

JOURNEYS

VIKASH KALRA

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Page 4-5 Image detail : *Mindscape* | ink and acrylic on paper | 66 cm x 152 cm (26" x 60") | 2014

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It is difficult to know where to start when writing about the artwork of Vikash Kalra, indeed how to put down on paper for others to read, about the man himself, the artist and the creative brain that produces the paintings we see. This is because to consider Kalra and his artistic output is to enter a world so full of energy and obsession, of moving from one idea to the next, from one room to the other, from book to book, landscape, portrait, poem, sculpture. He navigates these positions with ease sliding from one to the other whilst we are left trying to catch our breath. That is until as the viewer, we enter the world of Kalra's landscape paintings, his journeys, our sojourns, where we are given the freedom to explore and the space to linger and enjoy.

Kalra is a new talent in the International art world. An enigma, he fits none of the definitions of an academic artist. Self-taught, he freely explores the ideas intrinsic to the work of those who inspire him. Like some of these masters, once a brush, a pen or palette is in his hand, he begins his performance working at speed and with fluidity as he starts his journeys, throwing out images of things seen or glimpsed and spilling them onto the canvas.

So what do we see in his paintings, what does he give us? The answer to this is surprising, particularly when we are presented with a series of works which for the purpose of this introduction we will call landscapes. Some would call these works of Kalra's abstract or abstracted paintings. This is not strictly true and to consider them in this way would be to miss the essence of the offerings Kalra is inviting us to explore. A true abstract work refers to nothing other than itself. Abstracted images in a pure

academic sense are attached to real things; to places, objects and people that exist in real time.

However, before thinking about the content of the paintings that we are looking at it, is important to consider the physical landscapes both real and imagined that inform Kalra when he starts to paint.

Based in South Delhi, both the outside and the inside spaces of Kalra's studio share visual references. Whilst in a leafy suburb, the studio in Delhi could never be considered rural or primarily containing large tracts of 'free space'. It is urban, busy, noisy, colourful and brimming with life. Entering Kalra's studio entails a journey; through alleyways and up numerous flights of stairs. On entering, the studio mirrors this landscape and moving through it parallels the journey. The viewer is faced with room upon room piled high with paintings, canvases, piles of stuff, boxes, music and it is peopled by the figures staring out of Kalra's numerous figurative canvases that line the walls. The artist surrounds himself inside and outside both physically and mentally. He creates journeys and celebrates the turns and twists. In this process the artist routinely rewards himself. The brain likes repetition. It particularly enjoys visual repetition and pays itself with a regular injection of dopamine. In other words, as humans, the more we see and do something and repeat the process the more our brain rewards us and it feels good.

We can then go back to the question what do we see in Kalra's landscape paintings or more to the point what are we offered? In

all the paintings we are invited to take the journey with the artist. Our eye is drawn across the canvas following the suggestion of trees, fauna and buildings that skit across the space. This is the journey that Kalra is creating for us as he remembers things seen, feelings, colours, smells and sounds. We are invited to enjoy but most importantly we are offered resting space. Somewhere across the painted surface, details become sparse and are reduced to brush strokes as Kalra allows us time to enjoy the journey. We can move in and out of this contemplative space and back to 'the action' as we choose. This becomes an interesting dichotomy as this would appear to be the opposite of how the artist produces, as he allows himself no time between this work and the next which is already lined up and ready to go. The availability of space for the artist is almost non-existent between his thoughts, processes and the laying down of paint on canvas. So as his flow of ideas across the canvas speeds-up, he has no time to differentiate shapes and forms so all buildings become representational, three-line images and other reference points become defined purely by mark-making. And strangely in this erratic and thought-filled exercise, by contrast, Kalra eases our journey for us as he skips over excess and leaves us with just enough.

The contemplative energy in Kalra's paintings is furthered in the artist's use of colour. Whilst every painting is different, what they give the viewer in terms of choice of colour is a reduced palette. So each work sits easily with itself and our brain is not asked to struggle with too many options but is instead given the freedom to enjoy the harmonies created. For example, in the painting shown on page-43 we can revel in the delicious and vibrant

orange at the top of the canvas and reflected in the bottom part of the painting as a slightly watery and calmer hue that allows us to extinguish for a moment the power of the fiery colours that punch at us from the top.

However, as is the artist's due, Kalra does not let the viewer off quite so easily as he just pushes some of our journeys and makes us work just that little bit harder to walk the path with him. If we look for example at his long format paintings such as those shown on page-36 and page-50, just like Jackson Pollock's painting *Summertime*, we the viewer are asked to participate in the action, as in order to see the detail we need to get that little bit closer and in this coming forward we are forced by the artist to literally walk the journey as we move from left to right and ultimately follow in Kalra's footsteps.

