



In Solitude

A Solo Show by Harsh Kumar

Sehgal

Amar Nath Sehgal Private Collection

In Solitude

A Solo Show by
Harsh Kumar

Advisor:
Rajan Sehgal

Curation:
Mandira Row

Photography:
Harsh Kumar
Gaurav Arora (*Title: From top I can see you*)

Assistance:
Nada Ballabh Joshi
Bhaskar Arya

Catalogue Design:
Vandana Saluja

Framer
Gulshan Frames

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Amar Nath Sehgal Private Collection
J23, Jangpura Extension
New Delhi 110014
E: speak@amarnathsehgal.com



The **Amar Nath Sehgal Private Collection** is a single-artist museum dedicated to the South Asian Modern Master, based in New Delhi. The collection is housed at the artist's studio. This year we are celebrating the centennial year of the artist through outreach programs and a scholarship. This is the first edition of the Young Artist Program to celebrate **100 Years of Sehgal**. It is an initiative to continue Sehgal's dream of nurturing young talent.

Nov 11-25, 2022


at The Academy of Fine Arts & Literature
4/6, Siri Fort Institutional Area
New Delhi 110049

Curatorial Note

Harsh Kumar is an experimental artist, who seeks joy from the creative process more than the creation itself. In the past four years of Harsh's journey, there has been a steady change in the performance of his art. His experimentation is a way to satiate the curiosity he shares with the fearlessness in his brush.

A student of fine art, Harsh began his sketches as strokes over each other, like a static sound of steady chaos coming through that has swiftly evolved. The metamorphosis-like process has been his personal search for clarity and peace. This started with monochromatic compositions of a cubist approach, bold lines, and fearless strokes. He spent most of his time during his formative learning developing compositions in black and white. The three self-portraits are the earliest works in the collection. Reluctantly, he adds grey to his work which is where his journey of evolution began. The inclusion of a third color was generated by pigments of natural materials. With a lack of resources and funds, Harsh moved to the traditional format of painting making paint by himself. The material he uses to create the color pigment is in itself an experiment with nature. He describes it as the hum of a tune for a song he has never sung.

As art does, there is an imitation, of real life, objects, or just ordinary life, in his work too. There is a singular perspective, a quiet wonder and self to reflect and within that, he recreates beauty in his surroundings. His paintings are dynamic, layered, and vibrant, inspired by nature and the landscape of Himachal's hilltop. There's a gentle breeze in his sky and solace in the dusk. He paints a silence that he yearned for in the bustle of the city. The collection of works is representative of the journey of a young mind,



