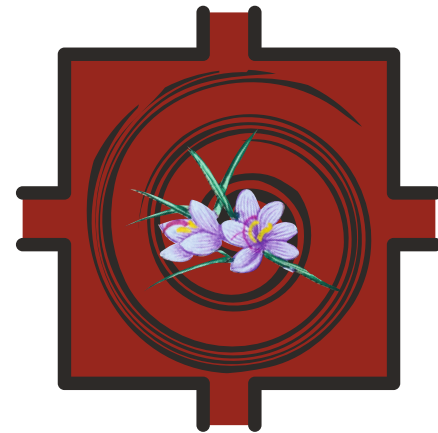


Wolf, an art practice from Jaipur who work with scrap,
discards and found objects to create new worlds which you
are invited to share, get enchanted by and use the experience
to make much needed change.

www.wolfjaipur.com



“Song to Self”, 22
Wolf, Jaipur



14th century Kashmiri mystic, Lal Ded, affectionately called Lalla is the heart and voice of SONG TO SELF as it traces her words and her path to the awakening within. It honours ancient feminine wisdom. It leads us inwards by tuning in to the body and breath.

Lalla's profound words, which continue to guide any mind towards the divinity within, are expressed in the form of 'vakhs'. These 'vakhs' are a series of instructions that teach us how to live in - and love - our bodies, our souls, this earth and the universe. They embrace all genders, all cultures, are full of courage, defying society's expectation and norms. They are songs of awareness.

When you memorise a song, you make space for it within yourself.

You make space for Lalla, just as she did with her songs.

The songs are like seeds of self revelation within the forests of Kashmir.

SONG TO SELF is a hope for a better world.

It is set amidst the aspirations of a feminine culture - where gender roles are fluid, where caring for others, quality of life and nurturing take precedence over individuality and materialism.

As we journey through a particularly dark and tumultuous era, this seems a relevant time to reawaken the Lalla in each one of us.

ARTISTS' NOTE

What a time it has been, to be led by Lalla!

This show continues where we left off, seeking answers within ourselves in the age of a feminine awakening. We travelled to Kashmir looking for Lal Ded, to hear her songs amidst the mighty deodars. We followed the sounds of nature, voicing her words as we walked amidst large open spaces. It left a deep impression, and created space! Objects and impressions from the travel have found their way into our artworks.

Serpent power permeates the works for its range of meanings : from Kundalini Shakti (which can be awakened in each of us) to the need for love and tolerance towards that which we don't understand. Living on a farm, we have embraced and are guided by these mysterious beings as they remain in our surroundings and our subconscious and reveal themselves through the artworks.

The colours for the show bring together masculine and feminine - blue and red. Embracing both within and outside of ourselves. We are in the midst of a feminine awakening where women's voices are booming but we must understand, accept and apply the masculine too, for creation needs both!

The serendipitous finding of objects and materials lead us to keep believing in magic. How else do you explain 'Utterances' shared across 700 years through song and whispers that turn into the written word which strikes a chord this far.

We are immensely grateful to Mr Ranjit Hoskote for permission to use his translations and explanations of Lal Ded's voice.

LALLA

Lalla, Lal Ded : whose words have been woven into the language of Kashmir through oral traditions, who roamed naked, whose profound words penetrate all levels of intellect, who spoke of her own enlightenment - of seeing the light, of seeing Shiva and Shakti as one, of the importance of freeing one's own self.

"Wear the robe of wisdom, Brand Lalla's words on your heart,
Lose yourself in the soul's light, You too shall be free"

MATERIALS:

Discarded Wooden Sculpture
Discarded Chair Seat
Jacquard Weaving Discards
Metal Mesh Scrap
Brass Jewellery Scrap
Metal Scrap
Contemporary Lac and Mirror Work
Vintage Cowrie Shell Trimmings



SIZE : 60H X 22D X 36W INCHES

DESI GULAB II

Women make up half the world, and as they dream of a culture of equality, they must first learn to embrace their own body cycles and further reflect/ see/ speak up about feminine body parts and their ways.

Honoured here with roses, eternal symbol of womankind. Metal roses in spiral patterns for the need for journeying within, and to symbolise the nature of the journey. Black roses on the red petals for the need to share the wisdom of ancient women, like that of Lal Ded, in memory of all those gone by were never recognised..

MATERIALS:

Scrap Metal Mesh
Embroidery Thread
Buttons
Antique Wooden Buttermilk Churner
Mirror



SIZE : 38H X 25W X 9D INCHES

SPINE GROOVE

The body sings when the spine is awakened, the kundalini awakened.
7 boxes for 7 the notes in a scale and the 7 chakras in the spine...
The idea of awakening is channelled through the spine.