Laura Williams

Norwich, UK, 2015

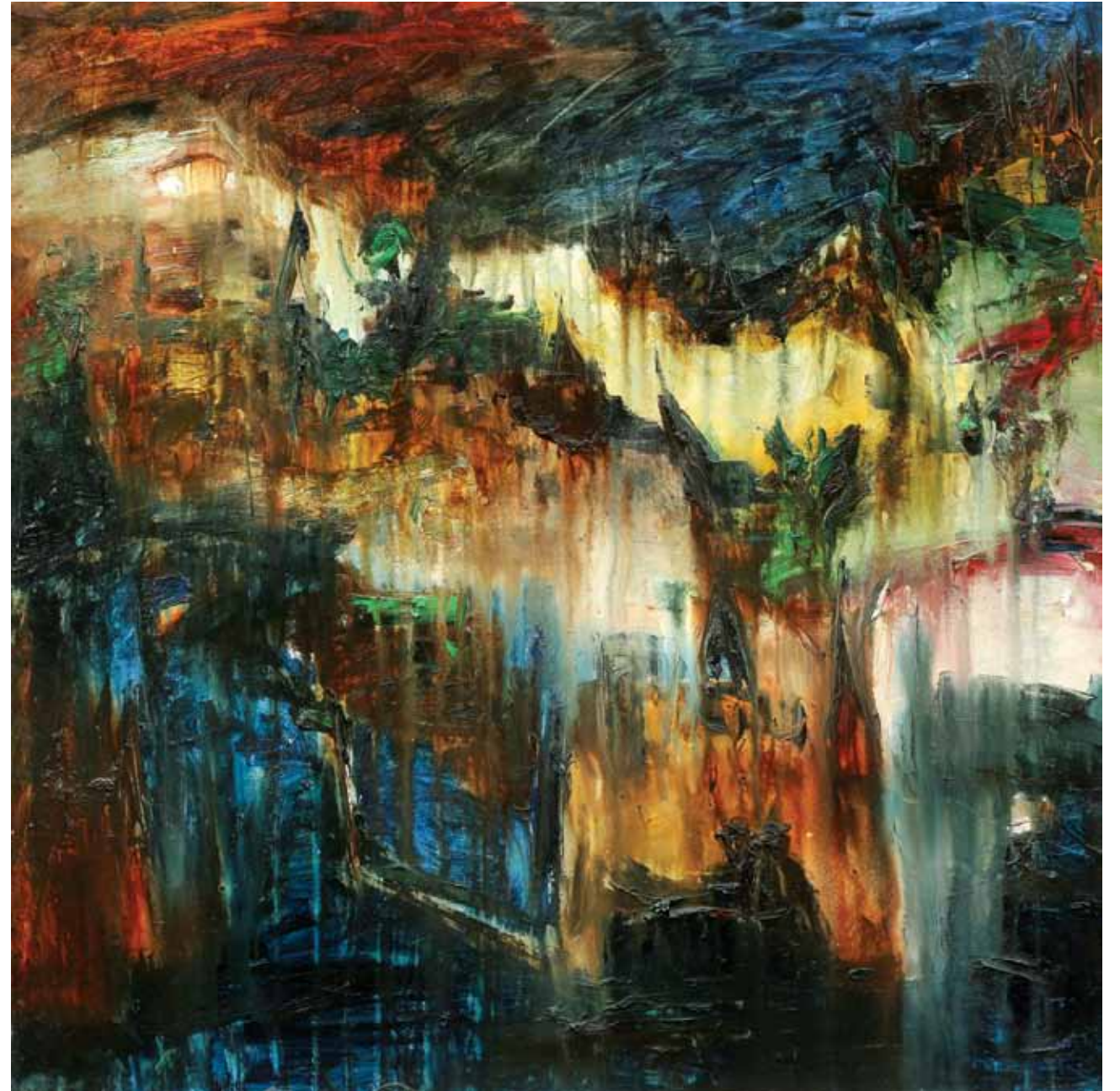


Mindscape | oil on canvas | 76cm x 183cm (30" x 72") | 2014

Mindscape | oil on canvas | 122cm x 122cm (48" x 48") | 2014



Mindscape | oil on canvas | 152cm x 152cm (60" x 60") | 2014



Mindscape | oil on canvas | 91cm x 183cm (36" x 72") | 2014



Mindscape | oil on canvas | 76cm x 76cm (30" x 30") | 2014



Mindscape
oil on canvas
173cm x 198cm (68" x 78")
2014





Mindscape | oil on canvas | 61cm x 183cm (24" x 72") | 2014

Mindscape | oil on canvas | 91cm x 91cm (36" x 36") | 2014



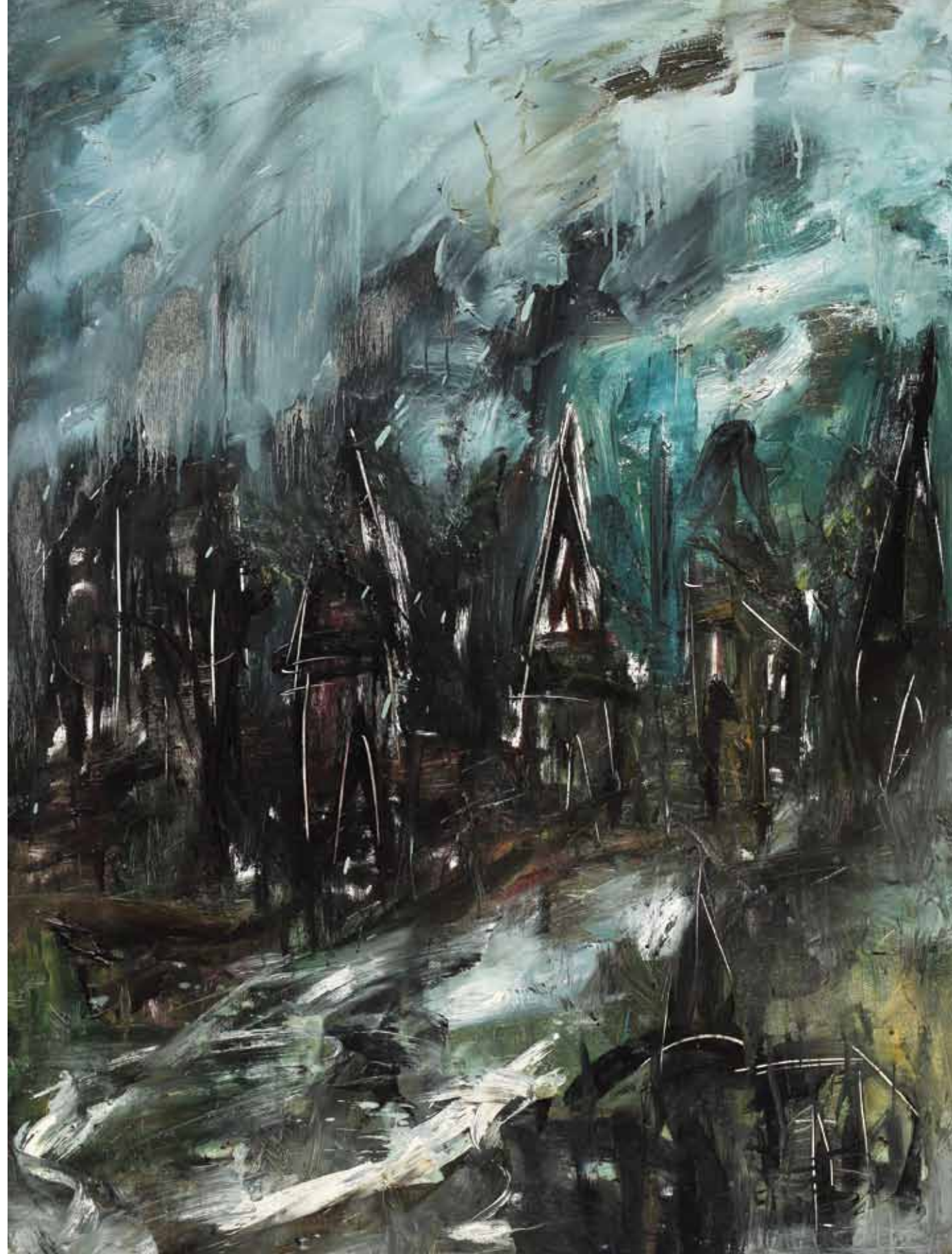
Mindscape
oil on canvas
173cm x 198cm (68" x 78")
2014





