Bronzed

FROM PAINT TO PATINA

JOGEN CHOWDHURY RAM KUMAR KRISHEN KHANNA THOTA VAIKUNTAM







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PROLOGUE

FROM PAINT TO PATINA

Most 'book to movie' adaptations have become successful films—only the greatest stories inspired the production of a film. When words come to life from a book to a motion picture, it is an enjoyable journey especially for those who have already read the book.

This project is inspired by four eminent storytellers whose imagery has set ablaze the hearts of art lovers for decades. Jogen Chowdhury, Ram Kumar, Krishen Khanna and Thota Vaikuntam—all of whom have created a visual association with their viewers through the iconic images they have painted over time in their distinctive style. This very recognizable style and figuration is the inspiration and foundation of this project.

A two-dimensional figure on a canvas has many aspects that are hidden and left to one's imagination. A three-dimensional bronze not only brings to life and extends itself to a more physical form but also exerts the artist to create the remainder of the image; a fresh imagination in continuum.

To create the bronzes the artists had to collaborate with skilled artisans to recreate the figures from every angle; not just the already painted front but also the 'invisible' sides and back of the figure. This provided the artists an exciting opportunity to look at their paintings afresh and constantly visit aspects they had not attended to previously.

Ram Kumar, who is known as an abstract artist, painted his figurative works in the 1950s and was immensely excited with the idea of revisiting the subject in a different dimension and seeing the *Vagabond* come to life some six decades after it was first painted.

This publication documents to an extent a pictorial representation of the process. The process began with the selection of the individual figures from their previously created paintings and drawings, which became the starting point of the project as the initial point of reference. Hereafter, wax or clay models were shaped, upon which the artists provided their inputs on revisions and further changes that were to be made into moulds.

This project was fulfilled in collaboration with Bronze Age London, a leading sculpture casting foundry in the UK, resulting in the production of the most premium quality bronzes.

Jogen's pieces especially proved to be a challenge due to the visual



cross-hatching effect being an integral part of his artwork, which is difficult to recreate in a bronze sculpture. He took printed images from every angle of the clay model so he could draw over and make corrections wherever required.

Vaikuntam had craftsmen working under him to create the clay models to his desired precision. Krishen, who has explored sculpture more extensively over the years, enjoyed seeing his bandwallas come to life in bronze with the assistance of his drawings and subsequent patina suggestions. Overall, this exercise turned into a very symbiotic association between the artists, skilled craftsmen and Bronze Age London in creating these bronze sculptures.

Once the final model was created passing the rigorous vetting of the artist, the model was signed by the respective artist and sent to London to be cast in bronze. The lost wax process was used to create the highest quality bronze casting.

The final task was ensuring that the patination of these bronzes was in line with the artists' overall colour palettes. Since patina is not like paint it has its limitations with regard to the extent and tones of colours that can be used. The interaction of various combination of chemicals at a high temperature on the finished bronze causes it to react and change its colour to achieve the desired finish. This is a rare skill and the variation of colour that was required for these pieces meant that special technicians had to be hired by the foundry to complete this crucial and challenging step. Some of the artists specially painted the desired patina output options with varied colour patterns, which was used as reference to ensure that the final pieces were as much in line with the artist's vision as technically possible. Each piece was then accompanied by a certificate, signed jointly by the artist and Bronze Age, completing this momentous collaboration.

This book allowed the artists to extend themselves beyond the constraints of their most distinguished works and through a stroke of reimagining, see their iconic figures come to life in these twenty-six bronze sculptures.



Tanuj Berry & Saman Malik

New Delhi



jogen chowdhury







14x11x8″
Patinated Bronze

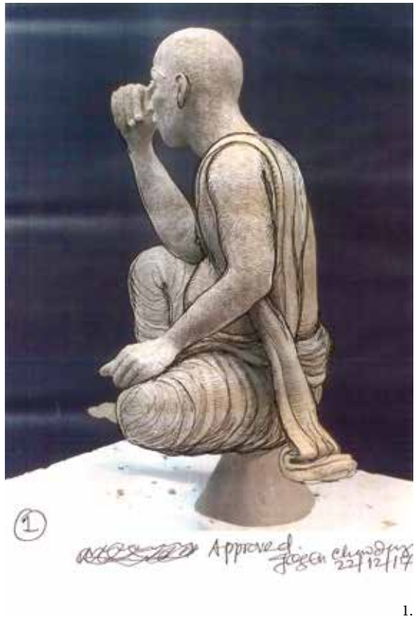


13x10x8″
Patinated Bronze









1.