The idea of 'growing a spine 'should come from there too.
One of the 7 boxes is with 33 vertebrae, all the others are still growing.
X-rays as a reminder that looking deep inside is the only way to learn...

(We camped in a Deodar grove during our trip to Kashmir. After a few days of a hard trek, to camp within trees was a sublime experience : the deodars sang to me!
The realisation that being within nature is the best song to groove to...)

MATERIALS:

Wooden Boxes
Polished Shells
Ceramic Electronics /electricity Scrap
Dried Palms, Plants, Flowers
Metal Flowers From Scrap
Found Clamp Dyed Textiles



SIZE : 51H X 12W X 5D INCHES

JASMINE GARDEN

"And the most exalted experience cherished by the tantric philosophy, the overcoming of all binaries and ascension to a state of transcendence: metaphorically embodied by Shiva and Shakti intertwined in sexual union"-Tantra and the Vakhs of Lalla are locked together.

Pellets in smaller triangles with a 'chakravayuh' in their center for men at war, divided and power seeking. The other side with the seeds joined together as a force with endless possibilities.

There can be no creation without both masculine and feminine. The circle of fertility in the centre filled with grains of rice - a woman's crop, where success is based on shared resources. The red spread for the desire of a feminine culture.

"I, Lalla, came through the gate of my soul's jasmine garden and found Shiva and Shakti there, locked in love!" (68)

MATERIALS:

A 'found 'Tie & Die 'guddri 'Textile
Air Gun Pellets | Cowrie Shells
Brass Wires used in Jewellery Making
Embroidered Snakes | Rice



SIZE : 62L X 26.5W X 1.5H INCHES

ATTUNE

"See how he gets under your skin, inside your bones If you can't see him while you are alive. Don't expect a special vision once you are dead."

Looking for forests within, and tuning in to heal ourselves. Healing comes from nature. The journey inwards comes with its share of darkness. Aim to see the skeletons in the dark recesses of the body - and then tune into forests - with the sounds of birds, running streams, rustling leaves - and be guided towards your own true nature...

MATERIALS:

Vintage Ledger Papers
Used Watch Parts
Rice | Acrylic Paint
Scrap Radio Parts
Scrap Metal Chains
Resin
Wooden Frame with Bone and Brass Inlay



SIZE : 28H X 36W X 2D INCHES

CIRCLING BACK

Tracing Lalla's feet across the regions she roamed :
She was from Pampore, where the saffron fields are.
Topographical drawings of the region with the centre firmly in the red circle...
- coming back home to yourself!

"Love-mad, I, Lalla, started out,
Spent days and nights on the trail.
Circling back, I found the teacher in my own house."

MATERIALS:

Vintage Ledger Paper
Scrap Jewellery
Base of Stool
Wooden Frame With Bone Inlay



SIZE : 28W X 36H X 2D INCHES

MY OWN SECRET

I stumbled on my own secret there
And flowered, a lotus rising from a marsh"

Flowering, maturing, blooming- reaching your zenith!

Pine cones, cockscomb, snake skins : all from the land of Lalla iterating her song.
The secret of letting go, of shedding what you don't need and move towards
higher frequencies, the secret of the color 'red', the secrets of nature that help
you find the best versions of yourself!

MATERIALS:

Discarded Table Top
Kashmiri Pine Cones
Dried Cockscomb Flowers
Found Snake Skins
Discarded Mirror,
Discarded Watch Crowns /parts



SIZE : 30DI X 1.3D INCHES

MIND-HORSE

My mind-horse straddles the sky, Crossing a hundred thousand miles in a blink,
It takes wisdom to bridle that horse, He can break the wheels of breath's chariot."

'Dimaag ke ghode duadana'

The mind is a powerful stallion, capable of all kinds of feats. The idea is to be
able to control/ bridle the horse through breath and move it towards the
1000 petalled crown chakra.

In Lalla's vakhs, controlling the mind-horse is imperative to move
towards higher consciousness.

MATERIALS:

Discarded Table Top
Discarded Mirrors
Scrap Brass Jewellery
Old Film
Parts of Scrapped Watches



SIZE : 27DI X 2.5D INCHES



UTTERANCES

Lalla's words, her 'vakhs' take on the form of 'tablets' of spiritual prescriptions or spaces of magical intent placed within the yantra which occupies central space in these 40 tablets.

Never forget the importance of vocalising intent and placing it within the yantra for manifestation.

MATERIALS:

Found Wooden Tablets

(presumed to be Chopping Boards for A Bar)

Bone Inlay

Gold Leaf

Clock Bits

Metal Discards

'Found' Dead Insects

Buttons

Bits And Bobs / Objects From Our Clutter Collection



SIZE : 12L 6.5W 2H & 8L X 5W X 1.5H INCHES

THIS FAR

The journey for women, "This Far".