Mindscape | oil on canvas | 61cm x 152cm (24" x 60") | 2014

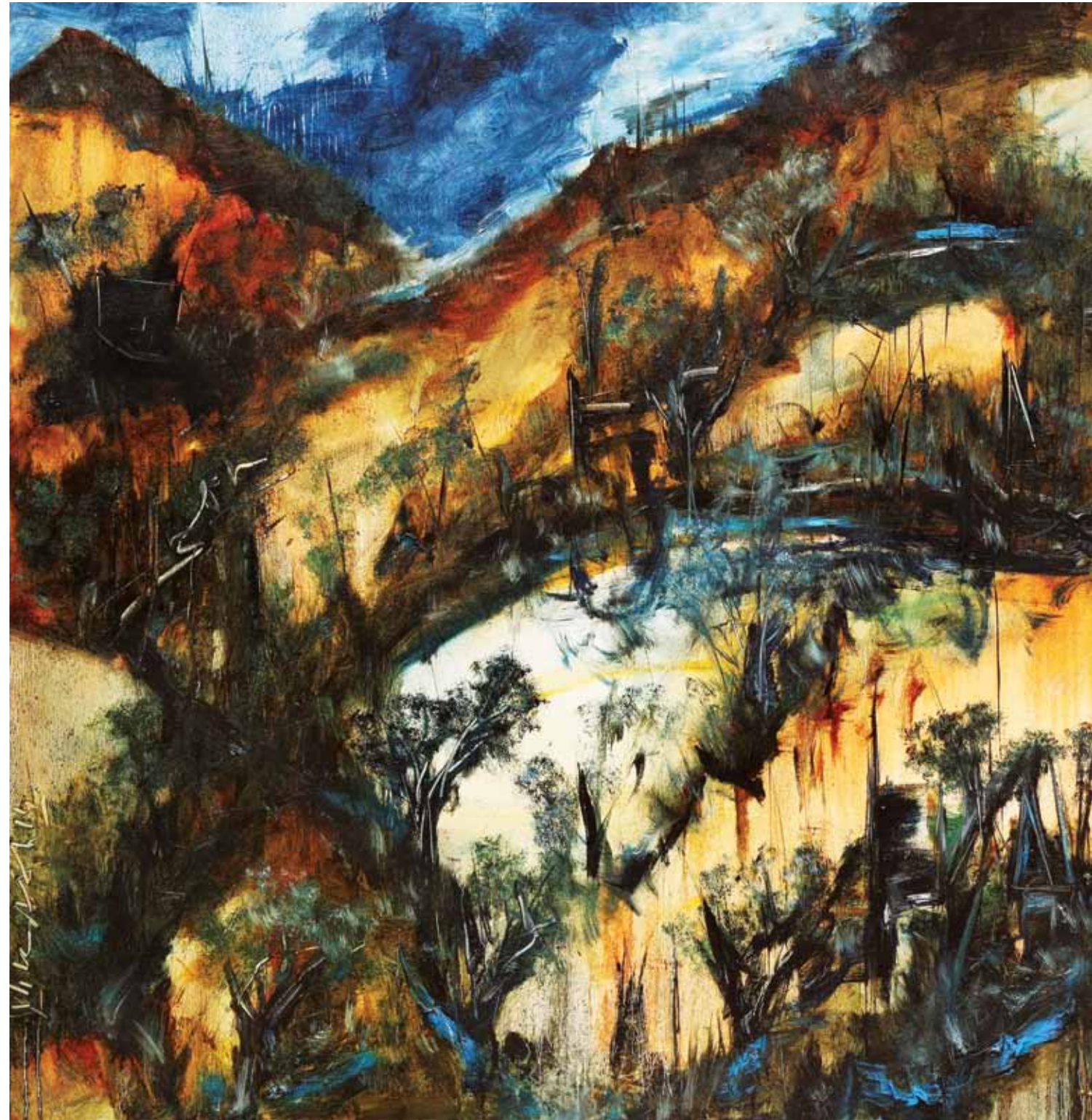
Mindscape | oil on canvas | 122cm x 89cm (48" x 35") | 2013