2.



3.



4.

Work in progress:
1-4. Alterations made by the artist on multi-angled photographic images of the clay models.



5.



6.

5, 6. Clay models

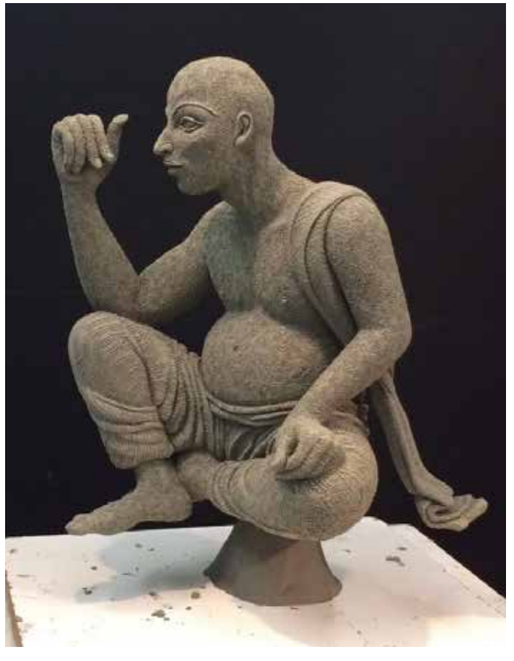
Work in progress:
1, 3. Clay models
2, 4. Unfinished bronzes



1.



2.



3.



4.

