

16-30
November

16-30 November, 2016
Government Museum and Art Gallery
Chandigarh



Government Museum and Art Gallery, Chandigarh
Chandigarh Lalit Kala Akademi

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Sacred Garden
OLIVIA FRASER

Government Museum and Art Gallery, Chandigarh

Chandigarh Lalit Kala Akademi

Acknowledgement

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Olivia Fraser's work though following the centuries old Indian miniature painting tradition has undoubtedly chartered its own course, reinventing it and giving it a contemporary feel.

What distinguishes her work is the specific imagery picked up from the miniatures, working on the reductive approach, thereby bringing out the essence, like a thousand petalled lotus transformed into a moving hypnotic element. And as one absorbs her work, it is like entering into the realm of meditation, a *sacred garden*, making it difficult to pull away.

The fundamentals of the miniature painting remain - using the stone and plant pigments, burnished till the painting glows but her art essentially at some level crosses boundaries so that it is no longer completely Eastern.

Like the famed James Baillie Fraser, she is also blazing a trail on the Indian soil. It is a great pleasure to bring Olivia Fraser to Chandigarh and host her first exhibition in the city.

Kriti Garg, IAS
Director
Government Museum and Art Gallery

It has always been an endeavor of Chandigarh Lalit Kala Akademi to bring to Chandigarh, artists with varying sensibilities and expressions. The Akademi in collaboration with Government Museum and Art Gallery, Chandigarh takes delight in inviting Olivia Fraser for showcasing her works.

Olivia Fraser has a close relationship with Rajasthan - the miniature painting and Nathdwara pichhwai painting. Embarking on a journey of spiritualism, she has used her artistic space to revive the art form innovatively.

The museum has a remarkable collection of Indian miniatures and it was with this thought in mind that the artist was invited. The exhibition gets its title from the artist's preoccupation with yoga and the visualization of garden in the course of meditation.

We hope that this two week long exhibition will generate enough excitement among the art fraternity in an art form which has been on a steady decline in our country.

Bheem Malhotra
Chairman
Chandigarh Lalit Kala Akademi

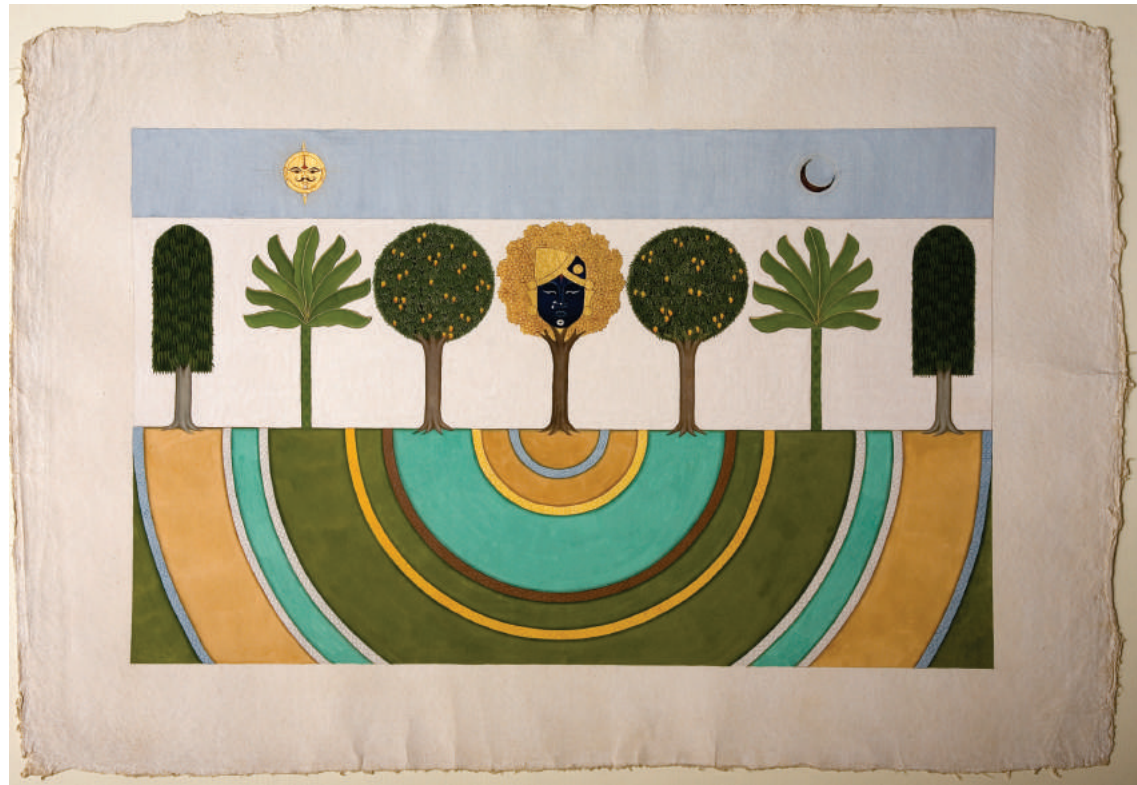




Shiva, 2009
Stone pigment and Arabic gum on handmade Sanganer paper
18 x 29 inches



Golden Lotus, 2008
Stone Pigment, Arabic gum and gold leaf on handmade Sanganer paper
19 x 19 inches