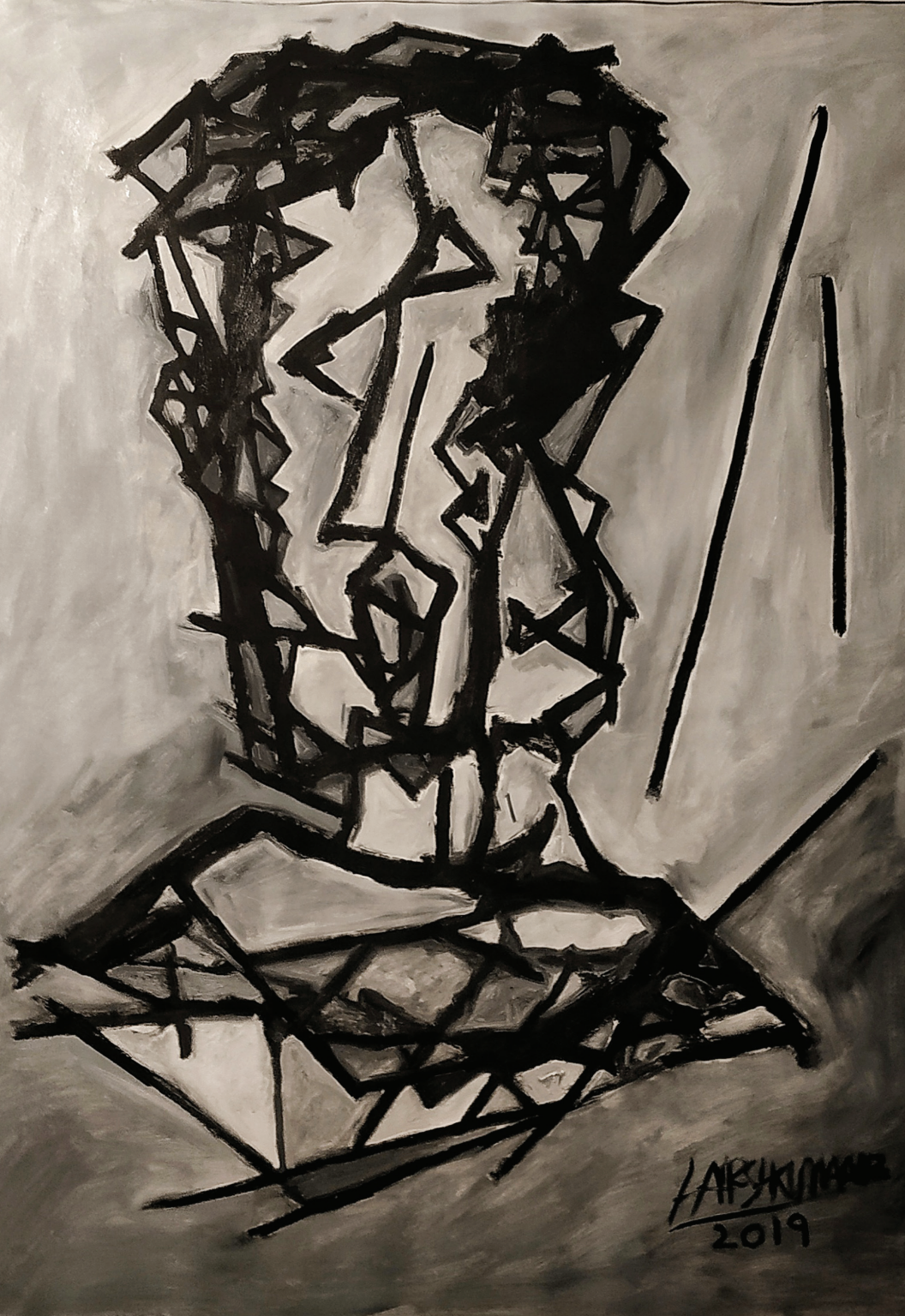
as a result, creating works that tell us a story as a whole. The evolution of color reflects his personal growth while nature gives him the comfort of a home he found. The blues are inspired by the pristine waters that lend solace to an unsettled mind. He chooses to be fearless and bold, with no constraints. The deliberate strokes in nature are conversations he chooses to have with himself, carefully creating a balance in his compositions. His works in performance art is an experiential format to fully indulge himself in the quest of finding oneself.

Harsh continues his process of experimentation through mediums from raw materials, textures, and elements of daily life. Nature created on his canvas is handpicked from spaces around him that continue to transfer on his canvas. He questions his process as an explorer in new terrain, stepping into unknown spaces. The result has led him to allow the subconscious mind to take over the actions of his conscious, a moment he thrives in solitude.