thota vaikuntam



18x6.5x5″
Patinated Bronze





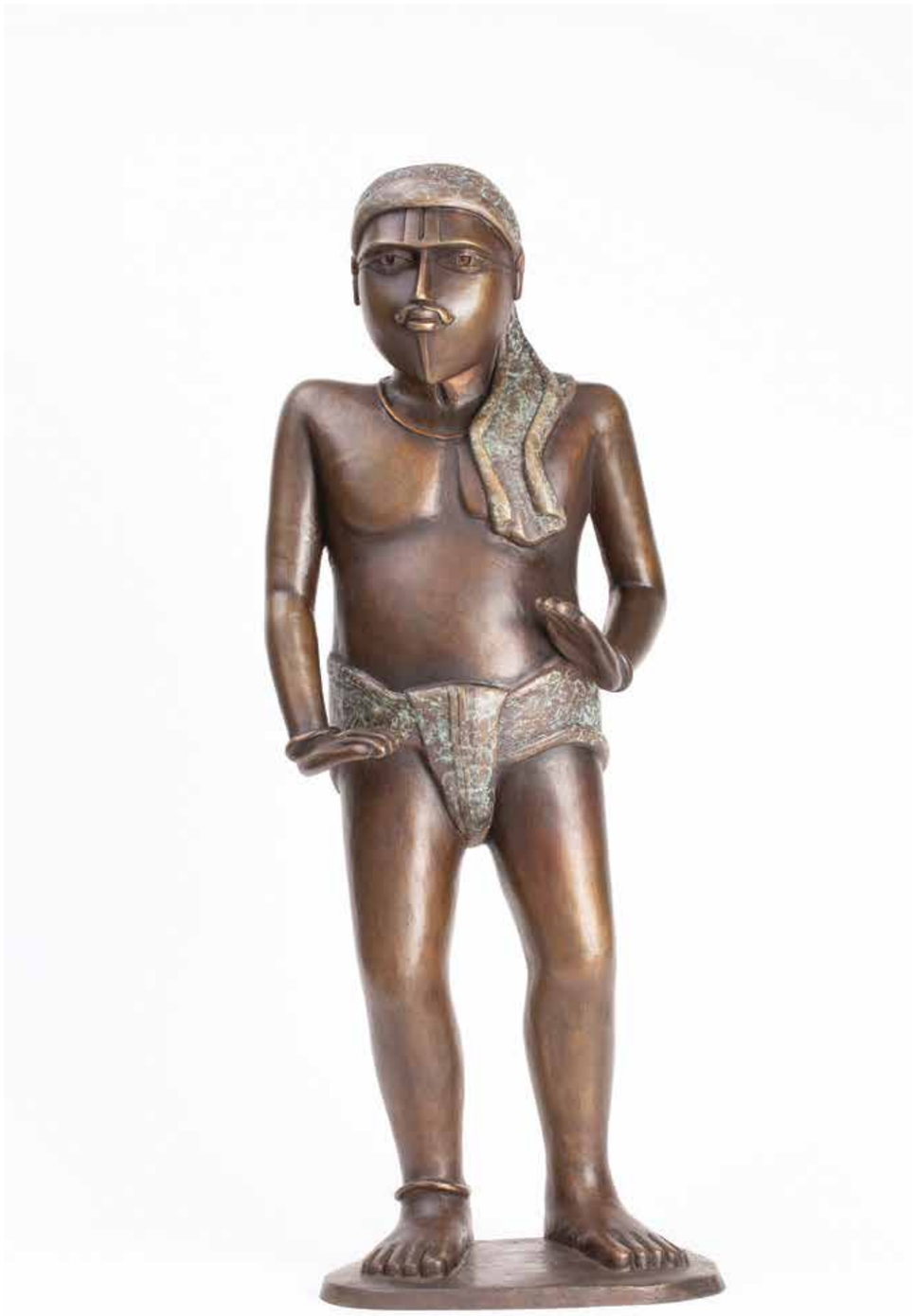


23x7.5x6″
Patinated Bronze





25x9x5″
Patinated Bronze







23x9x7″

Patinated Bronze







24.5x8x6”
Patinated Bronze







24.5x11x17″
Patinated Bronze





19x6x4.5″
Patinated Bronze



Work in progress:
1. Unfinished fibre resin model
2. Unfinished bronze



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.

3, 4. Unfinished bronzes
5. Finished patinated bronzes at the foundry

ram kumar



13x9x10″
Patinated Bronze







23x6x6.5″
Patinated Bronze







20x6x5.5″
Patinated Bronze





14x8x5″
Patinated Bronze





10x6x6″
Patinated Bronze



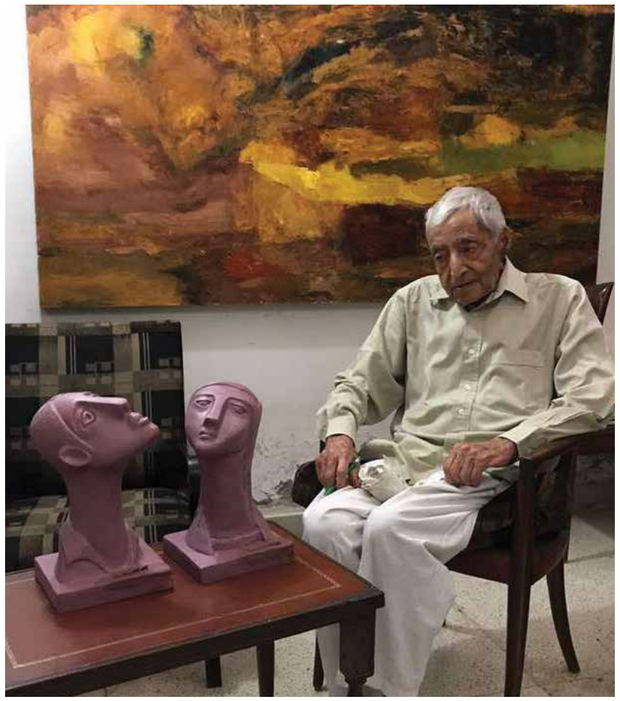


11x6.5x6″
Patinated Bronze





1.



2.

Work in progress:
1. Artist signing the finished wax model
2. Artist with fibre resin models



3.



4.

3. Artist with a fibre resin model on the table and finished bronzes on the floor
4. Aritist signing a certificate of one of the bronze editions