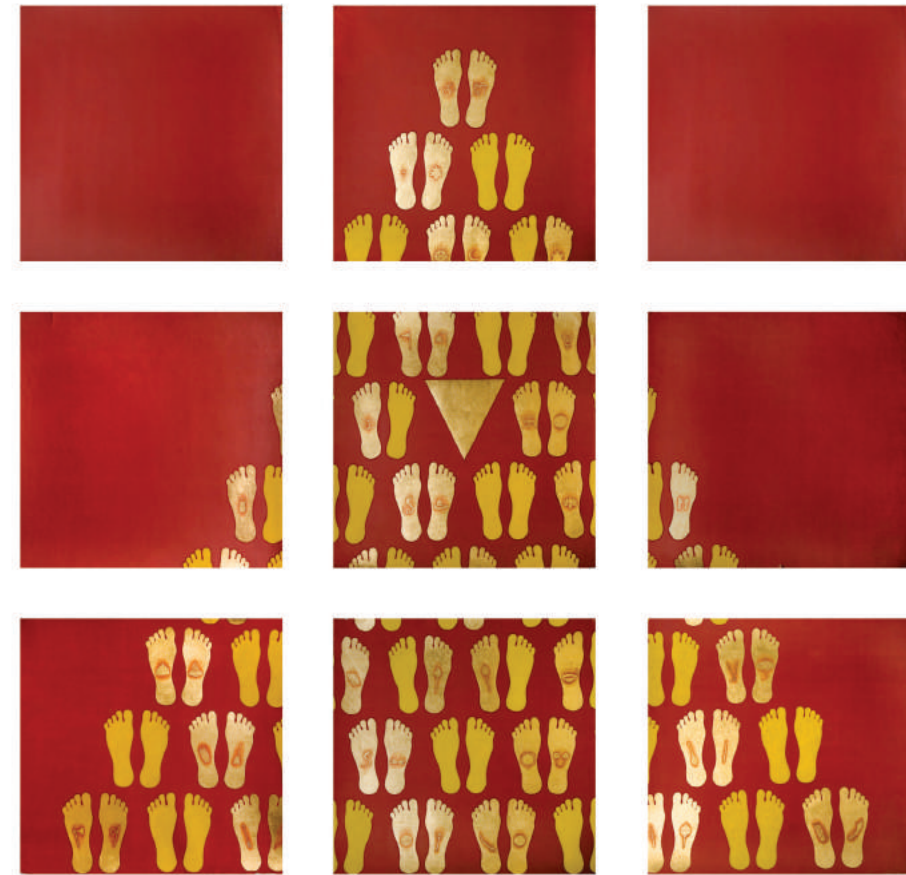
Krishna's Garden, 2008
Stone Pigment, Arabic gum and gold leaf on handmade Sanganer paper
18 x 28 inches



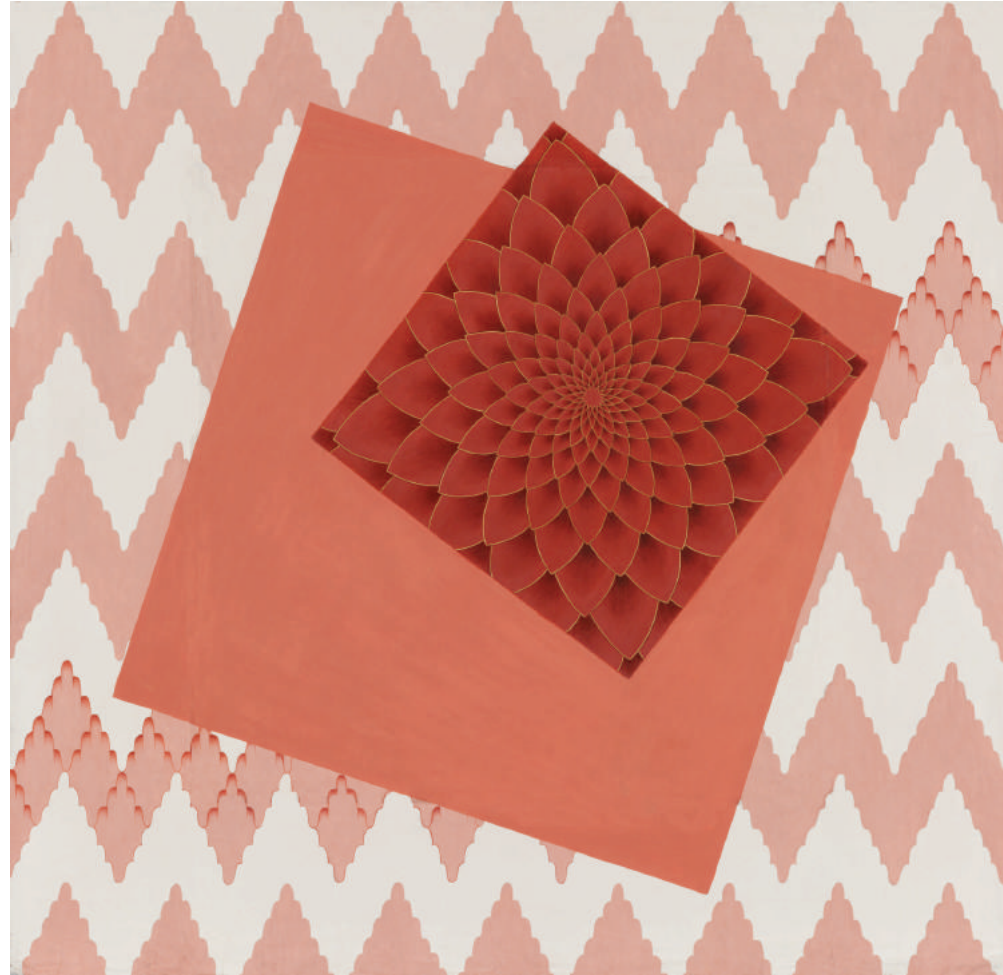
Rasa Lila, 2013
Stone pigment and Arabic gum on handmade Sanganer paper
40 ½ x 40 ½ inches