Mindscape | oil on canvas | 152cm x 91cm (60" x 36") | 2014



Mindscape | oil on canvas | 122cm x 122cm (48" x 48") | 2014





Mindscape | oil on canvas | 91cm x 305cm (36" x 120") | 2014

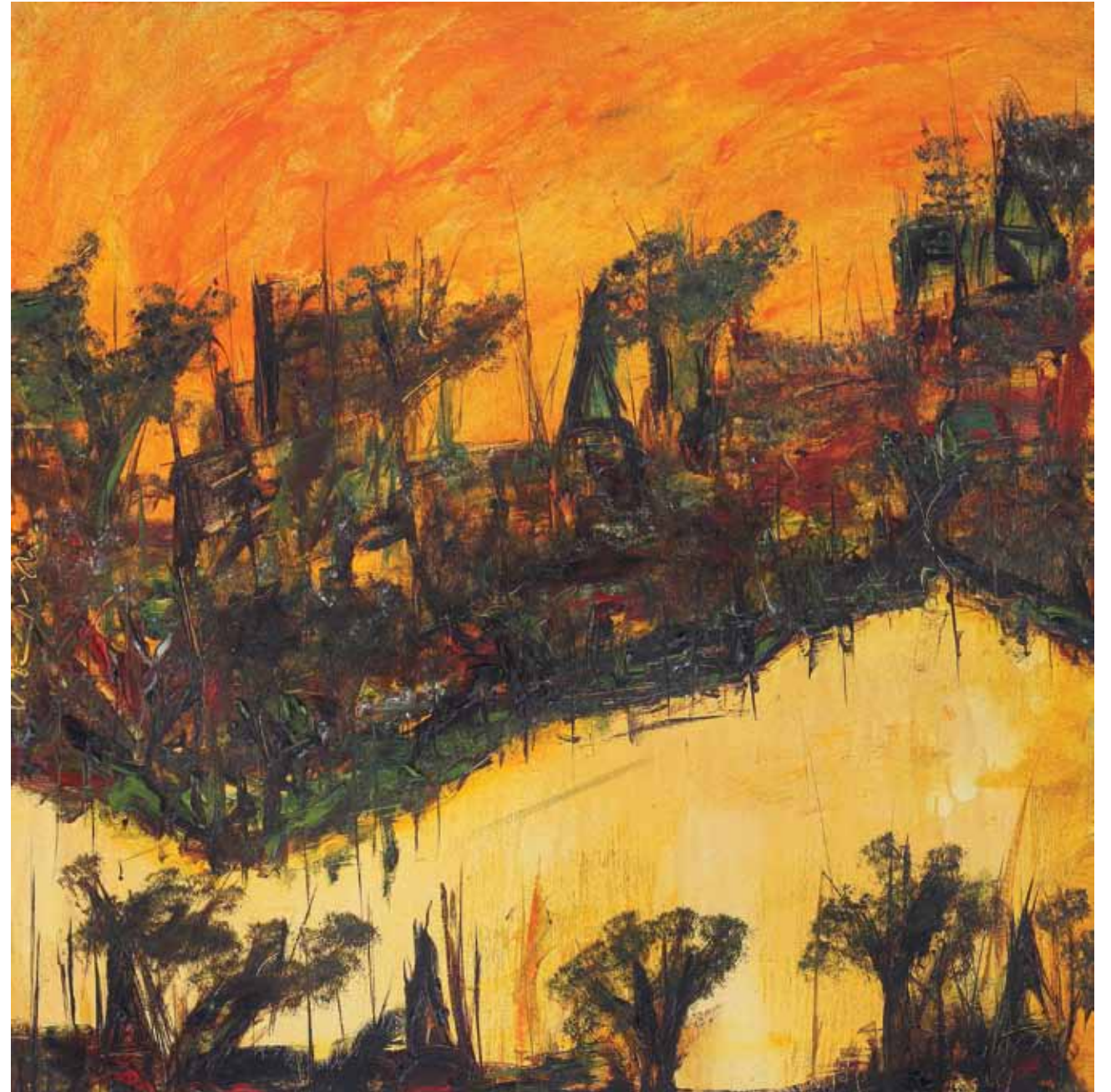
Mindscape | oil on canvas | 122cm x 122cm (48" x 48") | 2014



Mindscape | oil on canvas | 61cm x 122cm (24" x 48") | 2014



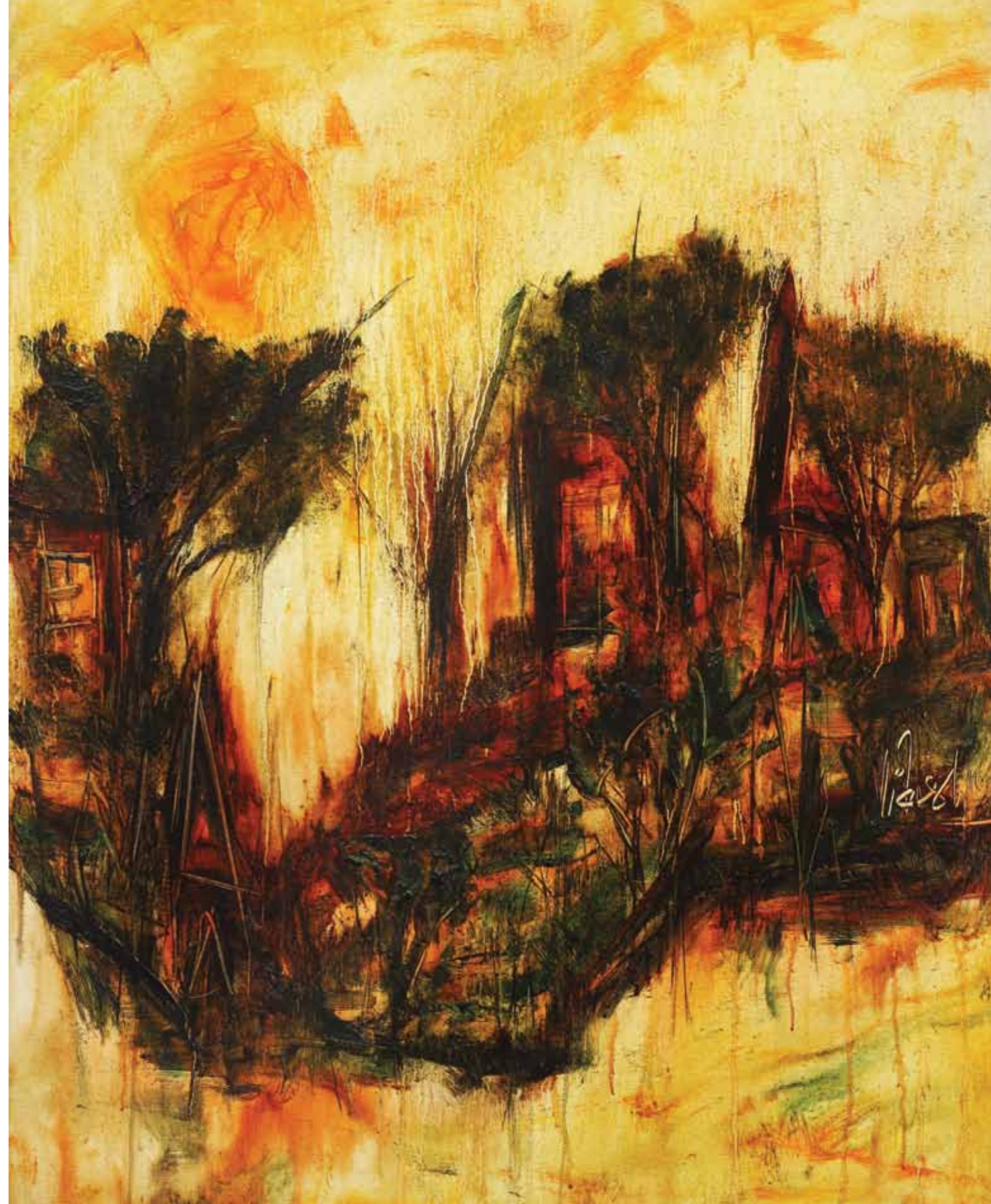
Mindscape | oil on canvas | 114 cm x 114cm (45" x 45") | 2014



