



SEJAL SHAH KSHIRSAGAR

My sincere gratitude to...

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Images ©Sejal Shah Kshirsagar
Text ©Anahite Contractor



Graphite powder, Conté
& soft pastels on acid free papers

Cover work - 26" x 46"

વ્યક્ત | અવ્યક્ત
subtle | manifest

CELL

The oneiric state may turn out to be the most lucid and the most vivid at the same time.

Sejal's picture planes are like a massive cinema screen and the actual scale of a series of "blue paintings" is uniformly small, belying the vastness they produce in terms of vision.

The cellular structure of Sejal's forms is mysterious. Life is at play here, with mischief, with fragmented spurts of gurgling laughter. With a distilled tear-drop contained within its private, antiseptic chamber.

Things (and people) have a way of vanishing and then magically reappearing in a form you least expect them to be in.

i often weave dreams which seem amorphous. My sharp, chatty, catatonic needle jabs the skin and merges mischievously from some other spot (bloodless), until some day, in some moment, a design begins to surface like cream does, over milk.



Boiling water
Water
Ice
Back to boiling
Raging rivers of memory...

40" x 44.75"

Membranes of memory are delicately frozen
before they may be peeled and unravelled, layer
by layer by layer...

And then again, the same element is
transmogrified before my very eyes!

Dot...line...plane...form...and several forms
mutate and marry with one another and with
others, far beyond the blue square paper forest.

Once again, i peer through the kaleidoscope,
marvelling at all that could have been, all that is,
all that i cannot even fathom.

Truth is a slippery, slobbery blob of mercury.

It is never an absolute.

It is not necessarily comprehensible.

The real truth is never The Truth.

And since i was wondering about its veracity,
i knew i was on the right track.

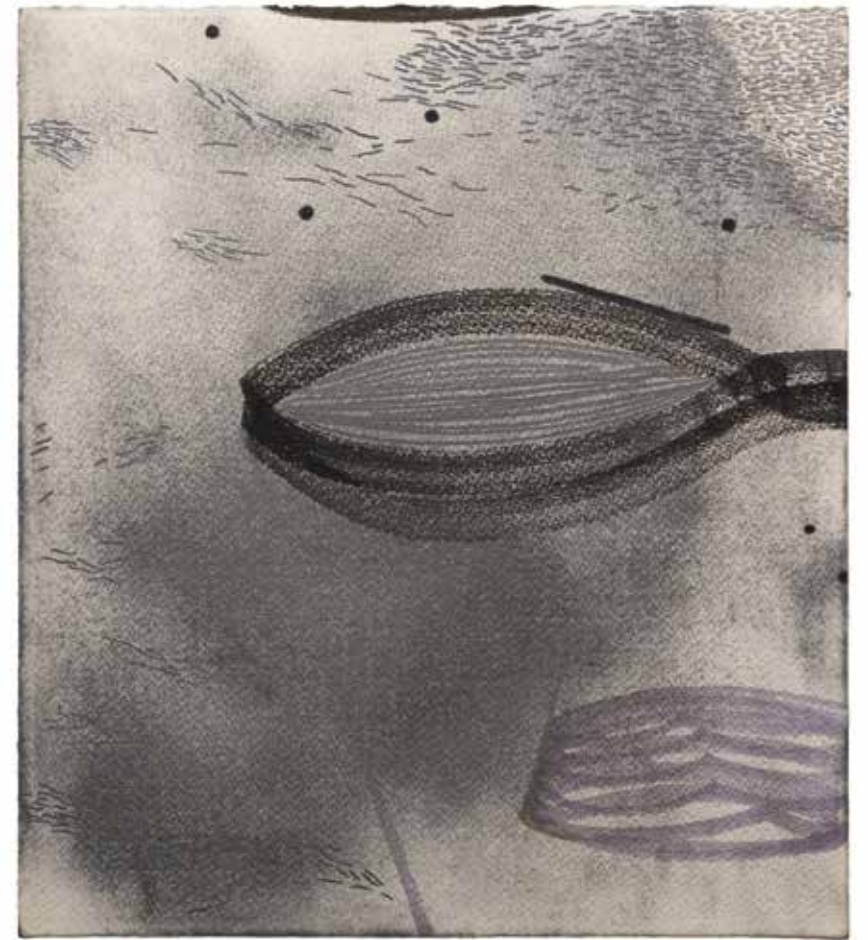


26" x 46"