Triptych: Shiv Shakti, 2011
Stone pigment and Arabic gum on handmade Sanganer paper
25 x 75 inches



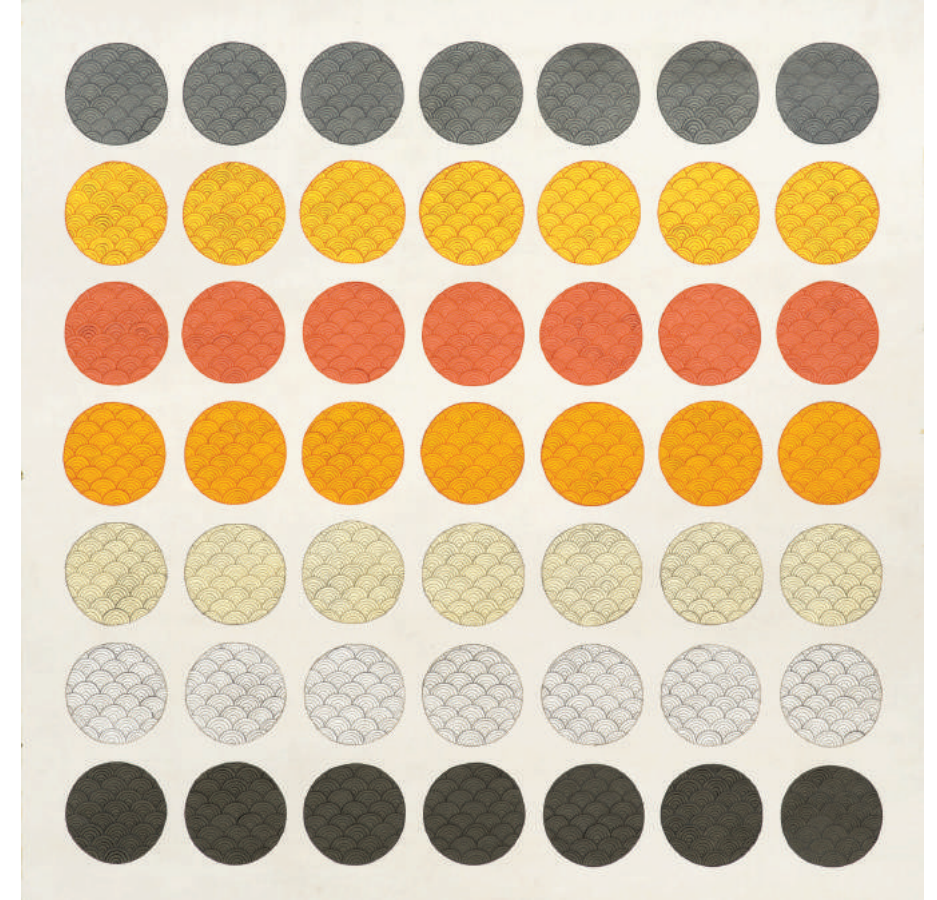
Pilgrimage, 2010-2011
Stone Pigment, Arabic gum and gold leaf on handmade Sanganer paper
Consists of 9 individual panels
88 x 88 inches



Red Himalaya, 2015
Stone pigment and Arabic gum on handmade Sanganer paper
27 x 27 inches



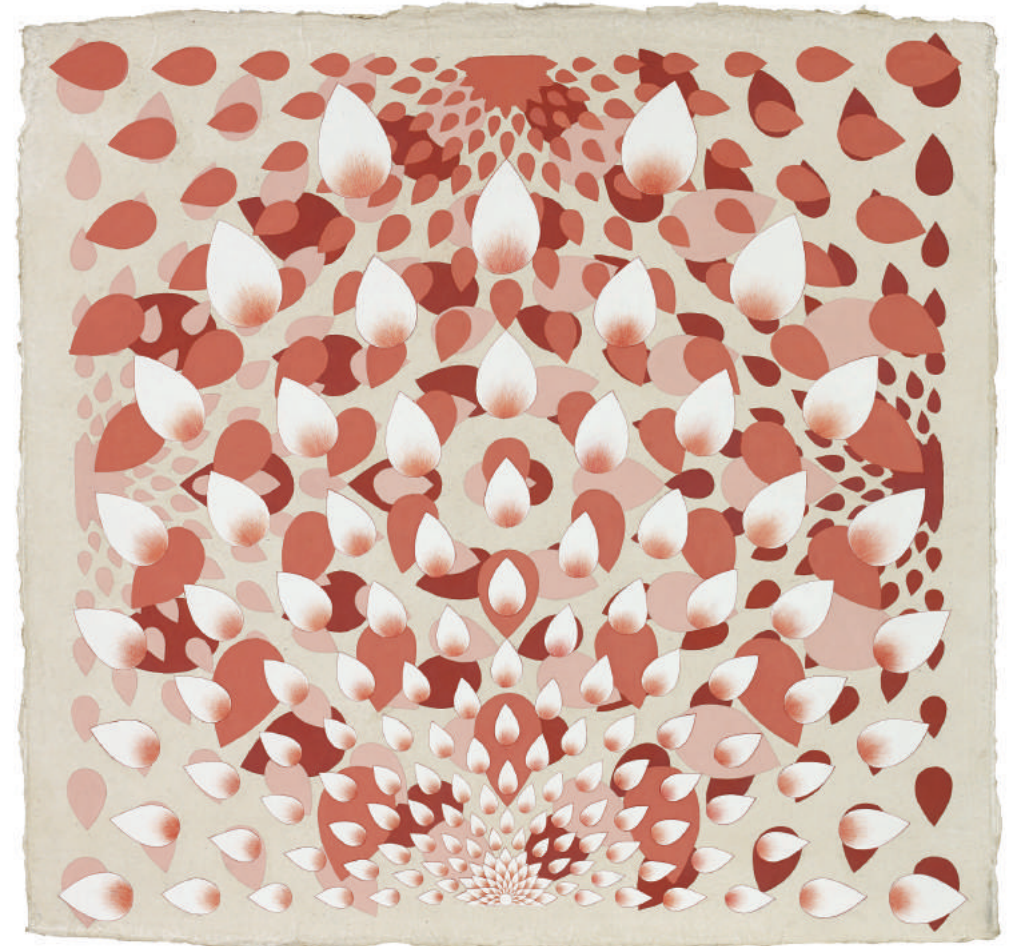
Seven Seas, 2015
Stone pigment and Arabic gum on
handmade Sanganer paper
6 1/2 x 26 inches



