

# Collective Expressions

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Painting Exhibition

Pagoda Group  
January 19th - February 17th, 2023



# GALLERY INTRODUCTION

**Sangeeta Thapa**

Founder Director Siddhartha Art Gallery

Siddhartha Arts Foundation

Founder / Chair Kathmandu Triennale

Pagoda Group is a dynamic five-member collective featuring Roshan Pradhan, Kishor Nakarmi, Pradhumna Shrestha, Mala Shrestha, and Rudra Bahadur Pun. Each of their works is bound by the devotion to the cultural heritage of Nepal, to the many religious monuments - the sacred temples, stupas and chortens of this Himalayan nation.

The group's present exhibition titled 'Collective Expressions' is a reaffirmation of their commitment to highlight Nepal's heritage, while also serving as a medium to draw attention to the fact that our precious heritage - the very myths, traditions that have shaped our very cultural identity through the millennia is threatened by urban pressure, haphazard planning and apathy. The artists in this collective also draw us to another scenario - one where the human species faces myriad dilemmas with the rise of robotics and advanced technology. Each artist in this collective, addresses these concerns, with the power of their narrative and unique style.



# Artist's Profile

Nepalese Contemporary Artists' Guild



## Roshan Pradhan

### Artist Profile

Roshan Pradhan is a visual artist from Nepal. He completed his Master's Degree in Fine Arts from Lalitkala Campus. With over 25 years of experience in the art world, he now works as a freelance artist. Pradhan has held three solo exhibitions - "Hanger" at Nepal Art Council in 2007, "Hanger 2" at Sakano Ueno Bijutsukan Art Gallery, Hokkaido, Japan in 2013, and "Nodes of Expression and Human Feelings" at the Nepal Art Council in 2014.

Pradhan has participated in several group exhibitions - notably the 19th Asian Art Biennale 2022 in Bangladesh. He has also shown in "Freedom and Love" - an art exhibition organized by Filarts in NCCA Gallery, Manila, Philippines. His works have been exhibited in "Agraj Ka Bimbaharu", an art exhibition organized by the Pagoda Group and Sushil Koirala Memorial Foundation at the Nepal Art Council.

Pradhan's works have also been shown in the Asian Contemporary Art Exhibition titled "Thousand Faces of Arts", National Taiwan Art Education in 2020, Ratchadamneon Contemporary Art Center in Bangkok also in 2020, Art and Friendship International Exhibition in Asian Art Museum Fukuoka, Japan in 2019, Friendship Art Exhibition Arma Museum in Indonesia in 2019, 'Fabrianoin Acquarello', the 10th International Watercolor Museum in Italy in 2019, Korean and Nepal Contemporary Art Exchange Exhibition in Nepal in 2017, Buddhist Art Fair Beijing in China in 2016 and the 14th Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh in 2010.

He has received both national and international awards like the Araniko Youth Award (Gold Medal) from National Youth Service Trust, a special prize in the national art and craft exhibition, a Fevicryl Expert Teacher award from Pidilite, India, Creative Artist of the year in 2020 and Nanda Devi Khanal Lalitkala Smriti Award from Arupan Art Gallery, Nepal.

Pradhan is a Director of Pagoda Institute of Fine Arts and a founder member of Pagoda Group Nepalese Contemporary Artists Guild. He is also a member of the International Island Country Arts Group, in Turkey.

### Artist's Statement

As Nepal is a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, multi-religious, and multi-lingual country, it is a country of rich cultural diversity. Different ethnic people have their own culture, tradition, art, etc. Our culture and traditions are valuable assets of our country which reflect the aspiration, feeling, norms, and civilization of our ancestors. Our culture is a reflection of our glorious past and the identities of our country. But due to modernization, these identities are disappearing slowly. Therefore, I have tried to present some motifs of the past through my paintings. Since our birth, we have been existing through culture, tradition, and art, but as we have come to this modern age, the many modern thoughts, ideas, and technologies have diverted our minds away from them. Due to these modern pressures, we risk forgetting our culture. To give continuity to our culture, my works feature some motifs of the Thangka school in my paintings. I feel proud to preserve and protect our culture even in this modern age. Thus in my works I fuse contemporary with traditional motifs so that the past and present are both represented in my works.



**Inner Power**

42" X 48"

Acrylic on Canvas

2022





## New World

60 " X 72"

Acrylic on Canvas

2021



## Pradhumna Shrestha

### Artist Profile

Pradhumna Shrestha is a visual artist based in Nepal. Being born and raised in Kathmandu he is deeply fascinated by the rich cultural heritage, temples, its deities and their myths mingling around in the air, which he had been listening since childhood. So his artworks are influenced by the myth, imagination and realities about this rich heritage. To him artistic architectural past of earlier valley stands as the embodiment of the rich cultural past. He in his artworks has sought to convey the vanishing heritage he loves and respects so much. His artworks stand as the testimony of his concerns.

