



A TALE *UNTOLD*

SUSHMA JAIN

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21st - 27th August 2018

Jehangir Art Galleries 3 & 4, 161, Kalaghoda, Mumbai - 400 001



# Chronicles *of* Imprinted Memories

*“The more clearly we can focus our attention on the wonders and realities of the universe about us, the less taste we shall have for destruction.”*

*–Rachel Carson*

In her maiden solo, artist Sushma Jain presents a suite of works that draws inspiration from the primal beauty of animals in the wild, and verdant and pristine landscapes that appear to be untouched by human interventions. As a subtext, there is an exploration of the correlation between man and nature, animals and natural resources, and the images subtly accentuate the primordial chord between all forms of life and their interdependence.

A majority of the paintings are based on photographs taken by Jain on her travels to national parks and forests across the world. Combining her passion for animals and photography, Jain has traversed continents in search of the perfect shot of animals in the wild – in their native environment, unfettered from urban noise. Encapsulating moments of tenderness, of free spirit and grace, of compassionate bonds between members of a herd, and mother and offspring, the visuals offer rare glimpses of nature and its creatures in their natural habitat. These are transformed into portraiture retaining photographic details and composition.



Historically, artists have depicted animals from ancient times, often for documentation purposes. Contemporary artists have deployed them as subjects to voice trepidations regarding urbanization and related issues. Jain elects this theme out of her passion for animals and attempts to create a narrative that simultaneously highlights concerns regarding conservation. Her visual language employs aesthetics as a pictorial tool to sensitise the viewer to ecological distress.

The life like portraits of animals with their glistening skin, evocative and mesmerising gaze and every strand of hair visible to the naked eye are hyper-realistic in their rendering. The eyes, emotive and alive hold the viewer captive within their embrace. The blurred, defocused backdrop, strong bold lines with vivid colours in the foreground creates compelling imagery. Extensive detailing with regards to anatomical features characterise majority of the works. The memory of the original encounter is etched in every detail creating immaculate engravings of chronicles.

Jain has adopted a dual approach in painting animals in this series - as a witness to their presence and the environment, where the animals appear to be oblivious to human existence and are dominant within their space. In others, the animals reciprocate the gaze, aware of the artist's presence, conscious and animated, yet magnificent in their natural setting. Each image is carefully composed, where the act and process of photographing is determined in context with the painting.

The series of landscapes from icy winters to tumultuous ocean waves and tranquil waters with moored boats are all metaphorical for journeys undertaken or about to commence. The sparseness of human figures and the expansiveness of the works create a sense of desolation and anticipation - for a future untold and unscripted, hinting at new stories in the making. The large vistas of snowy terrains and beautiful sunsets capture the dichotomy inherent in nature, the possibilities of extremes and the uncertainties of our times. Perhaps, a mirage or the memory of a beautiful past, there is a deep sensitivity and a sense of quietude that permeates every painting.

