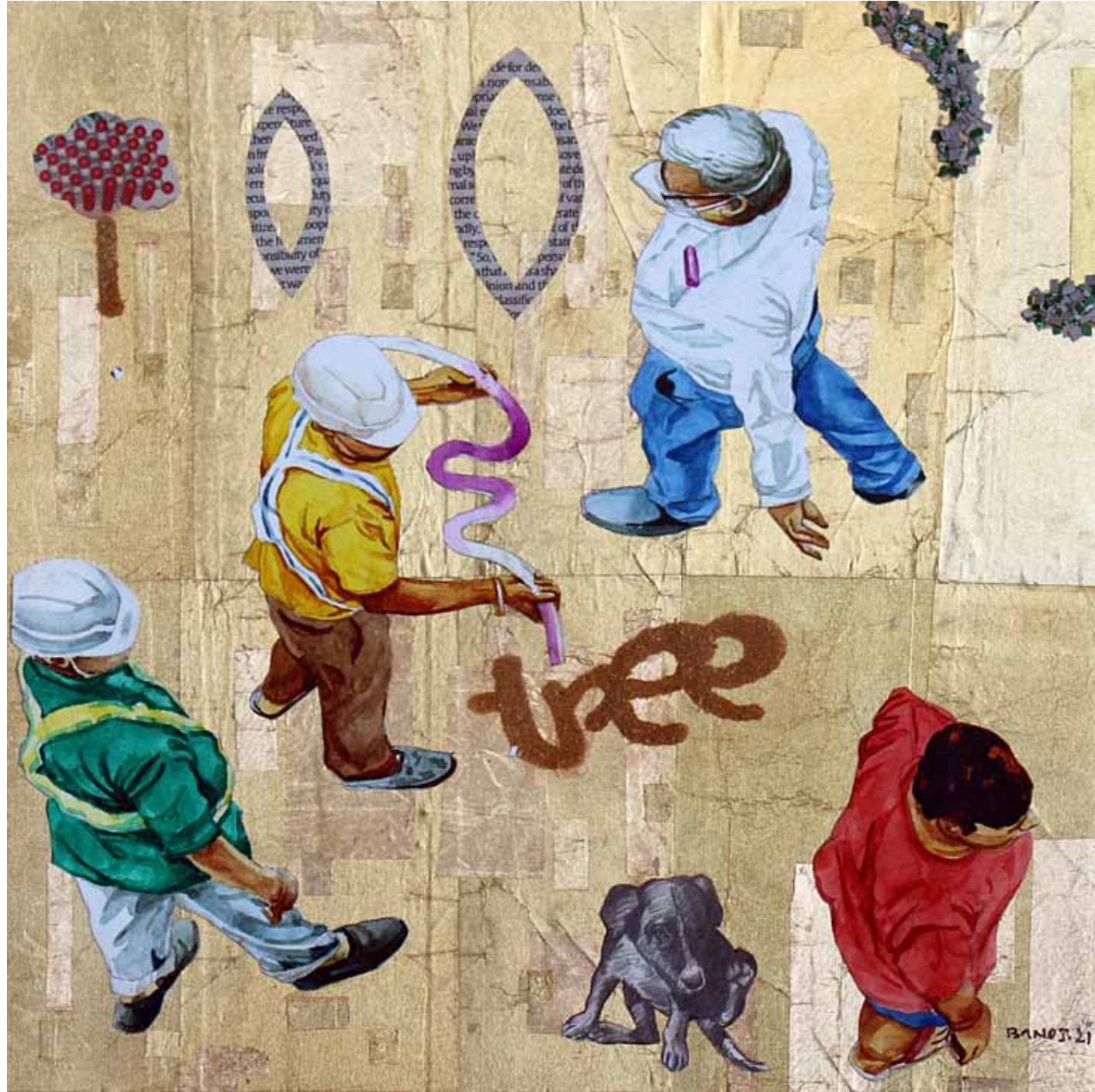
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Banoj Mohanty (Born in 1974)

Banoj completed his BFA in the year 1996 from Utkal University in Orissa and his MFA from Rai Foundation College in 2004, in New Delhi. His works have been a part of countless curated, solo and group art exhibitions in India, such as an online Art camp by the North- Zone cultural centre of the Indian Government, Art & Conflict International online platform by Bilesemart & Cap Foundation, All India Fine Art & Craft, New Delhi, Standup and Speakout at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, Shradhanjali - organized by Orissa Lalit Kala Akademi, and many more. He has also worked in various workshops such as the Annual Art workshop by Sunflower Art School, Rourkela, Youth artist painting workshop, organized by the Academy of Fine Arts, Bhubaneswar, BK College of Art and Craft and in the Academy of Fine Arts. He has also been awarded the first prize in charcoal sketching, 2004, Rai Foundation. Also has received an appreciation note from Home Science and Technology and Culture, Orissa in Collaboration with Orissa Lalit Kala Akademi, and India tourism week award by the Government of India Tourism Office, Bhubaneswar. He currently resides in the capital city of India- New Delhi.



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