Pradhumna did his MFA (Masters in fine art) from Tribhuvan University Nepal. But he is practicing painting since his school days. He is founder member of Pagoda group. Which is committed to promoting Nepali art scenario. Doing their own group exhibition, organizing college level art competition and other art projects Nationally and Internationally.

He has participated in various National, International art exhibition and art workshop.





**Shangrila**

36" X 48"

Acrylic on canvas

Year : 2022





**Shangrila**

44" X 60"

Acrylic on canvas

2021



## Rudra Bahadur Pun

### Artist Profile

Rudra Bahadur Pun was born and raised in the historic and beautiful city of Pokhara. He is a founder members of Pagoda Group of Nepalese Contemporary Artists' Guild.

He received his art education from the Pagoda Institute of Fine Arts and Bara institute of Fine Arts. He has participated in different national and international art exhibition such as Agraj ka Bimbaharu an Art exhibition organized by Pagoda Group and Sushil Koirala Memorial Foundation at the Nepal Art Council in 2022 , National Art Exhibition NAFA 2022, Ratchedamneon Contemporary Art Center Bangkok, Thailand 2020 , Fabrianoin Acquarello 10th international Watercolor Museum, Italy 2019

When he creates art, it is directly or indirectly related with nature. As a nature lover he always tries to capture beautiful scenery from nature and some of the old traditional ways of living that once used to be a part of our daily life. He hopes that through his art work, he can show the beauty of mother nature. Being surrounded by nature is a blessing that we take for granted. Our traditions and cultures are our origin and defines us as who we are.





**Heaven on the Earth "Mustang"**

44" X 60"

Acrylic on canvas

2021



**Peace**

18" X 24"

Mix-media

2022





## Kishor Nakarmi

### Artist Profile

Kishor Nakarmi is a visual artist born on April 2, 1978. He completed a Master's in Fine Art from Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur, Nepal. His professional experience includes being an art teacher at various schools. He has been active in the art field since 2004. Nakarmi has three solo exhibitions to his credit ; in the year 2005, 2009, and 2014.

He has participated in more than 50 group exhibitions since 2004. Nakarmi has showcased his works internationally and his artworks were selected for national and international group exhibitions in countries like South Korea, Bangladesh, India, et cetera. Along with that, he has participated in several art workshops. He is a life member of groups such as the Rising Artist Group of Nepal and the Fame Group of Bangladesh. He has been felicitated and honored for his outstanding contributions to art, on numerous occasions. Nakarmi has won many awards, namely a special award organized by The Heavy Equipment Entrepreneurs Association of Nepal in 2016, The National Award 2022 (NAFA), first prize in The Logo Competition in 2010, second prize in the 50th Anniversary of Thailand-Nepal Diplomatic Relations in 2009, fine art special award in the 3rd National Exhibition of Fine Arts Nepal 2013 and first prize in the 9th Eastern Region Art Competition organized by Camlin Art Foundation, India in 2008 among others.

Nakarmi has actively been associated with numerous social, cultural and academic institutions and has regularly participated in conferences, seminars, workshops, artist's camps etc. Although he has experimented with different artistic mediums, he specializes in using texture in a very creative way using motifs. The image of Lord Gautama Buddha is a recurring one. Nakarmi has shared that his spiritual yearning led him to the Buddha's teaching. These teachings have greatly influenced his life and his art. His acrylic paintings are very distinctive as they focus on how Buddha's teaching is related to life and how modern people are steering away from Buddha's teaching. Thus, Nakarmi's paintings can be viewed as a creative dialogue in colors and as a narrative about the relevance of Buddha's teaching in the present time.

**Essence of Nepal**  
36" X 48"  
Acrylic on Canvas  
2022







**Essence of Nepal**

36" X 48"

Acrylic on Canvas

2022



## Mala Shrestha

### Artist Profile

Mala Shrestha completed her Bachelor's in Fine Arts from Lalitkala Campus and her Masters Degree in Sociology. She received additional art training from the Pagoda Institute of Fine Art, Tinkune, Kathmandu. She has exhibited her works in several group exhibitions, notably "Agraj Ka Bimbaharu" an art exhibition organized by the Pagoda Group and Sushil Koirala Memorial Foundation at the Nepal Art Council in 2022, "A Contemporary Art Exhibition" organized by Unnati Cultural Village, Chitwan in 2021, "Art Unites" - an art exhibition between Philippines and Nepal Organized by FilArts and Pagoda Group in 2021, Art without Borders part 5 "Art is Heart", an International online Exhibition Gallery in Kobe, Japan in 2020, "Attaturk and Edirne" an international online group exhibition of invited artists in Trakya University, Turkey in 2019, Fabrianoin Acquarello, an international watercolor art exhibition in Italy.