The Sacred Seas, 2015
Stone pigment and Arabic gum on
handmade Sanganer paper
27 x 27 inches



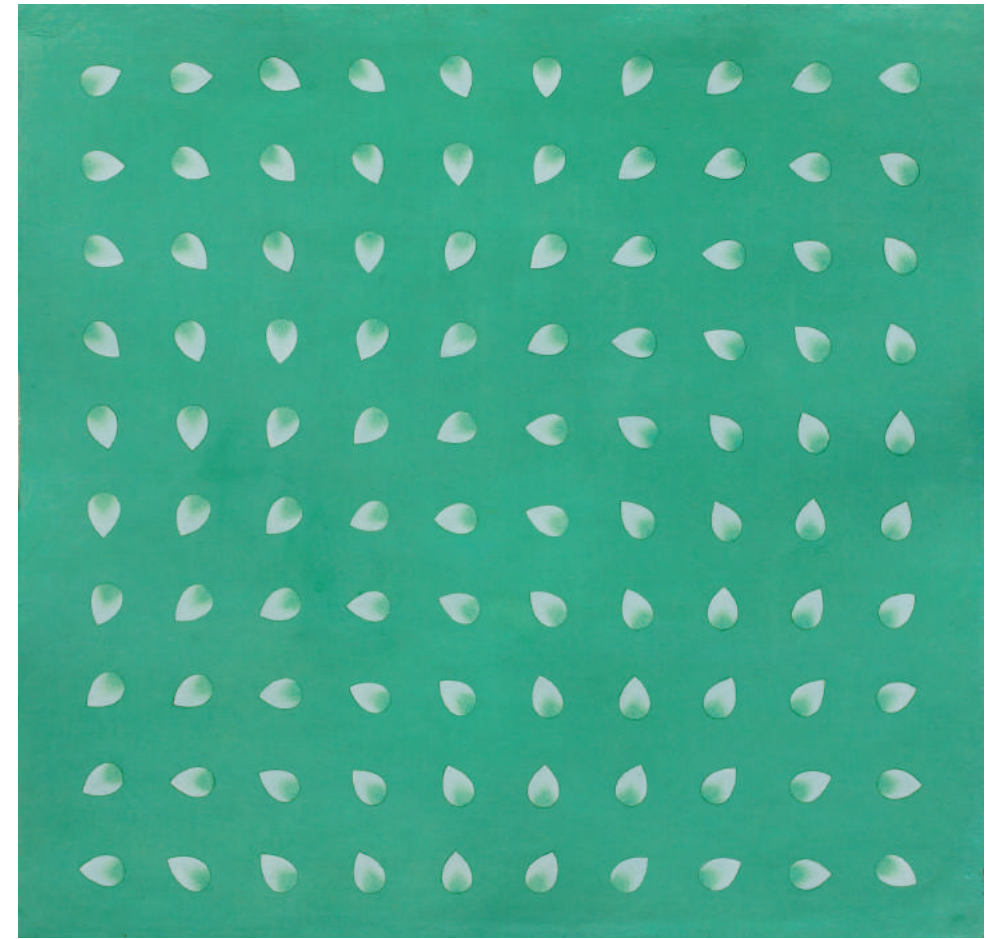
Awakening, 2012
Stone Pigment, Arabic gum and gold leaf on handmade Sanganer paper
Consists of 47 individual panels
66 x 66 inches