krishen khanna



22.5x33.5x25.5″
Patinated Bronze





22x25x6″
Patinated Bronze



25x25x19″
Patinated Bronze



20x25x6.5″
Patinated Bronze



20x18x9″
Patinated Bronze

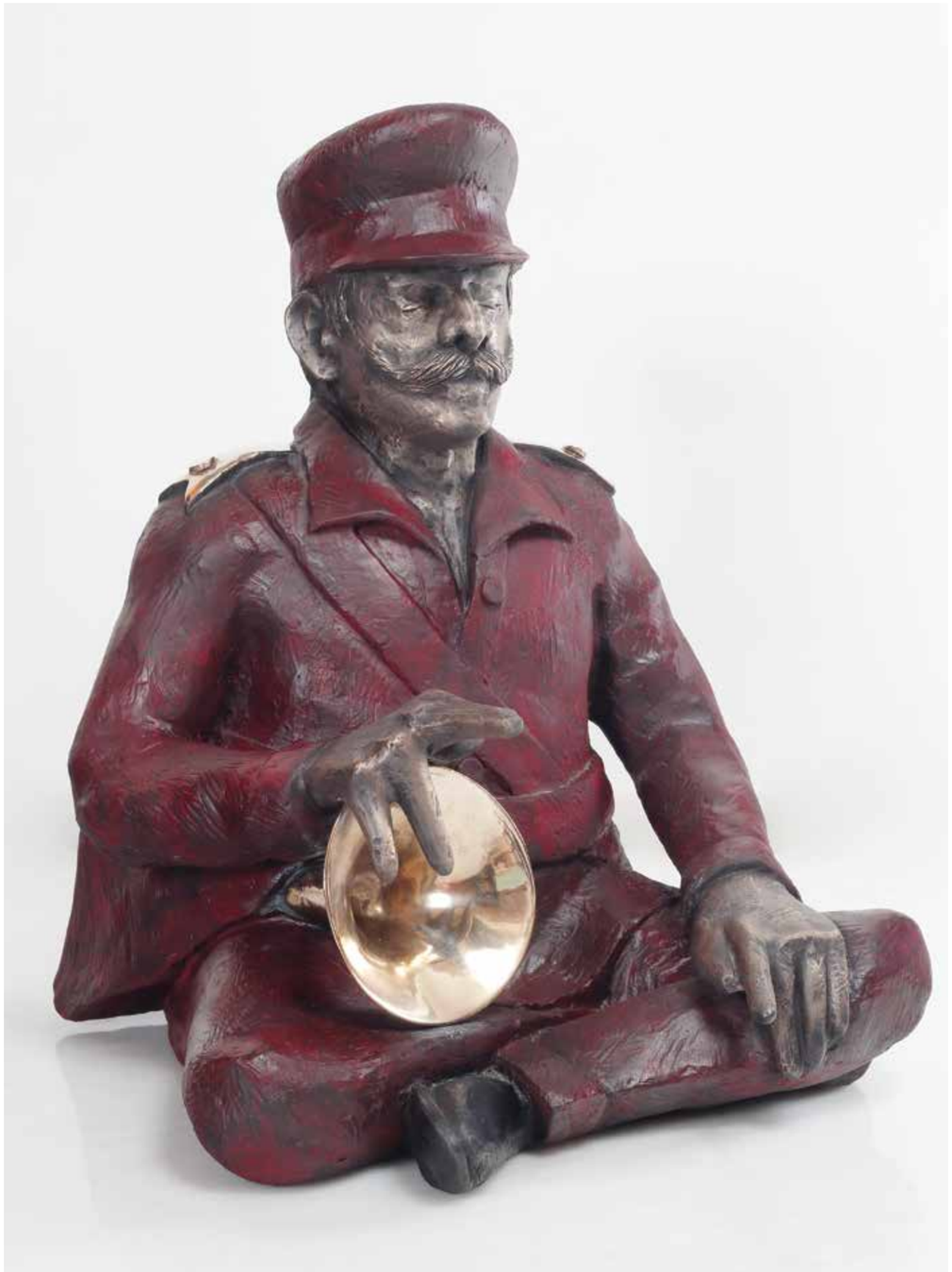


34x28x35″
Patinated Bronze





33x25x25″
Patinated Bronze





17x9x10″
Patinated Bronze



17x9x8″
Patinated Bronze



17x9.5x9″
Patinated Bronze



38.5x16x16.5″
Patinated Bronze



1.



2.



3.



4.

Work in progress:
1, 2. Unfinished bronzes at the foundry being patinated
3. Artist signing a finished fibre resin model
4. Artist making final alteration suggestions



5.

5. Artist with a finished patinated bronze
6. Artist with a final wax model



6.

ABOUT ICIA

Nestled in the heart of Mumbai's art district, Kala Ghoda, the 'Institute Of Contemporary Indian Art', also known as ICIA gallery, takes forward the legacy of establishing Indian art in the mindspace of art patrons and enthusiasts. The gallery was set up by Mr Vickram Sethi in the year 2007 with a vision to redefine the orthodox infrastructure not only with regards to the curating and viewing process but also to acquire authentic and prime artworks.

'ICIA' is one of the largest grass root galleries in India and has been actively enhancing 'The Exhibition Experience' for the viewer. Over a period of 10 years ICIA has exhibited works of revered Modernists and established Contemporary Artists. The gallery has deftly carved a niche for itself by representing India's art culture with a balanced approach, showcasing the seminal attributes of the masters in tow with the experimental and disruptive vision of contemporary artists from within the country.

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ICIA
INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY INDIAN ART