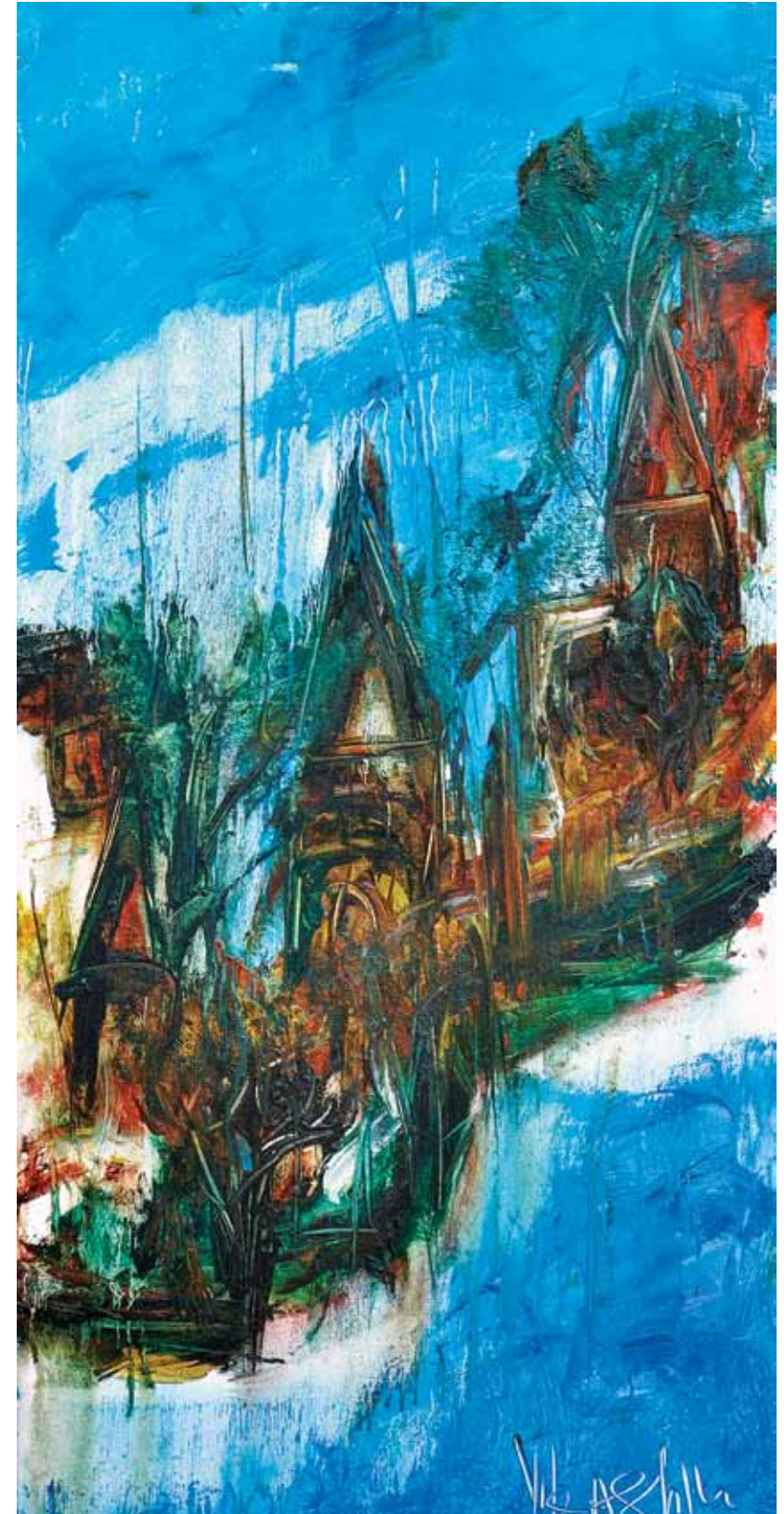
Mindscape | oil on canvas | 89cm x 152cm (35" x 60") | 2014



Mindscape | oil on canvas | 122cm x 97cm (48" x 38") | 2014



Mindscape | oil on canvas | 61cm x 122cm (24" x 48") | 2014





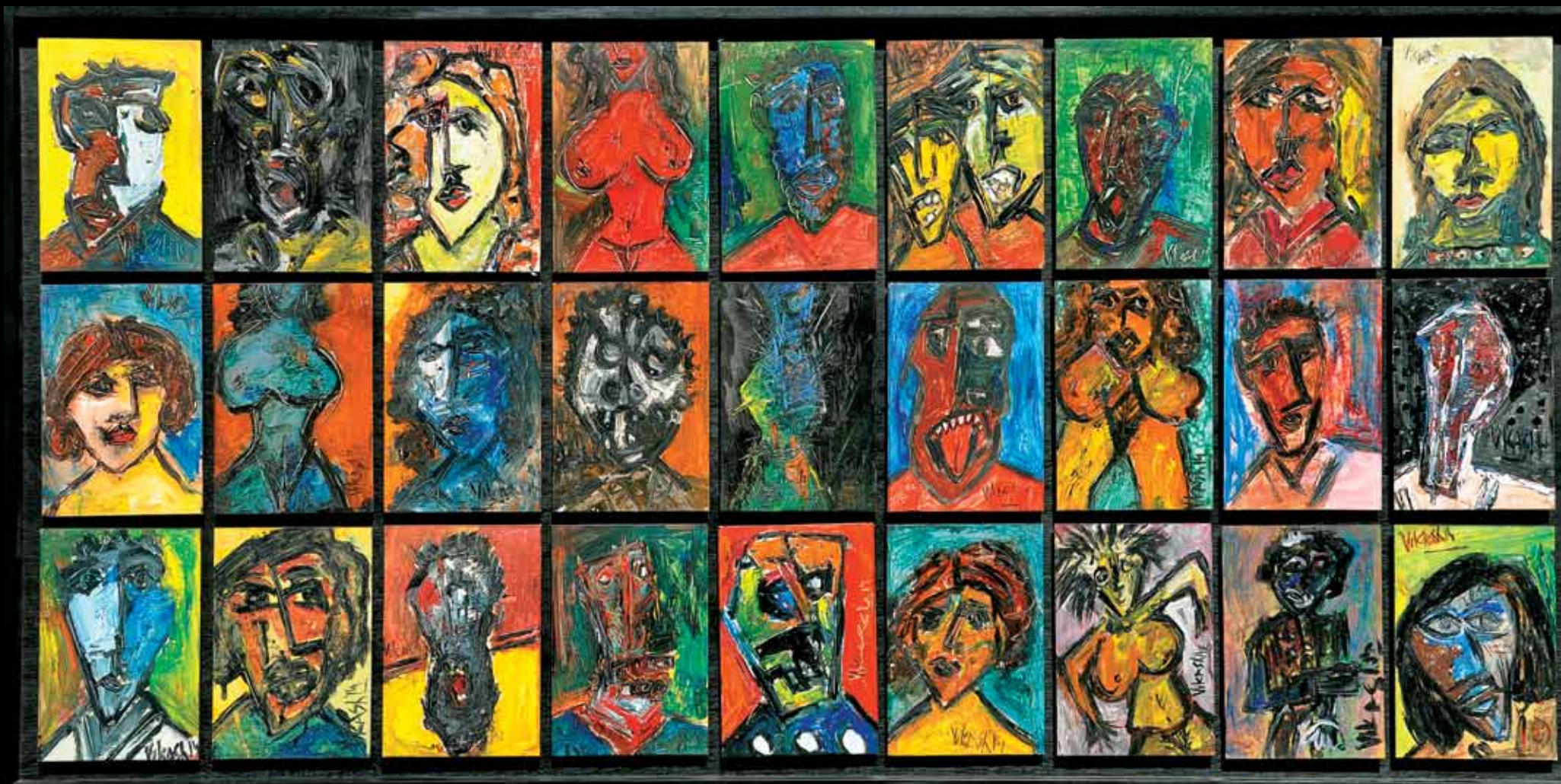
Mindscape | oil on canvas | 61cm x 152cm (24" x 60") | 2014