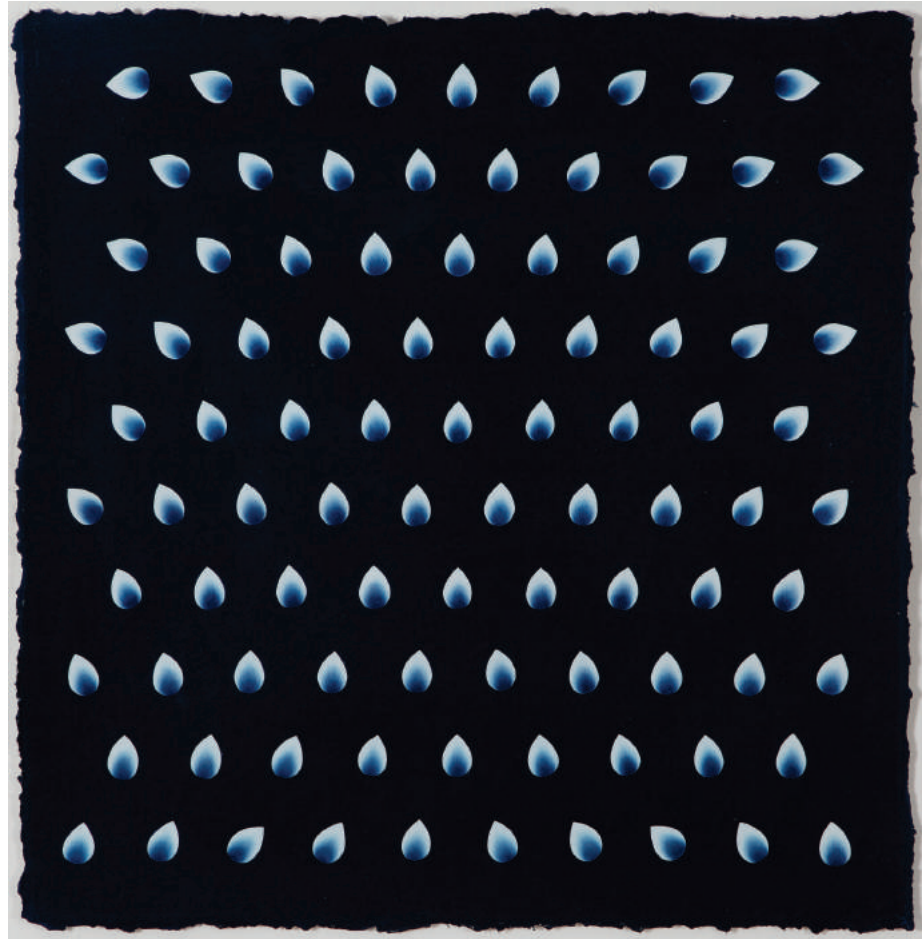
Yantra, 2014
Stone pigment and Arabic gum on handmade Sanganer paper
26 x 26 inches



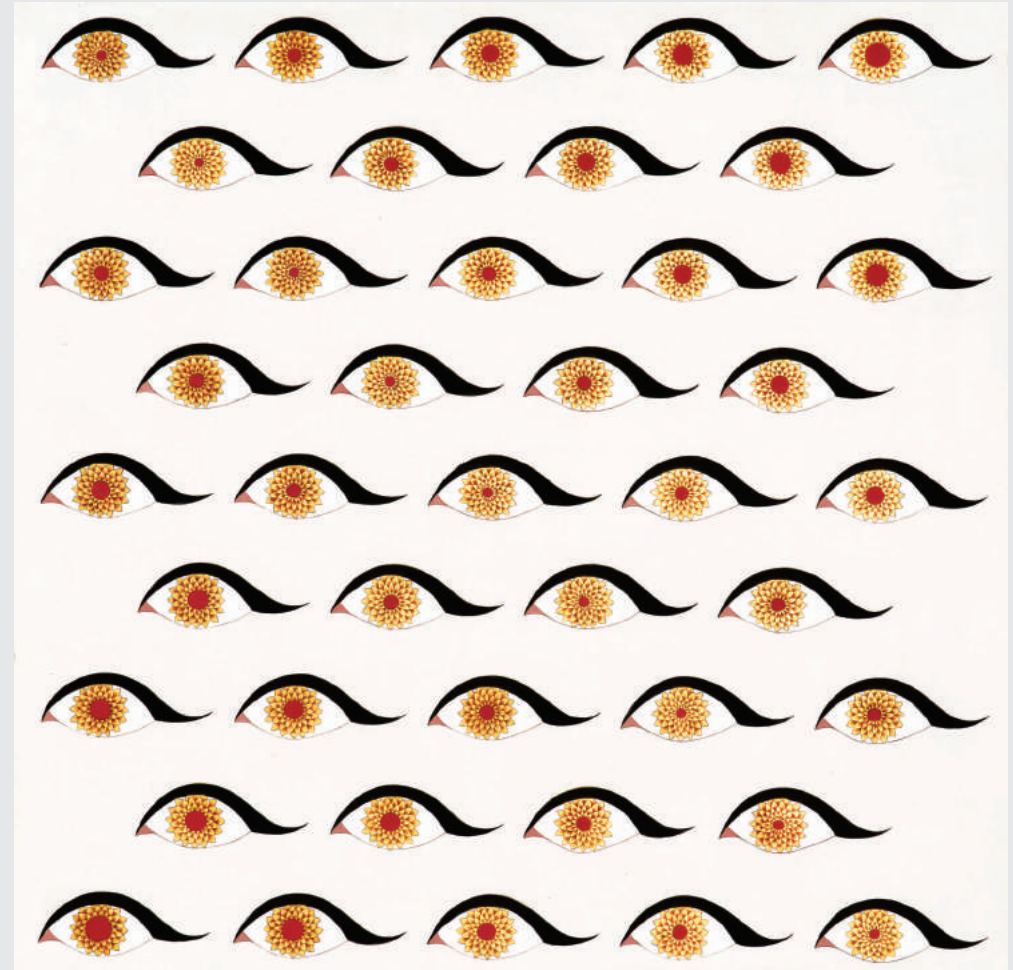
Chakra-I, 2013
Stone pigment and Arabic gum on handmade Sanganer paper
25 x 25 inches