40" x 44.75"

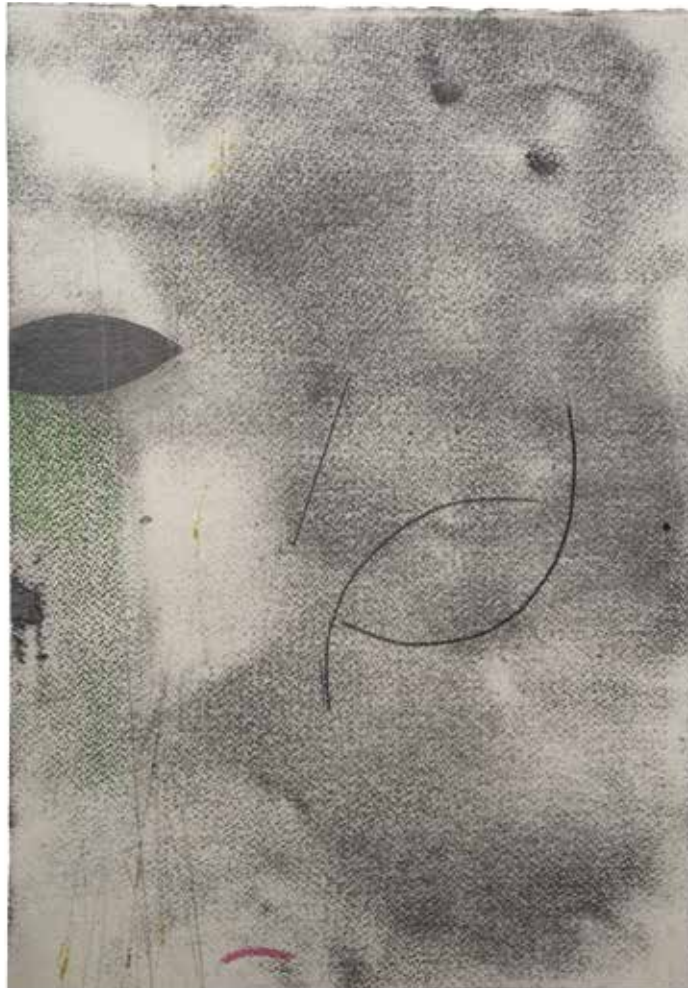
The cinema screen remained calm as a Lama.