Mandira Row, Resident Curator
Amar Nath Sehgal Private Collection



Untitled | Oil on canvas | 56 x 45 inches | 2019



ARJUN
2019



Untitled | Oil on canvas | 56 x 45 inches | 2019



HRSK M
2019



Untitled | Oil on canvas | 56 x 45 inches | 2019





Mind at War | Mixed media on canvas | 36 x 36 inches | 2020





Divided State | Oil on canvas | 34 x 34 inches | 2020





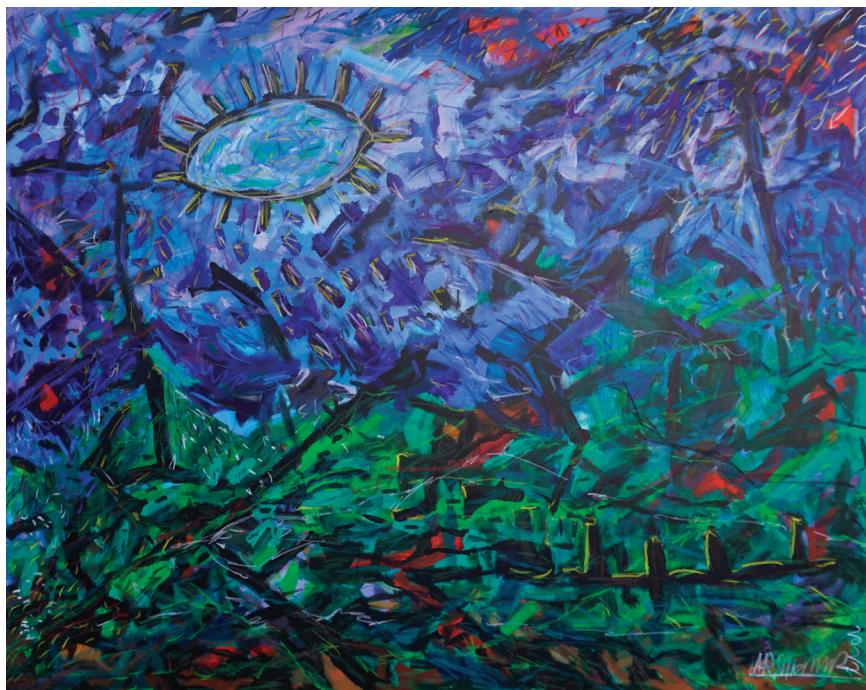
I Found a River | Mixed media on canvas | 83 x 57 inches | 2021





Deep Waters | Mixed media on canvas | 34 x 34 inches | 2021





Beyond | Mixed media on canvas | 60 x 72 inches | 2022

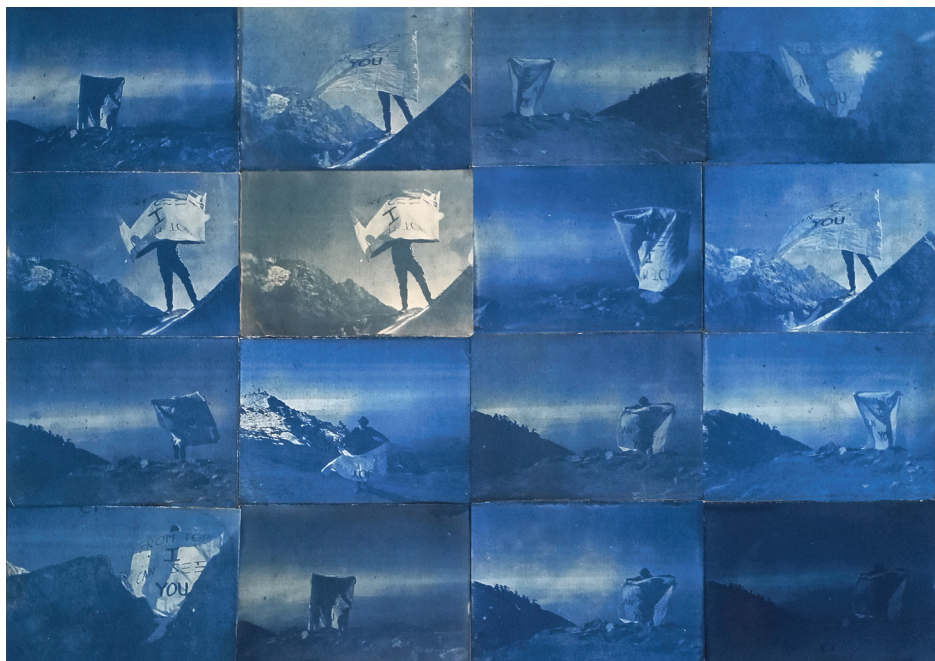




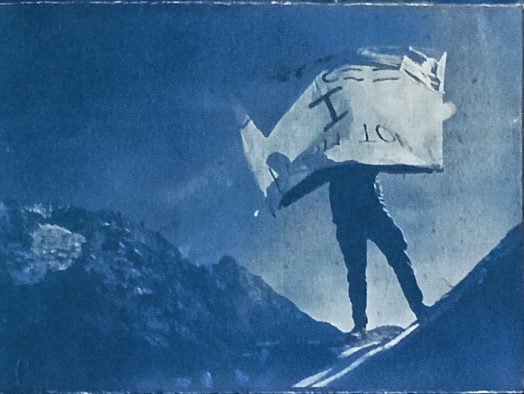
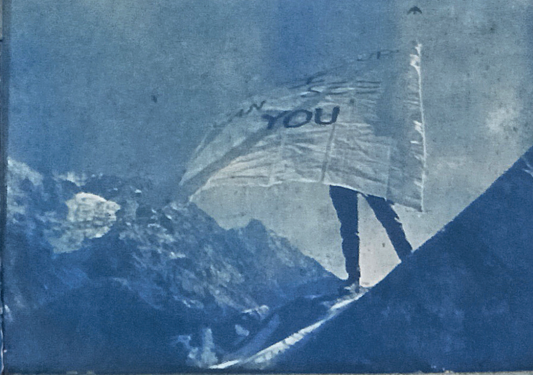
Walk at Night (Dptych) | Mixed media on canvas | 36 x 72 inches | 2022

