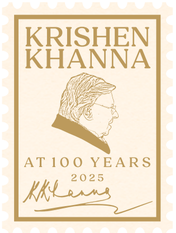
KRISHEN KHANNA AT 100

LEGACY OF A MODERN MASTER







FOR WHOM
THE BELL TOLLS

No man is an island,
Entire of itself.
Each is a piece of the continent,
A part of the main.
If a clod be washed away by the sea,
Europe is the less.
As well as if a promontory were.
As well as if a manor of thine own
Or of thine friend's were.
Each man's death diminishes me,
For I am involved in mankind.
Therefore, send not to know
For whom the bell tolls,
It tolls for thee.

-'Meditation 17', John Donne



KRISHEN KHANNA AT 100

LEGACY OF A MODERN MASTER

SAFFRONART | Namtech Fine Art

In association with Namtech Fine Art

Photography:
Portraits - Karan Khanna
Paintings - Raj Salhotra
Book Design: Mukesh K Mishra
Print: Archana Adv. Pvt. Ltd.

Copy of individual artworks vests
with the artist / Krishen Khanna Art LLP and Namtech Fine Art.





FOREWORD

It has been a profound privilege and rare good fortune to know and work with Krishen for a significant and important part of his life and career. His sincerity, boundless creative spirit, intellectual generosity, and deep humanity have left an indelible impression on all who have had the chance of engaging with him. To witness his artistic process is to experience a rare combination of wisdom, grace, and truth in motion. Even at a century of life, his passion remains undiminished, making every interaction a journey of inspiration and insight.

Happy 100th birthday Krishen - a remarkable milestone for a truly remarkable life!

SAFFRONART | NFA

And from all others who have been associated with Krishen

C A N V A S

For decades Krishen's quandary has been 'to paint or not to paint'. Krishen has often said 'When I draw, I feel I should leave the drawing as is and also wish to paint it in colour'. The foundation of these works is derived from this ever-present dilemma that Krishen has experienced throughout his career. A selection of Krishen's important drawings that still hold the yearning to be painted have been reproduced thereby producing three prints of each of the drawings. These large prints have then been hand painted in detail creating unique artworks while preserving the drawings that they have emerged from, which are displayed alongside these colourful artworks, displaying the origin of these paintings. Krishen's desire to add paint to these sketches has been accomplished. It may have taken him time, but Krishen has finally figured out how to have his cake and eat it too.



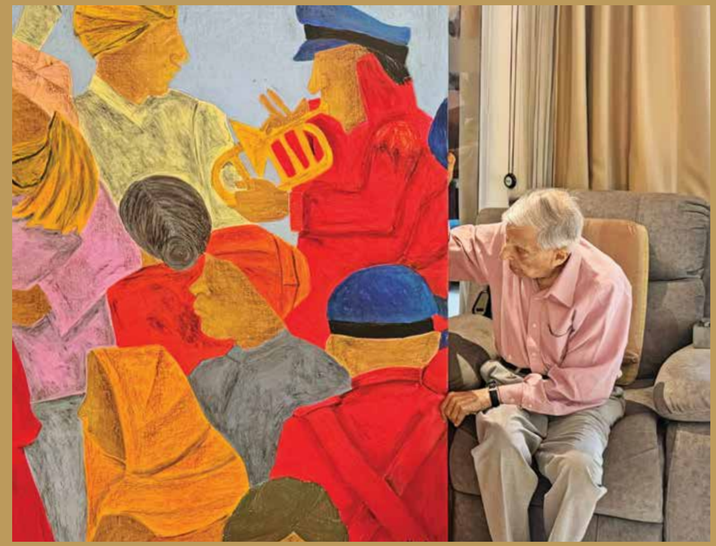


Charcoal on canvas | 72" x 240" (panel of five)



“Art can provide you with the metaphysical answers that you have been looking for even while you are involved in its creation. They call it drawing. I really have no name for it. It’s a compulsion, an itch. The more I scratch, the more I want to continue. It is enjoyable but it can also hurt when nothing emerges but an incomprehensible mess. Yet, for me, art is the ultimate bliss.”