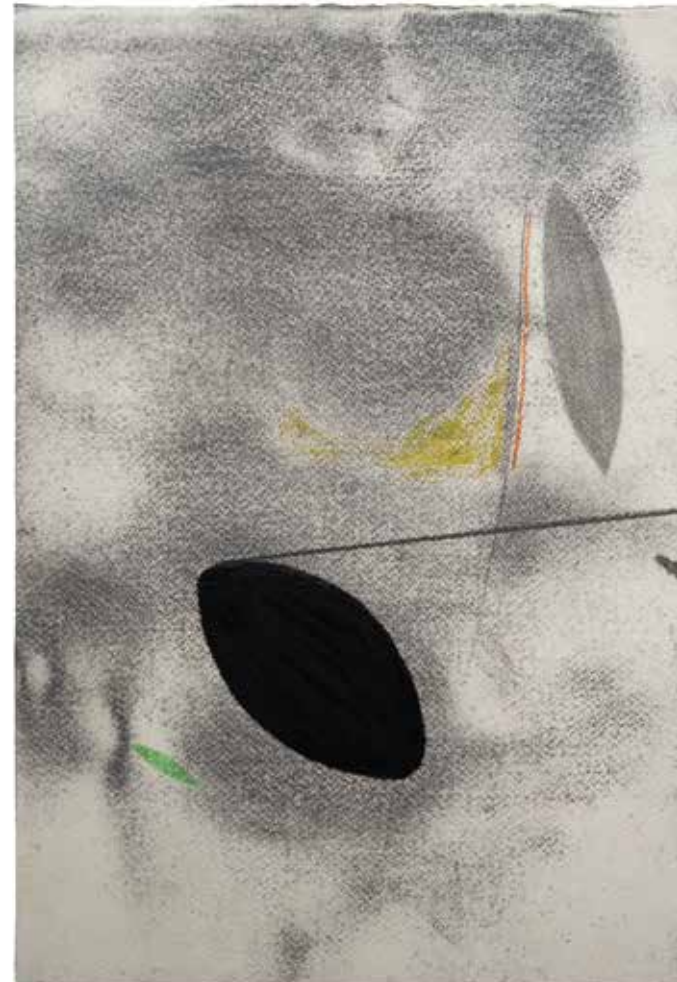
11.25" x 10"

Occasionally, the blue
forest would shudder with
ecstasy and a few vagrant
images would mushroom
on its back.

Each time i marvelled at
their spontaneity and
their odd beauty and