## **Nalini S Malaviya**

Art Critic

Bangalore

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Artist at her Studio





GENTLE GIANTS

oil on linen canvas, 50" x 69", 2017





THE LONG AND SHORT OF IT

oil on linen canvas, 36" x 24", 2018



MYSTICAL ENCOUNTERS

oil on linen canvas, 50" x 38", 2018





I GO ALONE  
oil on linen canvas, 56" x 63", 2017



MY TRIBE  
oil on linen canvas, 24" x 30", 2008





VOYAGE WITHIN

oil on linen canvas, 40" x 58", 2016





A MOMENT IN TIME

oil on linen canvas, 30" x 40", 2018





AURIC

oil on linen canvas, 16" x 20", 2004



UNBRIDLED

oil on linen canvas, 24" x 34", 1988





BETWEEN THE LINES

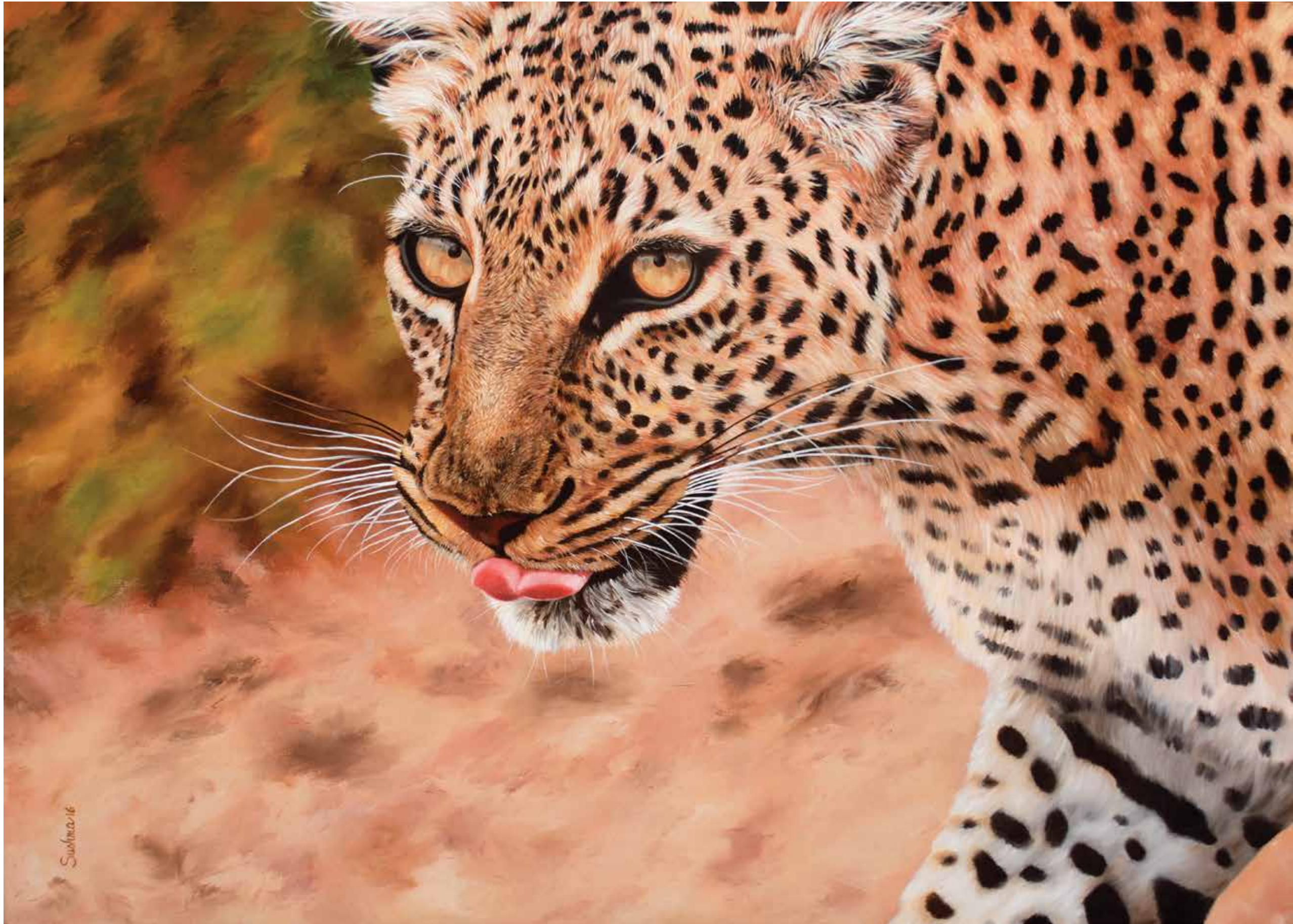
oil on linen canvas, 32" x 46", 2009



SOLITARY EPIPHANY

oil on linen canvas, 40" x 55", 2018





IN THE SPOT LIGHT

oil on linen canvas, 46" x 64", 2016





SATIATED

oil on linen canvas, 52" x 70", 2018





NIGHT VISION

oil on linen canvas, 32" x 60", 2007



AMBER SILHOUETTE

oil on linen canvas, 41" x 52", 2008





TIME REMEMBERED

oil on linen canvas, 34" x 48", 2018



SIMBA

oil on linen canvas, 24" x 36", 2009

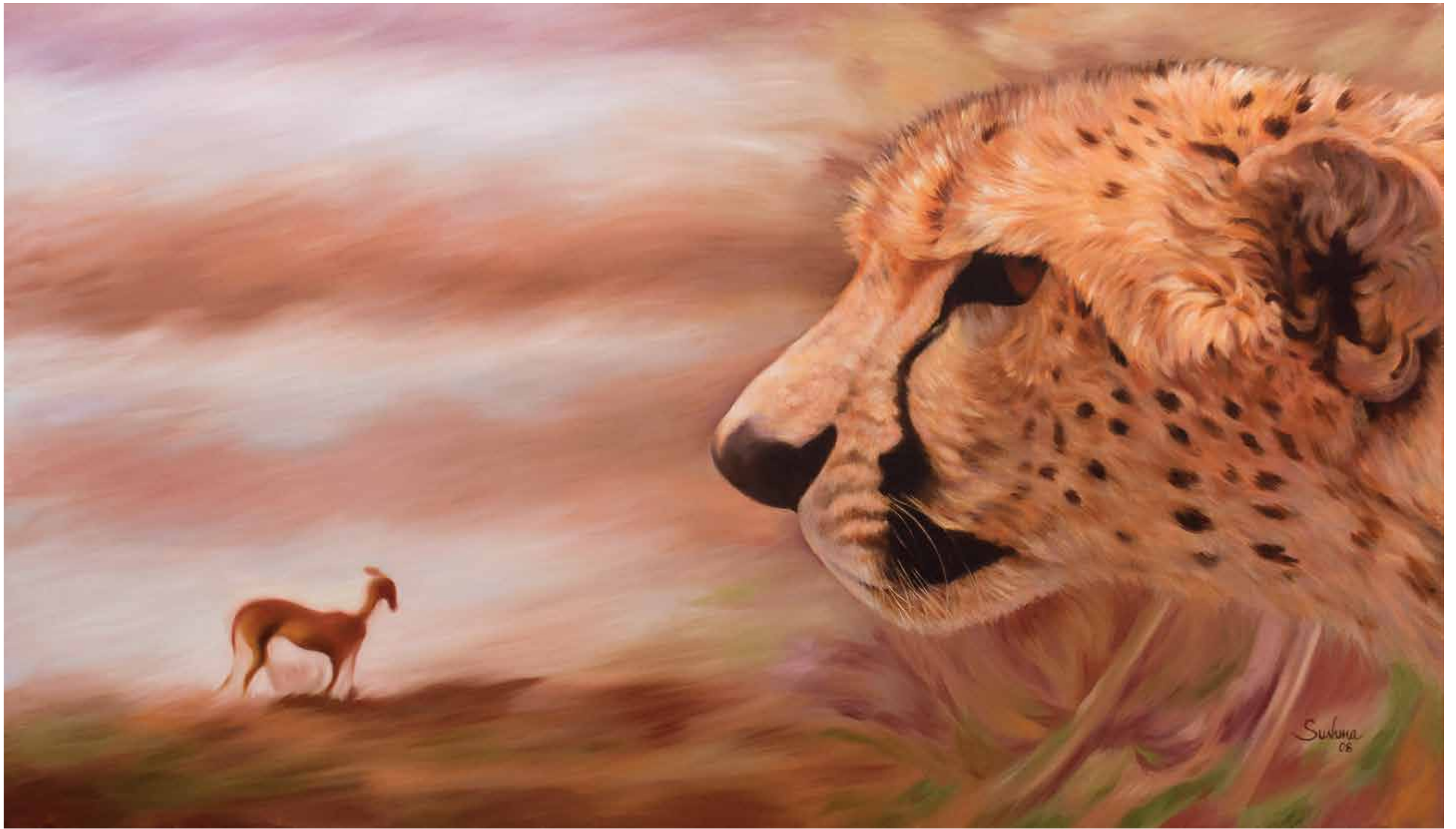




MATERNAL INSTINCT

oil on linen canvas, 48" x 68", 2018





RELENTLESS

oil on linen canvas, 33" x 58", 2008





NEW HORIZONS

oil on linen canvas, 60" x 46", 2018





KING OF ALL I SEE

oil on linen canvas, 45" x 76", 2002





ON MISSION

oil on linen canvas, 40" x 27", 2018



GO FOURTH UNAFRAID

oil on linen canvas, 40" x 27", 2018





RETURNING HOME

oil on linen canvas, 46" x 60", 2018



DISCOVER YOUR SHINE

oil on linen canvas, 24" x 40", 2018





SWOLLEN WITH PRIDE

oil on linen canvas, 33" x 28", 2018



STANDING TALL

oil on linen canvas, 40" x 28", 2018





UNCHAINED MELODY

oil on linen canvas, 30" x 44", 2018



RIPPLE EFFECT

oil on linen canvas, 32" x 40", 2018





DALLIANCES WITH NATURE

oil on linen canvas, 29" x 60", 2018





SPIRITED DANCE

oil on linen canvas, 32" x 44", 2018



ONE WITH NATURE

oil on linen canvas, 36" x 45", 2018



WHAT COMES THROUGH