Her paintings focus on the different hand 'Mudras' of the Buddha and she incorporates her own feelings and thoughts into these works. She believes that her works can help spread peace in the world through the depictions of different 'Mudras'. Her paintings also display the merging of a wooden sculpture and tree to highlight the fact that the tree is the source or foundation of all wooden sculpture.

She is a founder member of Pagoda Group Nepalese Contemporary Artists Guild and International Island Country Artists Group, Turkey. She is a keen traveler and on her journeys she has been able to collect inspiration for her painting. Shrestha has traveled to Thailand, Dubai, Dominique Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, St Maarten, Guyana, Barbados, Grenada, St Vincent, Calcutta, Delhi, and Bangalore.



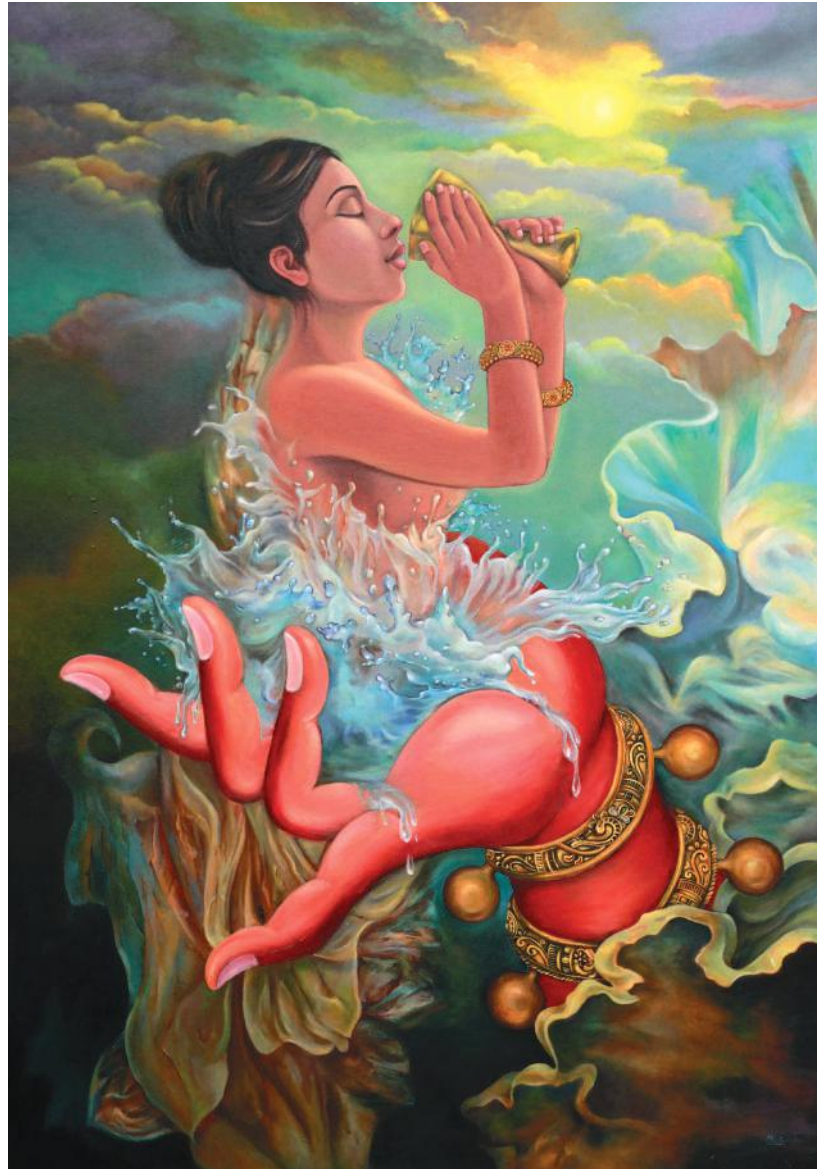


**Bhairav**

36" X 54"

Acrylic on Canvas

2022



**Holy Water**  
42" X 60"  
Acrylic on Canvas  
2021



# Acknowledgements

**Sangeeta Thapa**

Founder Director Siddhartha Art Gallery

Siddhartha Arts Foundation

Founder / Chair Kathmandu Triennale

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