Next page detail: *Mindscape* | oil on canvas | 89cm x 152cm (35" x 60") | 2014

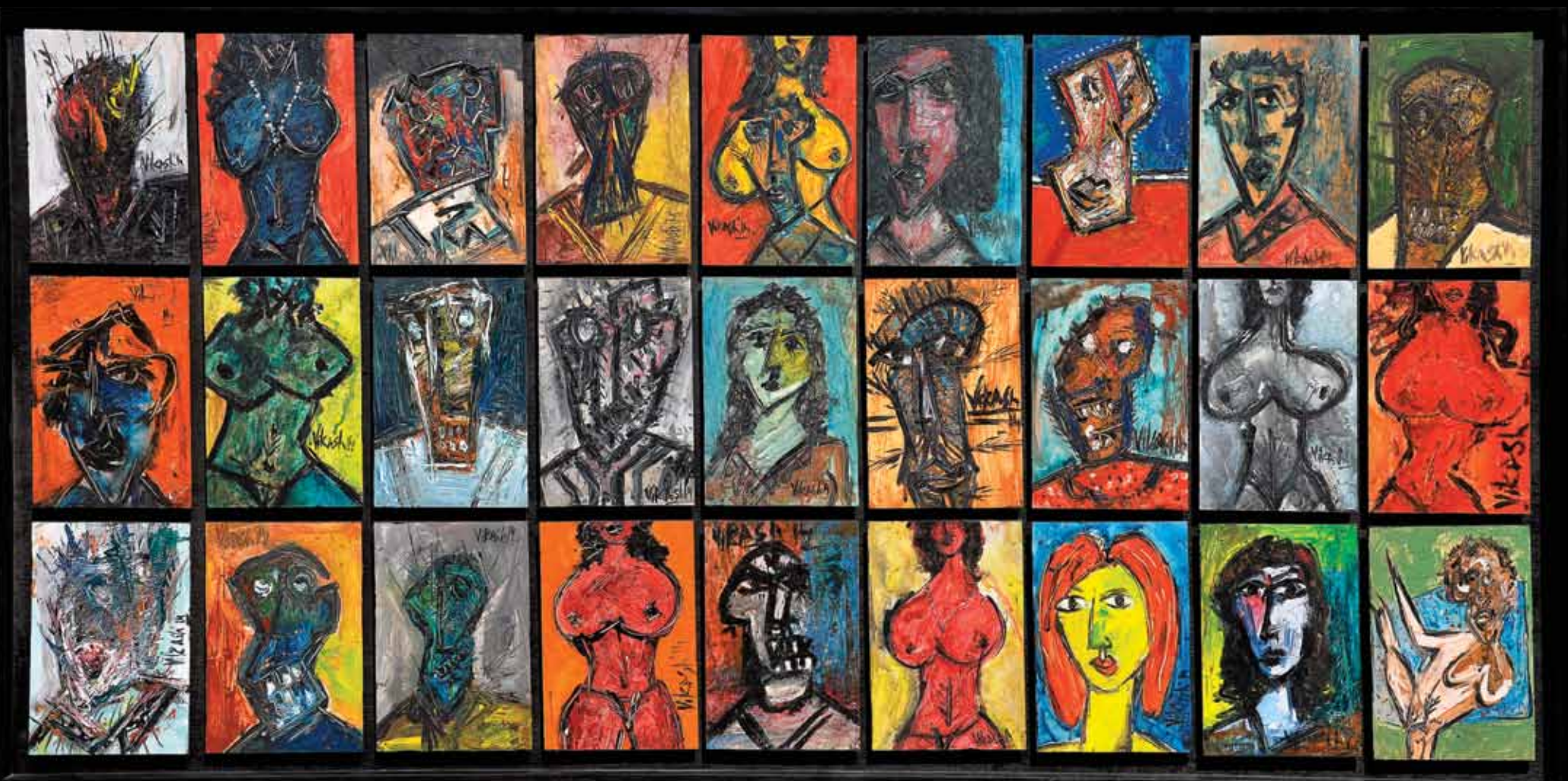




Head | oil on canvas | 183cm x 1219cm { (72" x 60" each 8 parts) 72" x 480" } | 2014