They buried us, they didn't know we were seeds!

Warrior Women : from the tribe of 'Wonder Woman', whose ammunition is the pen!

Gone is the need for a woman's voice to be anonymous as she takes the attempted 'erasure' and turns it into an era where women are more sure of themselves than ever before.

"I've gone into the forest and wrestled with the lion

I didn't get this far by teaching one thing and doing another" (III)

MATERIALS:

Found Textile With 'wonder Woman' Print

Nibs

Embroidery Threads

Mashru Fabric Border



SIZE : 120L X 33W INCHES

THE CURE

Nature as guide, guru and healer :
To speak of the many women burnt at the stake because
they were unconventional healers -
a witch's medicine cupboard, through her garden gate.....

"I am sick, the world is my disease,
And you are the cure, and you and you and you and you."

MATERIALS:

Discarded Window Panel
Scrap Wooden Shelf
Cowrie Shell Flowers
Waste Metal
Discarded Glass Bottles
Found Bones
Odds and Ends



SIZE : 57H X 25W X 16D INCHES

RESILIENCE

Resilience: to stand in the path of lightening
Resilience: to walk when darkness falls at noon
Resilience: to grind yourself fine in the turning mill
Resilience will come to you"

The journey inward does not see gender; enlightenment is neither
Shiva nor Shakti. The churning within - through thick and thin - repeating,
putting one step in front of the other, highlights the importance of finding
that time and space to really listen.

MATERIALS:

Discarded Table Top
Original Churning Stick
Lac and Mirror Work
Acrylic Paint
Scrap Brass Jewellery
Scrap Metal Flowers



SIZE : 28H X 36W X 2D INCHES

OCEAN ANEW

New mind, new moon.
I've seen the ocean made new." (117)

The possibility of new energies when the masculine and feminine are churned together, the idea of equals which come out neutral (white) instead of the red or blue, the dream of unions where gender stereotyping makes way for inclusivity.

MATERIALS:

Cross Stitched Tablecloth From A Flea Market In Athens
Found Antique Wooden Dolls
Watch Parts
Copper Wires
Antique Mirror Tiles
Discarded Watches
Found Lota



SIZE : 60H X 60W X 6D INCHES

AFLAME

With the red thought of fire that burns

(the title comes from words used by Richard Temple for Lal Ded's writing)

Lal Ded was influenced by Tantra and refers to it in many of her vakhs. Inspiration here is taken from Buddhist Tantric imagery of Dakini, a female messenger of wisdom. She is dedicated to female teachers and practitioners as shining examples of dedication, compassion and realisation.

A woman who understands the Power within her through the mastery of breath, can then reveal the magic that is hidden within - and finally be a Dakini...

MATERIALS:

Found Wooden Sculpture
Scrap Jewellery
Waste Acrylic Sheets
Metals Scrap
Brass Back Scratchers



SIZE : 48H X 3W X 15D INCHES

MUMBA DEVI

(with gratitude to the Goddess of Mumbai for raising the WOLFs!!)

Using the craft of Tazia to outline the cityscape as the birds of Bombay - the crows - loom large. The 'Goddess in Glass' who absorbs all the colors and lets each one be as they desire.

MATERIALS:

Discarded Bangle Box
Found Relief Glass Figurine
Bamboo Structures Through The Art of Tazia
Miniature Tiffins



SIZE : 18W X 28H X 5D INCHES

LILY VALLEY

Unending rows of Calla Lilies in bloom : this vision of Kashmir inspires offerings to the 'Goddess'. Buttons for the connectedness of all things - and the Collective Conscience that guides you to a Higher Order

MATERIALS:

Discarded Clock Box
Scrap Metal Mesh
Scrap Buttons
Chillums
Black Glass Beads
Resin
Copper Wires
Wooden Object From Butter Churning Stick



SIZE : 48H X 3W X 15D INCHES

SHIVA SHAKTI

Roses surround the glowing Goddess.
The snake twirls around, inside and out.
She breaks through the world with a mighty Force!

MATERIALS:

Discarded Bangle Box
Scrap Metal
Wooded Object From Chaach Stick
Mirror Work and Lac Snake with Avaz Modammad
Vintage Papers, Gold Varkh
Flowers From Scrap Metal
Clock Parts



SIZE : 37H X 18W X 5.5D INCHES

MIND LIGHT

Lalla impressed upon the importance of a command over the mind horse,
represented here by a saddle as a way to control the horse.

Blooms surround it and light fills up the space, which is what
happens when you're able to control the breath.

MATERIALS:

Discarded Saddle
Flowers From Scrap Metal
Found Objects
Parts Of A Vintage Chandelier
Iron Frame



SIZE : 66H X 14W X 14D INCHES