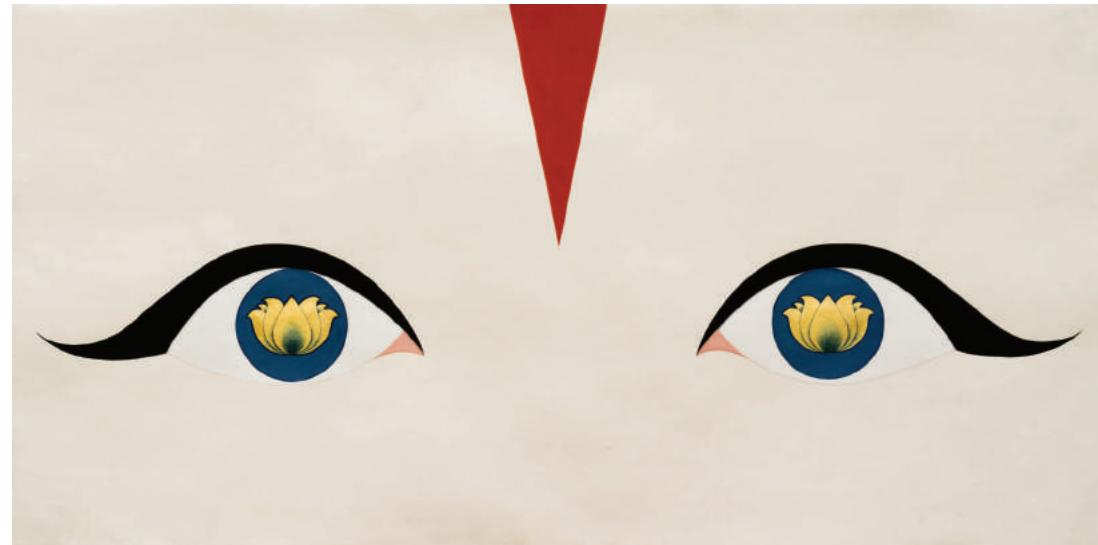
Chakra-II, 2013
Stone pigment and Arabic gum on handmade Sanganer paper
25 x 25 inches



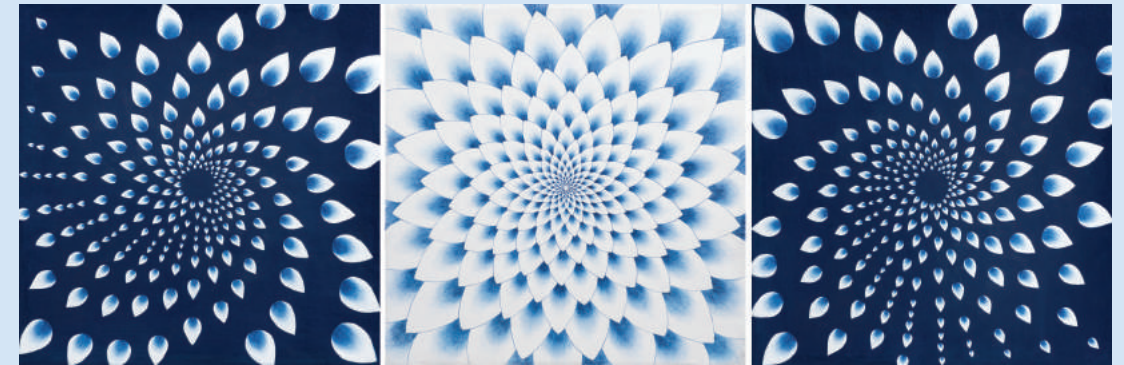
Chakra-III, 2013
Stone pigment and Arabic gum on handmade Sanganer paper
25 x 25 inches



Darshan, 2015
Stone Pigment, Arabic gum and gold leaf on handmade Sanganer paper
25 x 25 inches



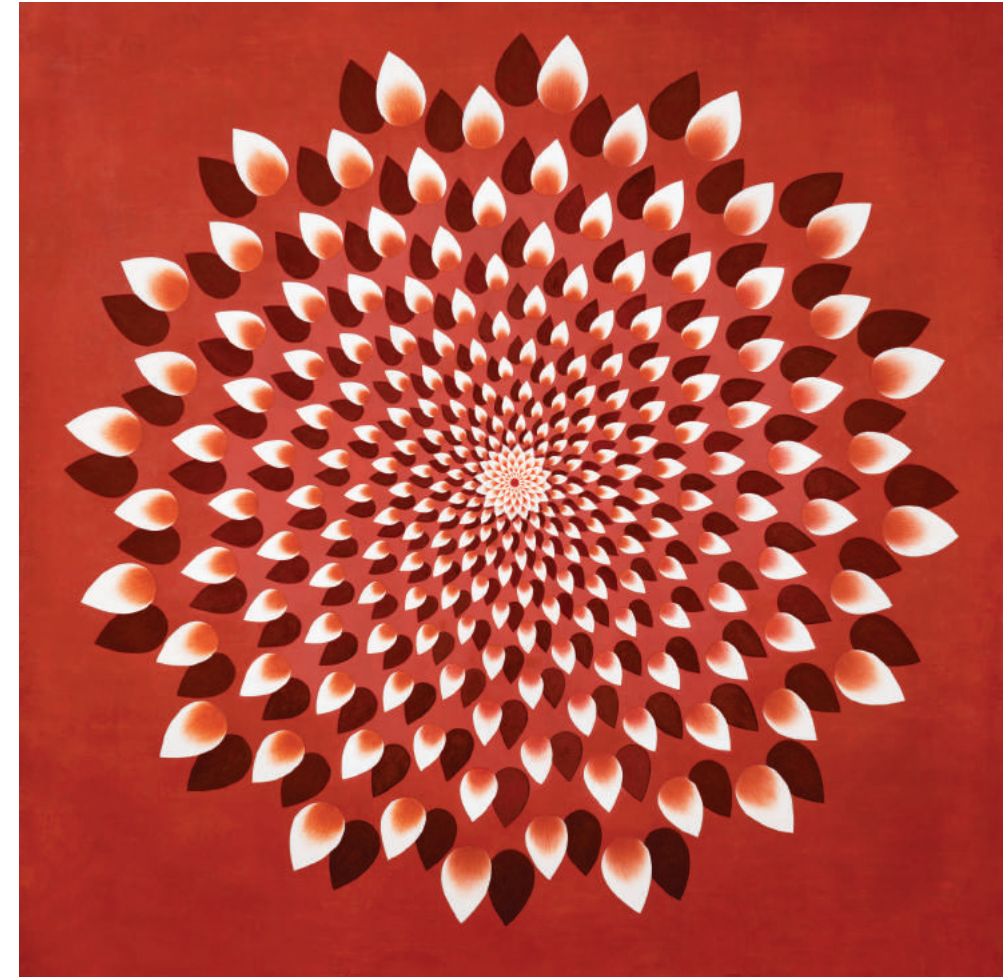
Lotus Eyes, 2016
Stone Pigment, Arabic gum and gold leaf on handmade Sanganer paper
22 x 44 inches