vicious powers. Each time
i experienced not just the
ancestry of those images,
but also their bloodline,
both quite distinct from
one another.
(They were not zits,
after all.)



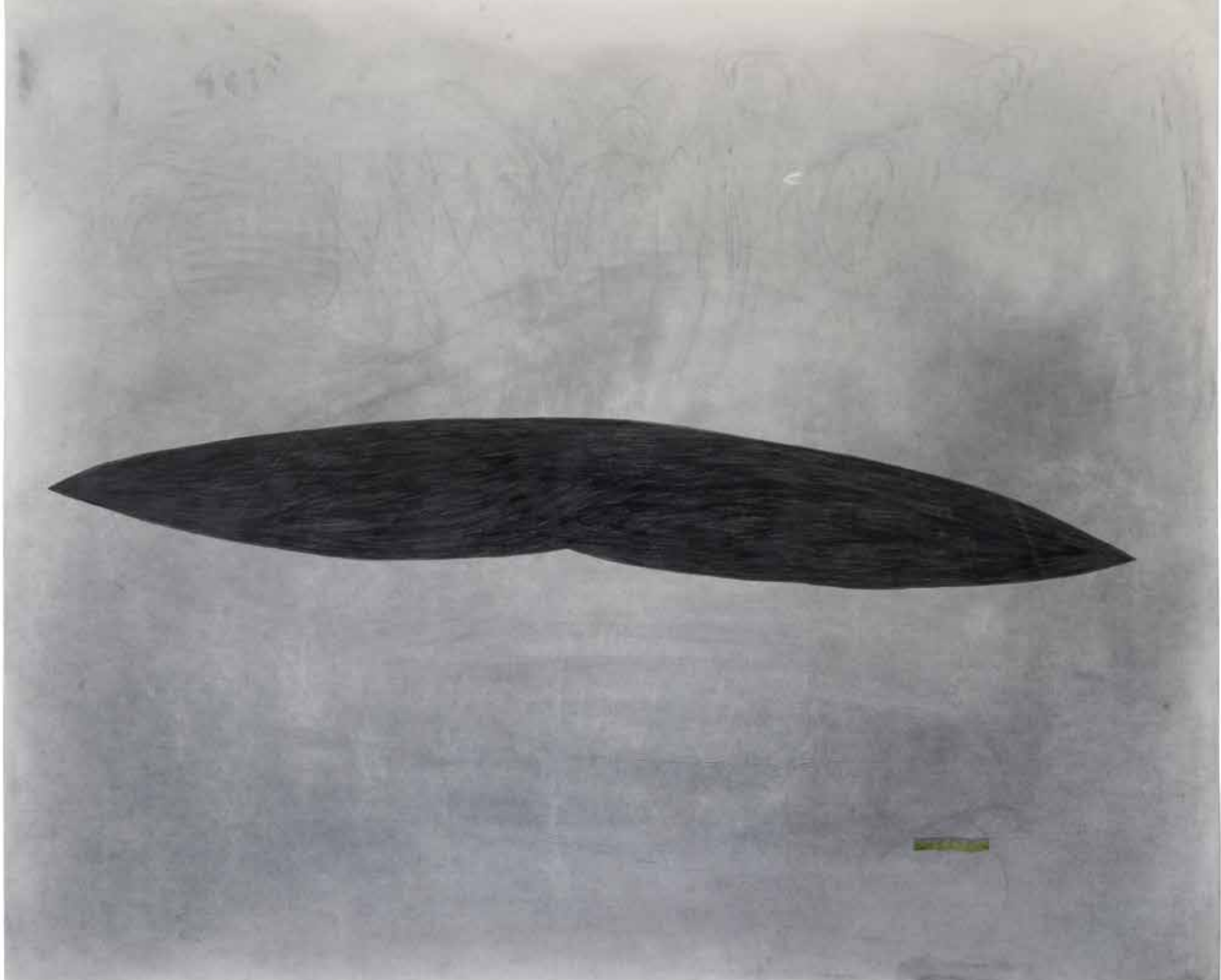
14" x 10"