oil on linen canvas, 55" x 56", 2018



Sushma 18





EMBARK

oil on linen canvas, 30" x 40", 2017



## SUSHMA JAIN

1958, Bankura, West Bengal

Sushma Jain has been passionate about art from her childhood and has pursued it with ardent fervour over the years. Essentially a self-taught artist, she has completed several formal art courses that have given her a solid foundation to build upon her natural talent and skills. She completed the Foundation course at the Indian Art Institute, the Art Teacher's Diploma at JJ School of Art, and took courses at the Central Saint Martin School of Art and Design in London.

On this artistic journey, Sushma has been staunchly supported by her family, especially by her father in her childhood years and her husband after marriage. This has enabled her to grow from strength to strength and experiment with her artmaking to work on diverse subjects and themes over the years. Despite taking breaks from her art for various family reasons, Sushma always returned to her passion with renewed commitment and spirit. This persistence has enriched her art and she has emerged happier, stronger and inspired from life's multifarious twists and turns. Her art is a reflection of her personality, her warmth and sensitivity, and is fuelled by her deep love for her family and close friends.

Sushma finds inspiration in nature and renders her subjects realistically, and has come to specialise in portraiture, human forms, landscapes and wildlife. Apart from oils on canvas, she has extensively experimented with various media such as charcoal, crayons and watercolours. In her first solo art exhibition at the Jehangir Art Gallery of Mumbai, a combination of her wildlife and landscape artworks are featured. Her passion for animals and photography, led her across the world to several national parks and forests to shoot animals in the wild. She has taken numerous photographs that capture wild life in their natural habitat, while her landscape paintings are picturesque and inspired from her travels, capturing the essence of their charm and splendour.