Kalachakra, 2016
Stone pigment and Arabic gum on handmade Sanganer paper
11 x 33 inches



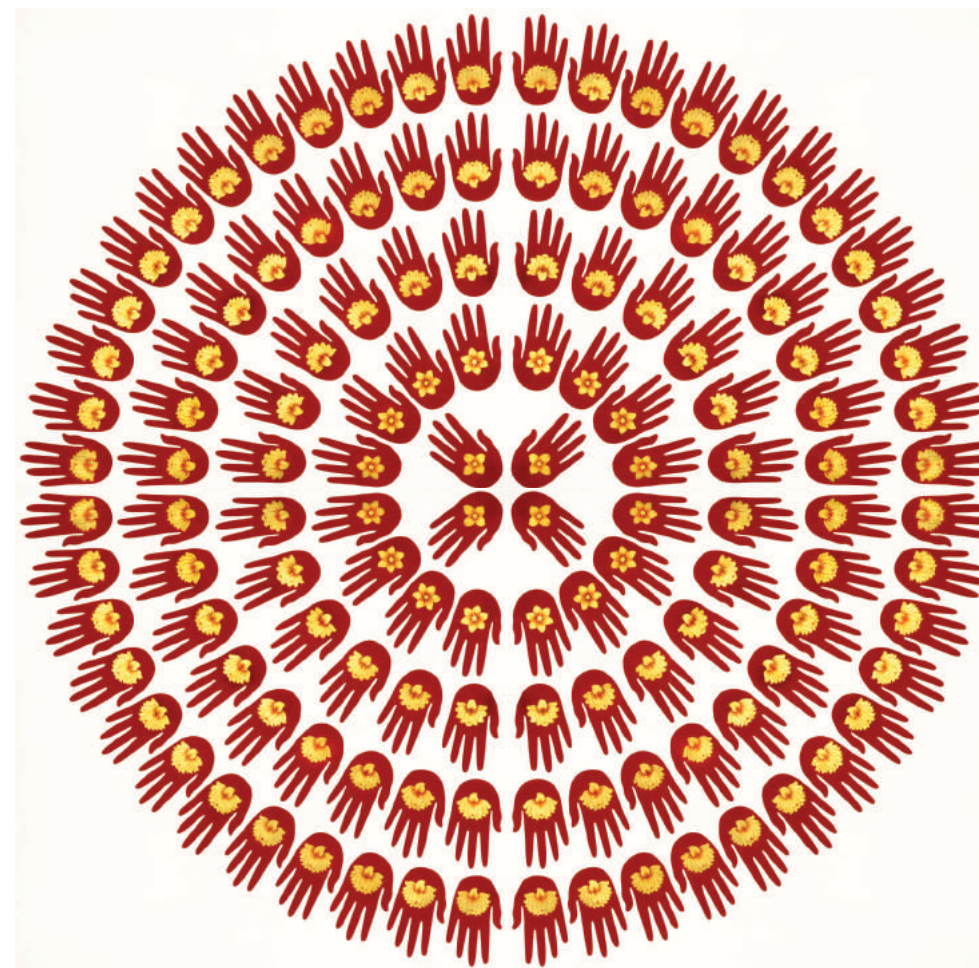
Breath, 2016
Stone pigment and Arabic gum on handmade Sanganer paper
25.5 x 108 inches



1000 Petals (Red) 2016
Stone pigment and Arabic gum on handmade Sanganer paper
36 x 36 inches



Breath, 2016
Stone pigment and Arabic gum on handmade Sanganer paper
36 x 36 inches



Chakra, 2015
Stone Pigment, Arabic gum and gold leaf on handmade Sanganer paper
Consists of 4 individual panels
72 x 72 inches

OLIVIA FRASER



After graduating with a MA in Modern Languages from Oxford, Olivia spent a year at Wimbledon Art College before moving to India in 1989.

Following in the footsteps of her kinsman, James Baillie Fraser who painted India, its monuments and landscape in the early 1800's, Olivia set out to continue where her kinsman had left off, painting the architecture of Delhi and its people. James Baillie Fraser also commissioned local artists to paint what has become the famous 'Fraser Album' – the greatest masterpiece of Company School Painting portraying the different types of people and their jobs, crafts or castes against stark white backgrounds. This hybrid form of painting where Indian artists created works with mixed techniques and ideas from the East and West greatly influenced Olivia's early work during the 1990s.