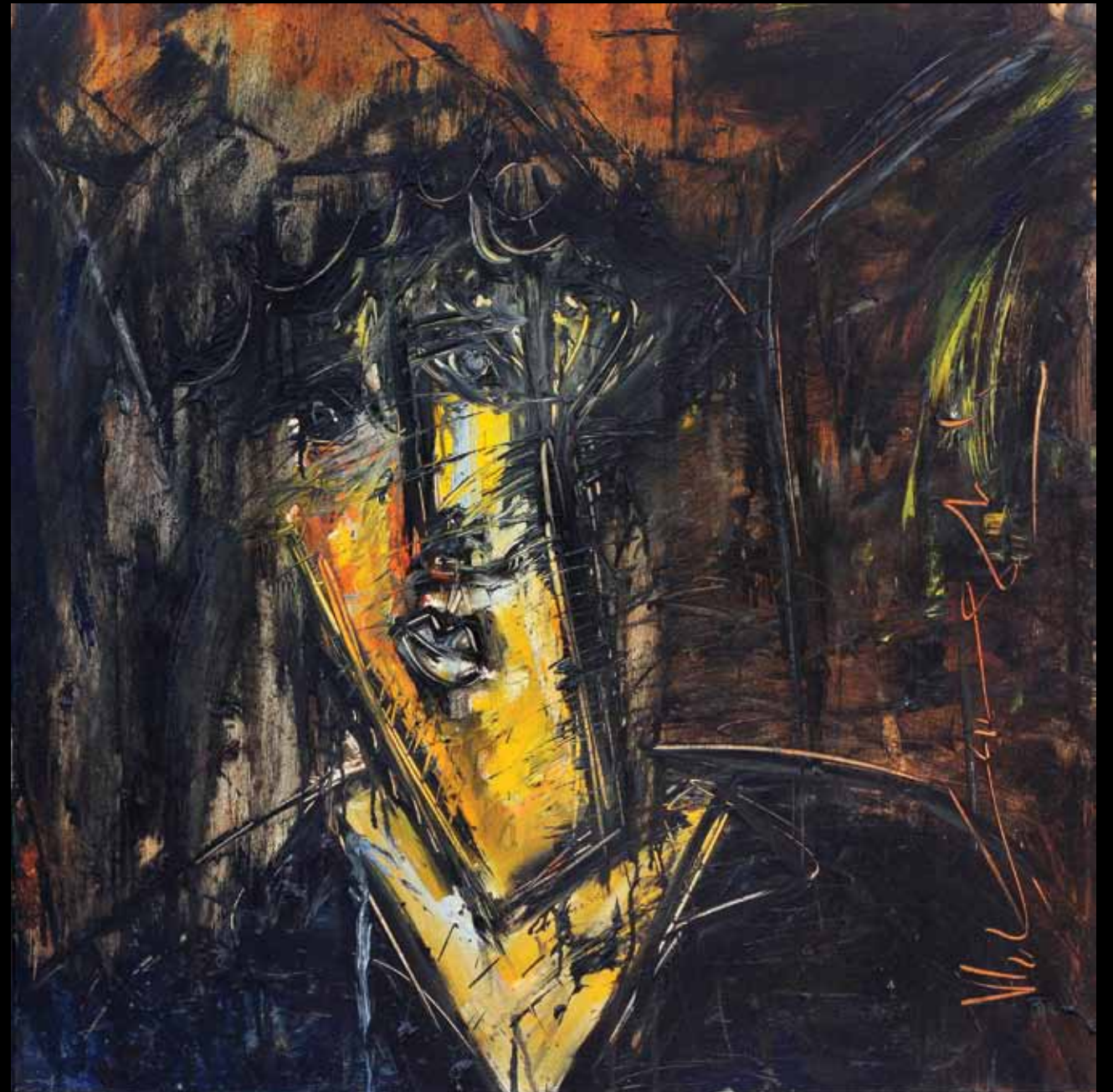


Untitled | oil and acrylic on board | 102cm x 195cm (40" x 77") | 2014



Untitled | oil and acrylic on board | 102cm x 195cm (40" x 77") | 2014

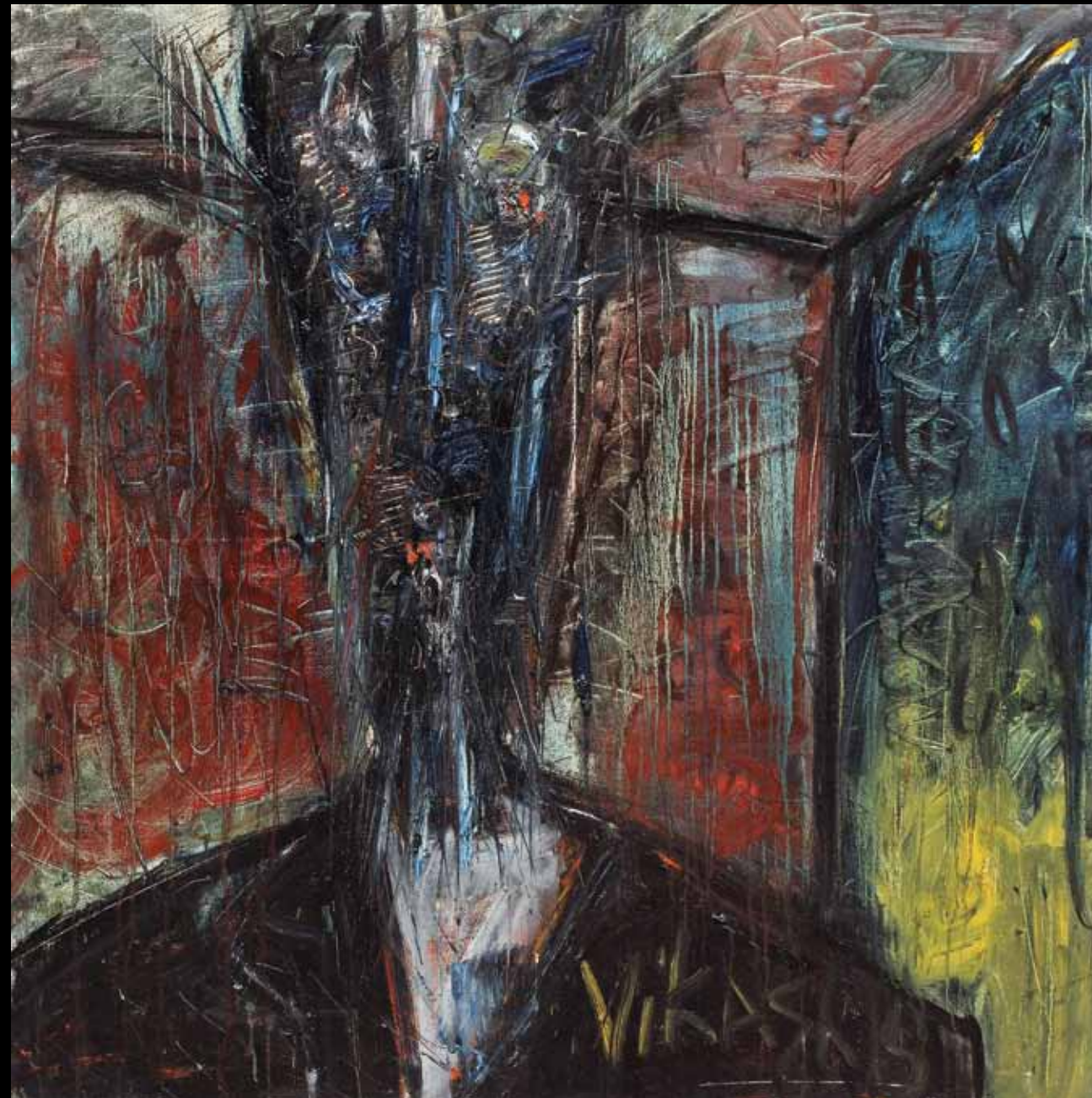
Head | oil on canvas | 91cm x 91cm (36" x 36") | 2014



Head | oil on canvas | 152cm x 122cm (60" x 48") | 2014



Heads | oil on canvas | 114 cm x 114cm (45" x 45") | 2014



Heads | oil on canvas | 71 cm x 56cm (28" x 22") | 2014





Vikash Kalra

Born : 27th July 1973

Place of Birth: New Delhi

Qualification: Graduate From Delhi University, A Self Taught Artist

EXHIBITIONS

2015

JOURNEYS – Solo show – January – Indian Art Fair, New Delhi – by Art 18|21, UK.