For Sushma, exhibiting her paintings is a dream come true! On her 60th birthday, the series of art shows are a celebration of a milestone in more ways than one - it is a culmination of her efforts over the years and marks the beginning of a new and exciting phase in her artistic journey.

Sushma has two children and three grandchildren and lives in Mumbai with her family. She is an ardent singer and remains passionate about her four canine friends at her farmhouse.







## Artist Profile

Sushma Jain was born in 1958 in Bankura, West Bengal and did her graduation from Sophia College, Mumbai.

In 1975, she completed the Foundation course at the Indian Art Institute and was awarded the Gold medal and the Best Student Award.

In 1991, she completed the Art Teacher's Diploma at the JJ School of Art, Mumbai and stood first in Maharashtra and was awarded the Gold medal and the Best Student Award.

In 1995, she completed the Screen-printing course at the Sophia Polytechnic College, Mumbai where she stood first in class. She received two awards, one for Best Student and the other for Best Creativity.

In 2002, she joined the Central Saint Martin School of Art and Design in London and completed 12 different courses in approaches in art.

In 2007, her painting 'Endless Journey' sold at the Khushi Charitable Art Auction.

In 2008, her painting 'Gajanand' sold at a charitable auction for the children's cancer hospital in Singapore.

The artist lives and works in Mumbai.



In gratitude of all those who have contributed to my dream becoming a reality.

**Art Curator:**

Tarana Khubchandani

**Photographs contributed by:**

Akash Ambani

Dr. Rajesh Parikh

Bela Dalmia

Raj Salgaocar

Ian Johnson

Madhusudan Tantia

Anand Khandwala

Shehzad Ali

Harsh Jain

Nidhi Kanoi

Thanks also to all those who have supported me through the years vociferously and silently, my family and friends, my children and grandchildren, my late father and my husband – you are the wind beneath my newfound wings.

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