In 2005 she decided to study the traditional Indian miniature painting techniques under Jaipuri and Delhi masters, and now uses this in her work with its gem-like stone colours, its unique miniature brush work, and its elaborate decorative and burnished surfaces. Having been especially influenced by Nathdwara pichhwai painting and early C19th Jodhpuri painting, Olivia has been exploring its visual language, reaching back to an archetypal iconography strongly rooted in India's artistic and cultural heritage that can breach borders and be relevant to her twin life between East and West.

Her latest body of works is deeply rooted in her fascination with and practice of yoga and the ways in which yogic meditation involves visualizations of the garden, particularly the sahasrara or thousand-petalled lotus, which serves as a visual aid in reaching enlightenment. "The garden, an enclosed and cultivated area of landscape that's formalized and acted upon, is fundamental to my work," she says. "I take the vocabulary of landscape - trees, flowers, rivers, mountains and sky - and I deconstruct and reduce them to their essence."

Her work has been shown in galleries and art fairs around the world. In 2015 she had her first solo show in New York and her work was also shown at the Venice Biennale. Her paintings are now in collections in India, UK, France, Belgium (Museum of Sacred Art), UAE, Singapore, Australia, China and the USA.

Olivia divides her time between Delhi and London.

SOLO SHOWS

- 2016 The Sacred Garden, Sundaram Tagore, New York
- 2014 India Art Fair, Grosvenor Gallery Booth, New Delhi
- 2014 Subtle Bodies, in association with Art18/21, Norwich
- 2014 Olivia Fraser, M on the Bund, Shanghai, China
- 2013 Sunaparanta Centre for the Arts, Goa
- 2012 Miniatures, Grosvenor Gallery, London
- 2007 Triveni Gallery, New Delhi
- 2003 Indar Pasricha Fine Art, London
- 1998 Indar Pasricha Fine Art, London
- 1994 Andrew Usiskin Fine Art, London
- 1991 Carma Galleries, New Delhi

Group SHOWS

- 2016 India Art Fair, Grosvenor Gallery Booth, New Delhi
- 2016 Deck of Cards, British Council, New Delhi
- 2015 Frontiers Reimagined, Venice Biennale
- 2015 Yoga Chakra, LKA, New Delhi
- 2015 Forms of Devotion, China Arts Museum, Shanghai
- 2015 Grosvenor Gallery, India Art Fair, New Delhi
- 2014 Kullu Perceived, The Prince's Drawing School, London
- 2013 Modern & Contemporary Miniatures: Grosvenor Gallery, London
- 2013 Miniature Rewind: Art Dubai
- 2013 Grosvenor Gallery, India Art Fair, New Delhi
- 2012 Asian Art in London
- 2012 Iconographic investigations: Nature Morte, Gurgaon
- 2012 Interrogating Conventions: Nature Morte, New Delhi
- 2012 Grosvenor Gallery, India Art Fair, New Delhi
- 2011 The Path of the Lotus: Grosvenor Gallery, London
- 2010 Kathmandu Arts Centre, Nepal
- 2010 Apparao Galleries, Chennai
- 2009 Apparao Galleries, New Delhi
- 2008 Kathmandu Arts Centre, Nepal
- 2004 Presteigne Art Gallery, Wales
- 1999 The Portland Gallery, London
- 1996 The Clarendon Gallery, London

COLLECTIONS

Her works are included in Public and Private Collections in Australia, Belgium (Museum of Sacred Art), France, India, Singapore, UAE, USA (MOMA, NY) and the UK

FEATURED ARTICLES

- Platform Magazine – The Miniaturist: Olivia Fraser – June 2015
- The Indian Express: The Lotus has a Point – May 2016
- Olivia Fraser's solo show the Sacred Garden at Sundaram Tagore Chelsea: Blouin art info, April 2016
- Olivia Fraser's 'The Sacred Garden': a sneak preview: Artsome Blog – March 2016
- Art with Olivia Fraser: Mithila Review – February 2016
- Canvas Call: Vogue May 2015
- Q&A: Olivia Fraser – The Oloo Blog – August 2014
- Architectural Digest – the story behind artist olivia fraser's stunning indian-inspired works - June 2014
- Financial Chronicle - 6th edition of India Art Fair gets off to a start – 30 January 2014
- The Times of India - Where art hangs out - 3 February 2014
- The Independent- Blog – Moderate sales and lots of people at Delhi's India Art Fair, 4 February 2014
- BBC News - Olivia Fraser: Reinterpreting traditional Indian miniatures - 5 February 2014
- Madhushree's Blog(02.02) Some Snapshots of India Art fair: A Fraser legacy – 2 February 2014
- The Sanghavi Salons – The Goan on Saturday – 21 September 2013
- The Times of India (Goa Times) – Sunaparanta – 14 September 2013
- 'Pilgrimage' by Olivia Fraser featured on the cover of The London Magazine, April/May 2013
- Resurgence Magazine, March 2013
- Out of Print Magazine, March 2013
- Miniatures, Elitism blog, 2013
- Olivia Fraser: Mastering the Hindu Miniature, The Guardian, November 2012
- Art masters and Indian tradition in Olivia Fraser's Miniatures from India, Culture24, October 2012
- The Eye of the Beholder, Caravan Magazine, June 2012
- Able Ways, The Hindu, May 2012
- Sacred Secular Geometries, The Times of India, April 2012
- Interview with Olivia Fraser, Tehelka Magazine, Vol 9, Issue 15, Dated 14 April 2012
- Arty explorations of traditional idioms, The Sunday Guardian, March 2012
- East is East, BLOUINARTINFO India, March 2012
- Olivia Fraser: A Passionate Quest, Dr Virginia Whiles, January 2012
- Olivia Fraser, An Indian Summer, Blog, 2011