KRISHEN KHANNA



Mixed media on canvas | 72” x 48”



Mixed media on canvas | 72” x 48”



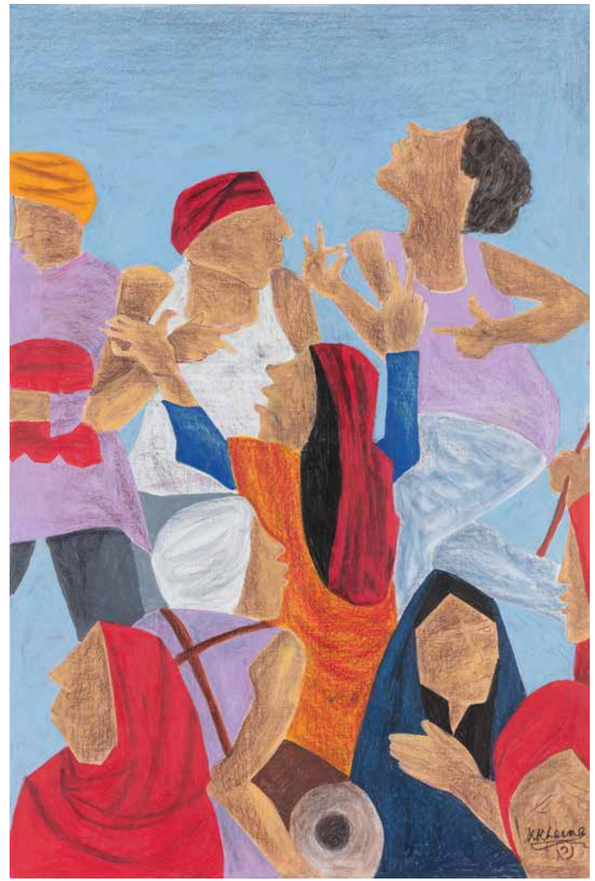
Mixed media on canvas | 72” x 48”



Mixed media on canvas | 72” x 48”



Mixed media on canvas | 72” x 48”



“When painters have lived through that length of time, they have a lot to look back to and reflect upon. A retrospective is not about the high peaks of your career, it is about the lock, stock and barrel of it all. It’s about the journey of time and tide as it were.”

KRISHEN KHANNA



Mixed media on canvas | 72” x 240” (panel of five)



Mixed media on canvas | 72” x 48”



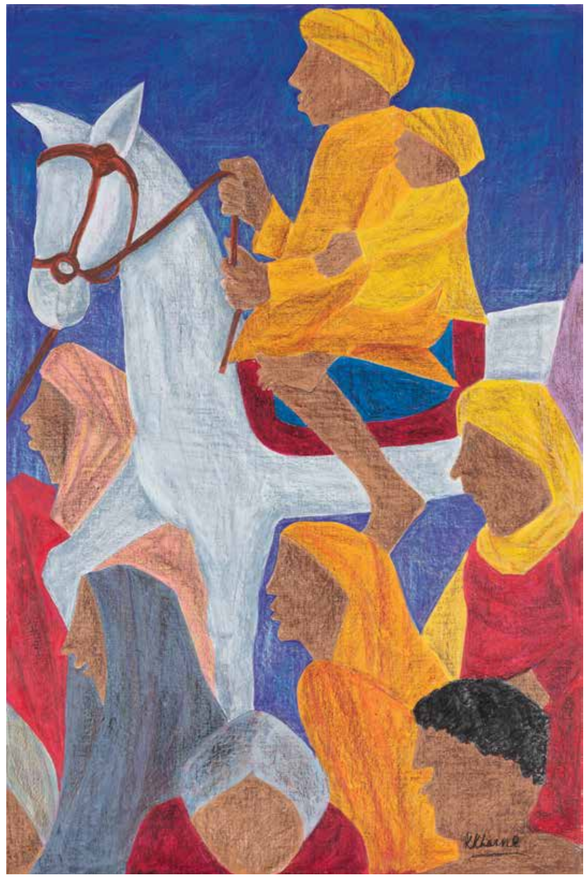
Mixed media on canvas | 72” x 48”