2014

Solo show in Indian Art Festival , 27th - 30th Nov 2014 . Nehru centre , Worli Mumbai,
THE ALCHEMIST - a monographic exhibition - Solo show - August 2014 , - Art and Aesthetic, Lado
Sarai, New Delhi.

Four Walls - Exhibition of India's contemporary art- Taj Westend, Bangalore from 4th -13 April 2014,
with Artchutney

Group show at Art and Aesthetic "A Tribute to MASTERS & MASTERPIECES - History Revisited", 29th
Jan - 28th Feb

Group Show , Gallerie Nyva, The Winter Tale 2013

Sunday, December 15, 2013 to Monday, February 03, 2014

Group show in DHOOMIMAL ART CENTRE Jan.

2013

Solo Show in Indian Art Festival, 19-22 Dec. Nehru Centre, Bombay.
Group Show, Artchutney, Coimbatore on 23rd-24th November, 2013.
Group Show, Voice on Art, "Centurion2013" 9th Nov to 15th Nov, at Visual Art Gallery, IHC, New Delhi,
Group Show, Gallerie Nvya, 9th Anniversary Show "NAVA"
Friday, September 06, 2013 to Thursday, November 07,
Group Show, Art Chutney " Varicolored " The Taj West End, Bangalore. 14th July.
Group Show, Gallerie Nvya, New Delhi, May 15, 2013 to July 27, 2013
Angels of History, Solo Show, Art Konsult, Visual Art Gallery, IHC, New Delhi
Revelations-I, The Pune Art Gallery, Pune
Modern & Contemporary Indian Art Auction, Art Chutney, Bangalore
India Art Fair 2013, Art Konsult, New Delhi

2012

Art Bull, Autumn Auction,
Group Show, Art Bull, Lado Sarai, New Delhi
United Art Fair, New Delhi
Group Show, Surya Hotel, New Delhi
Group Show, Group Show
Into The Void, Solo Show, Art Konsult
India Art Fair 2012, Art Konsult
Group Show, Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad
The Dramatics of Diverse Interpretations/Perspectives, Group Show, Art Konsult
Group Show, Arts of The Earth, Open Palm Court, IHC
Short Film, Obsessions, The World of Vikash Kalra by Vinod Bhardwaj previewed at Art Film Festival,
NGMA, New Delhi (Youtube link: www.youtube.com/watch?v=EM2a64YWdEY)
Short Film on Vikash Kalra, Dreams on Canvas previewed on Doordarshan
(Youtube link: www.youtube.com/watch?v=8wBeDTFeCfc)

2011

Group Show, Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi
Group Show, Arts of The Earth, Open Palm Court, IH C
Autumn Auction, Artbull, New Delhi
Museum Collection-3, Group Show, Art Konsult, Visual Art Gallery, IHC, New Delhi
50.25.10 (50 Works, 25 Artist, 10 States) The Art Corridor, The Taj, by Art Chutney, Bangalore
Solo Show – Nostalgia/Memory, Visual Art Gallery, IH C & Art Konsult, New Delhi
Group Show, The Taj, Art Chutney, Bangalore

2010

Solo Show - The Artist The Man-IV, Open Palm Court, IH C, New Delhi

2009

Group Show, Marangar Fort, Rajasthan
Vivid Hues, Epicentre, Gurgaon & IH C, New Delhi
Solo Show - The Artist The Man-III , India Habitat Centre, New Delhi
Group Show, Rooh - The Journey Within, VAG, IH C, New Delhi
Line Of Control, Online Show with www.rangartgallery.com

2008

Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi
Palm Court, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi
Travancore Art Gallery, New Delhi
Solo - The Artist The Man-II, VAG, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi
Chehere (Faces) Online Show with www.rangartgallery.com

2007

60 Years Of Independence, Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi
Group Show, VAG, IH C, New Delhi
Solo Show The Artist The Man, Palm Court, IH C, New Delhi
Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi
Lakhotia Art Gallery, New Delhi
Rabindra Bhavan, New Delhi

2006

Triveni Gallery, New Delhi
Visual Art Gallery, IH C, New Delhi
Palm Court, IH C, New Delhi
Solo Show - Chehare (Faces) Rang Art Gallery, Delhi

2005

Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi
Triveni Gallery, New Delhi
Open Palm Court, IH C, New Delhi

COLLECTION

Many art connoisseur in India and abroad.



Laura Williams

Gallery owner Laura Williams has been working as a specialist art dealer in the Indian art world for nearly 20 years. Graduating with a degree in ArtHistory from the School of World Art and Museology at The University of East Anglia she followed this with an MA in World Art and a spent a year in the same school as a Visiting Fellow.

In 2007 she opened the Art Gallery Art 18/21 which holds shows of contemporary art in India and concurrently holds regular exhibitions in the UK of South Asian Art from the 18th to 21st Centuries. For the past seven years Art 18/21 has exhibited at the Indian Art Fair in Delhi.

Laura acts as the Art Adviser for The South Asian Decorative Arts and Crafts Collection Trust (The SADACC Trust) which is affiliated to the University of East Anglia through the Sainsbury Institute for Art (SIfA). She is the South Asian Art Consultant Specialist for Pall Mall Art Advisors in London.

Her areas of expertise include Indian Miniatures from antiquity to the present day, Company School paintings, European artists in India and modern and contemporary Indian Art. She has curated many exhibitions and has worked with the British Council in Delhi. Laura has an excellent working relationship with many contemporary artists in India. Her involvement with collection management gives Laura the advantage of working with the major auction houses, private dealers and public and private museums, both buying and selling for clients.

She is currently writing a book re-looking at the genre Company Paintings.

All enquiries to :

Laura Williams (Director)

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