14" x 10"

The truant images
have a mind
of their own.

Like all
progenitors and
parents, i too, am
in awe of my little
ones.



Things also
have a way
of turning
upside-down
and inside out,
and what
seems to be
real, is only
relative.

46" x 55.5"



Blue is my anthem.

Tiny, self-contained
units of palpable life
pop their heads
out of my blue forest.

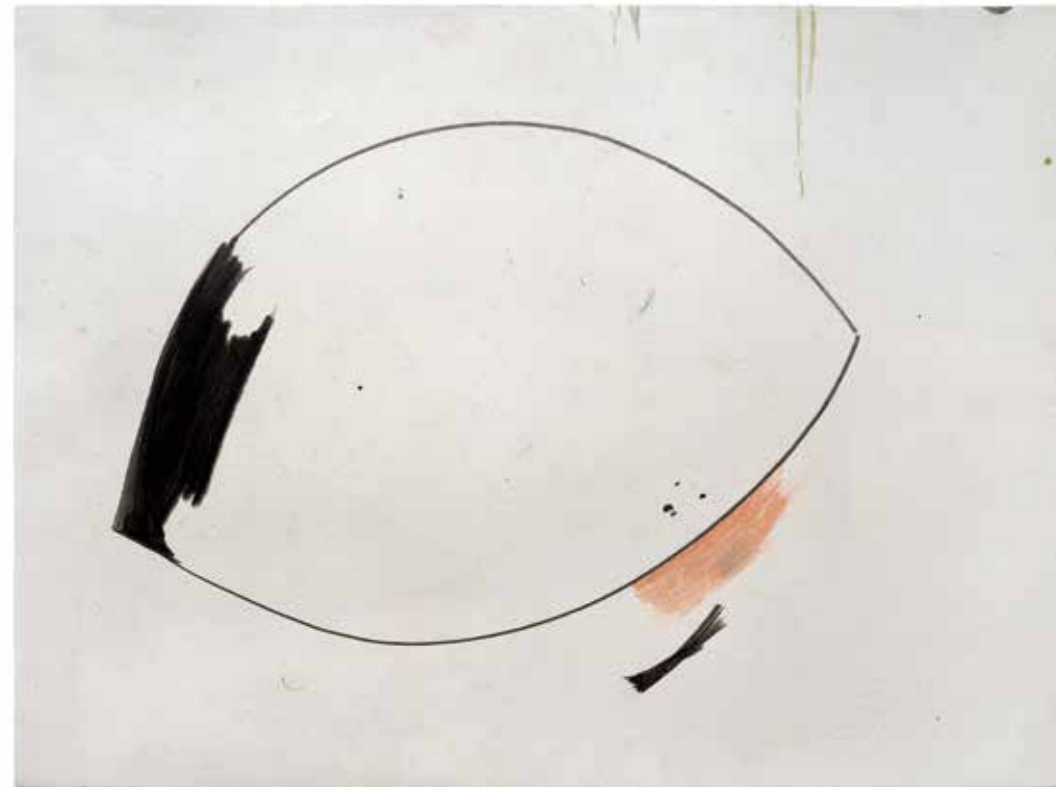
5"x7" each
Mixed media on paper



10.25" x 7.5"

a
cell
could
also
denote
a
prison
cell.

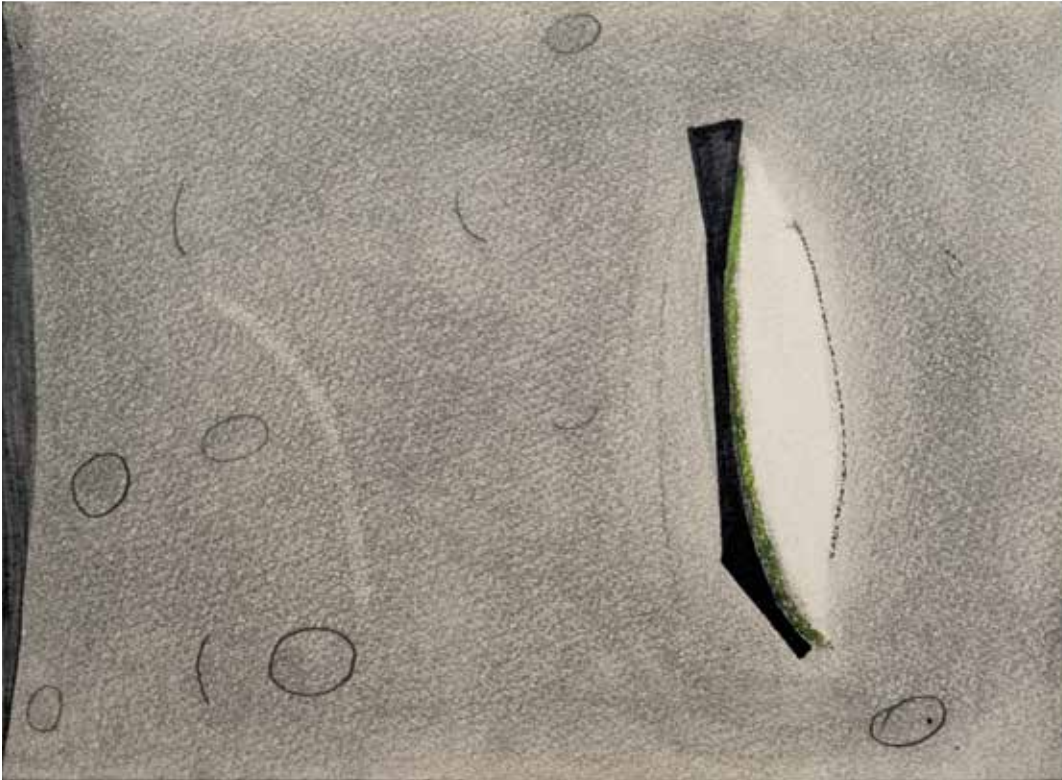
The word "cell"
is derived from
the Latin "cella"
which means
storeroom.



A cell is the smallest, most basic unit of life, the building block of life, found in all living organisms. Science believes that cells conjugate within a human body in order to form tissues, organs and ultimately, the entire living being.

As with everything else, the term "cell" could also mean other inane things.