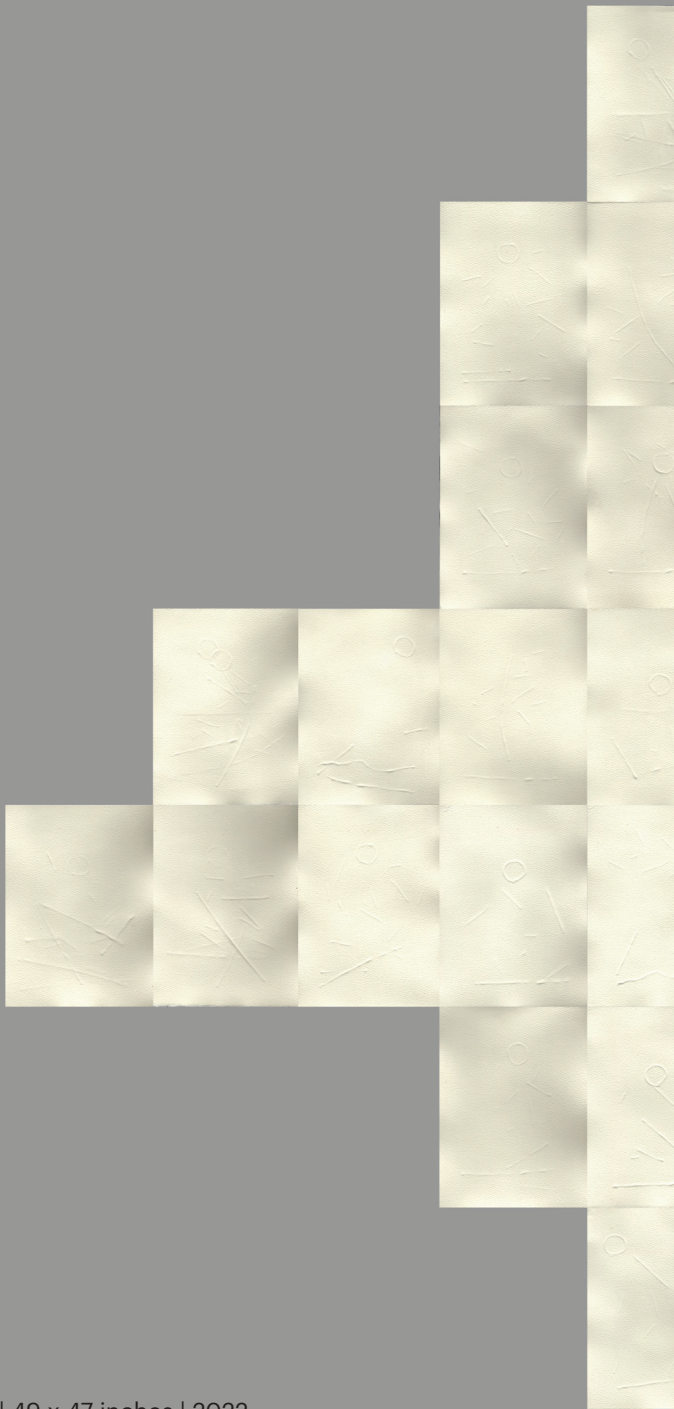


“Our feelings, motives and decisions are actually powerfully influenced by our past experiences, and stored in the unconscious in the same manner for me the art which came from the subconscious mind is more pure and more reasonable than the art practiced from a conscious mind.”

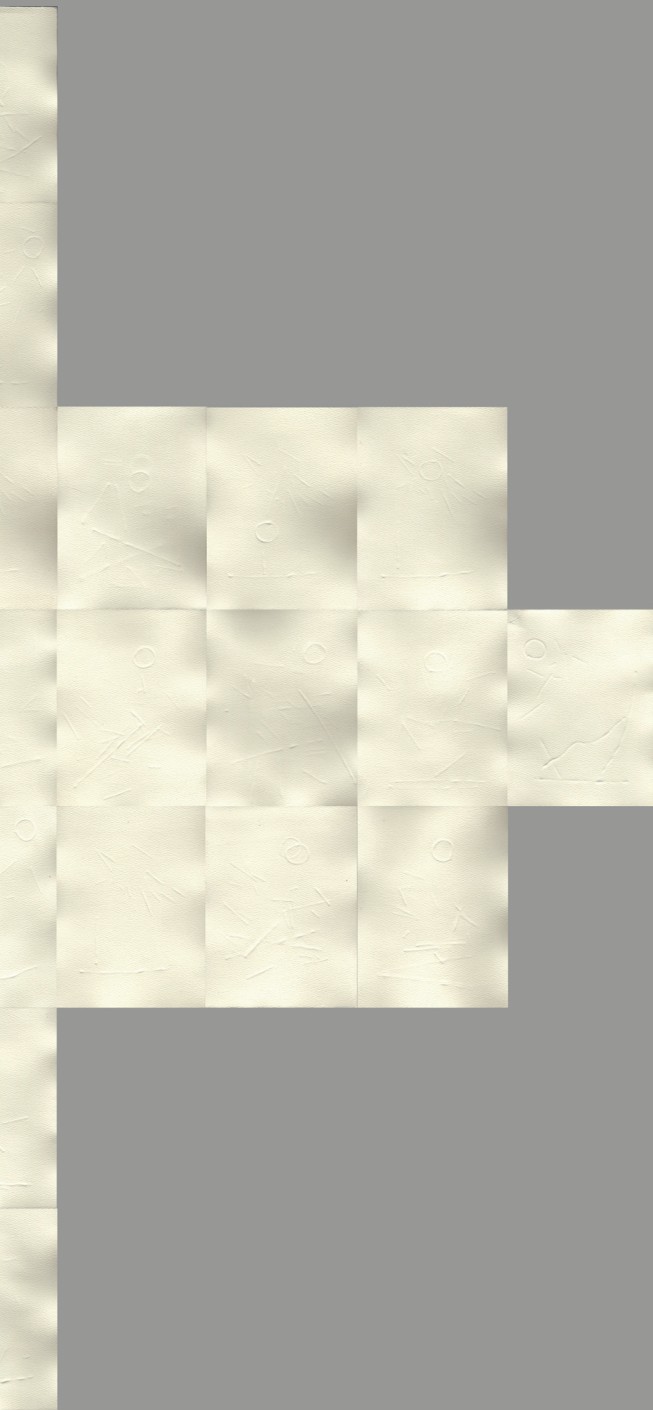


“After all, an artist has nothing else to offer to society except his art; an artist is the reflection of the society he shows what he perceives.”





A Day | Emboss on paper | 49 x 47 inches | 2022





Born in New Delhi, Harsh has spent all his formative years in the city. He has studied under Gurdeep Singh and Himmat Shah, learning in their studios. He also worked for one year at the Amar Nath Sehgal Private Collection studying the art of the renowned artist and researcher for the Sehgal publication. He takes inspiration from his gurus and their ethics that are now woven into his artistic practice.

“I try to show my subject in a simplified manner as I think that art is inherent in every human’s collective consciousness, it doesn’t need a language to define it. My style is a mix of Expressionism, post-Expressionism, Abstraction, and contemporary experimentation through various mediums such as painting, sculpture, printmaking, photography, installation, performant art, photography, and videography. I feel that when I create art, it has a series of events from society and events concerning personal intellect; even after that, I believe the real impetus comes from the subconscious mind, as Sigmund Freud says the unconscious mind is the primary source of human behavior. Like an iceberg, the most important part of the mind is the part you cannot see”.

Harsh is currently pursuing a Master of Fine Arts at Central University Himachal Pradesh (2021-2023).