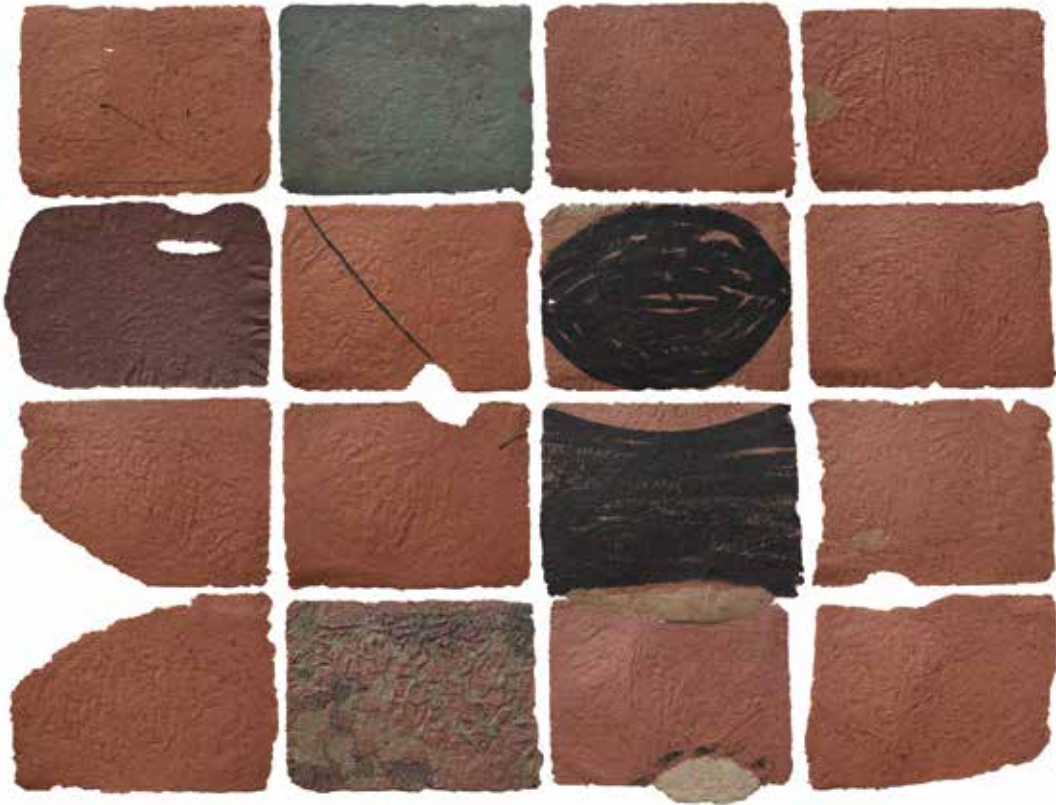
11" x 15"



Even as a child, i always walked on the palms of my hands. i was often mocked or upbraided for doing so. i was perennially ticked off for walking upside-down.

What no one knew was the fact that from my perspective, i too thought that the rest of the world was aligned differently.

7.25" x 10"

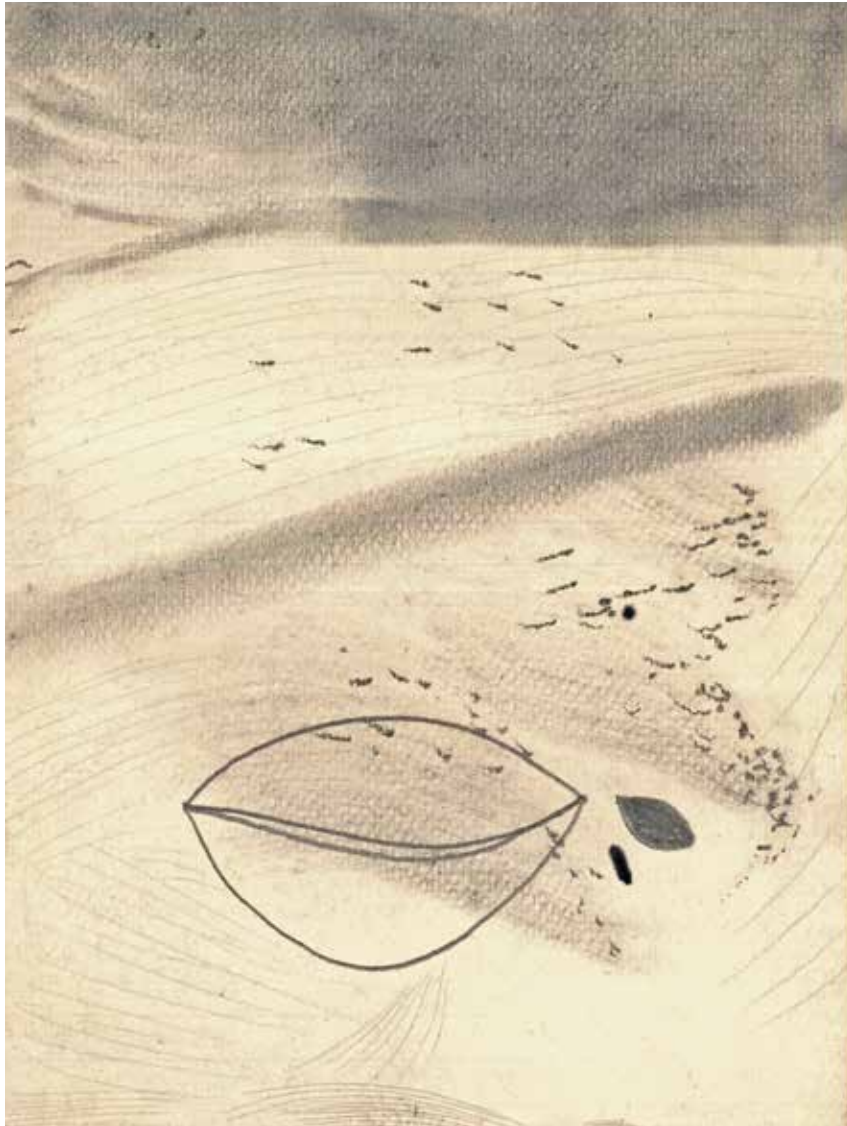


Nothing is as boring and predictable as a unilinear life. Give me this day my complicated geometries for living (if they exist) and for relating and for turning free!

In the meantime, i continue to take refuge in my blue forest and come to terms with the fact that i live in a world different from yours.

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October 2025

30" x 36"
Hand pounded
Onion skin
Gram stem
Plantain fibers



10.25" x 7.5"



10.25" x 7.5"



Sejal Shah Kshirsagar

Sejal is a Mumbai-based contemporary artist whose practice emerges from a deep engagement with form, philosophy and the quiet complexities of visual perception. She holds BFA & MFA (Painting) from Sir J. J. School of Art, Mumbai 1995 & 1998 resp., followed by a Postgraduate Diploma in Indian Aesthetics & Philosophy from Mumbai University (2002).

Her artistic journey is marked by national and international recognition, including residencies at the Harley Gallery, Nottingham, UK, and Platyplus Design Lab, Ahmedabad. She was invited by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations to the International Artist Camp in Sri Lanka and has received several distinctions such as the Kanoria Centre for Arts Residency, HRD Scholarship by the Government of India, Camlin Award, and Maharashtra State Art Awards.

Sejal has held solo exhibitions at Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai, Gallery West-Space, Melbourne, Gallerie Cathrine Clerc, Lausanne, and Yokohma, Japan among others. Her works have been part of numerous prestigious group shows in India and abroad, including IPEP India's International Exhibitions, The Art Edge at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, and Ideas & Images at the National Gallery of Modern Art, Mumbai.

Beyond her studio practice, she has contributed to art education at Sophia College of Art & Design and presented at the National Centre for Performing Arts, Mumbai.

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40" x 44.75"