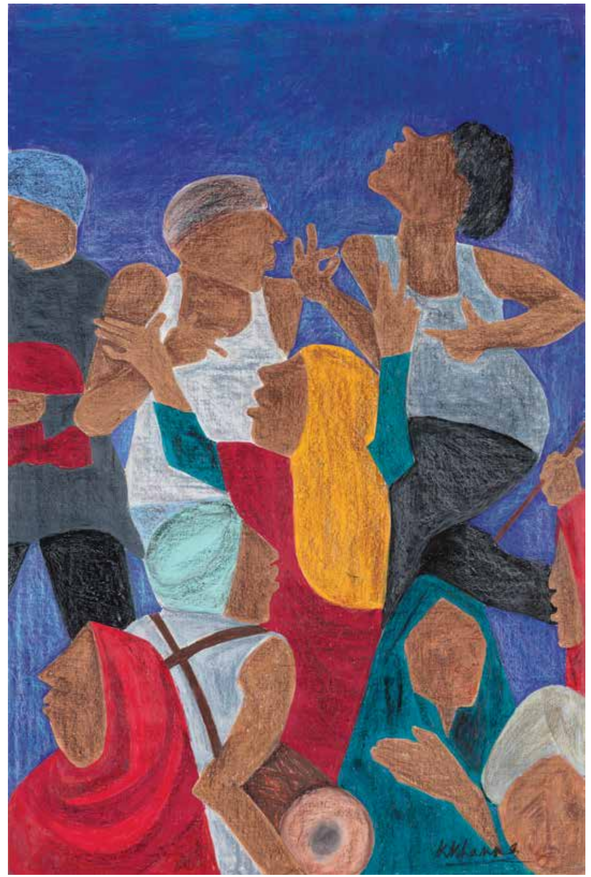
Mixed media on canvas | 72” x 48”



Mixed media on canvas | 72” x 48”



Mixed media on canvas | 72” x 48”



“This is a continuous procession, with no beginning and no end. If you look carefully, you may find yourself in it. And even if you don’t, you will still be there, because it encompasses all, man, beast, bird, land, water, air and fire, and all emotions that flesh is heir to. The procession is a pilgrimage for some, for others a visitation on earth as spectators who will partake of what is there and prepare to enter the circular journey again.”

KRISHEN KHANNA



Mixed media on canvas | 72” x 240” (panel of five)



Mixed media on canvas | 72” x 48”



Mixed media on canvas | 72” x 48”



Mixed media on canvas | 72” x 48”



Mixed media on canvas | 72” x 48”

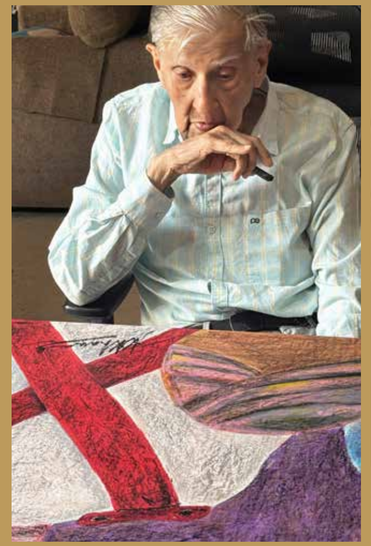


Mixed media on canvas | 72” x 48”



“I internalize what other people are going through... that is what I am going through also. I am not illustrating their lives. I used to see these fellows everyday.”

KRISHEN KHANNA







Mixed media on canvas | 38” x 24”









Mixed media on canvas | 41” x 26”

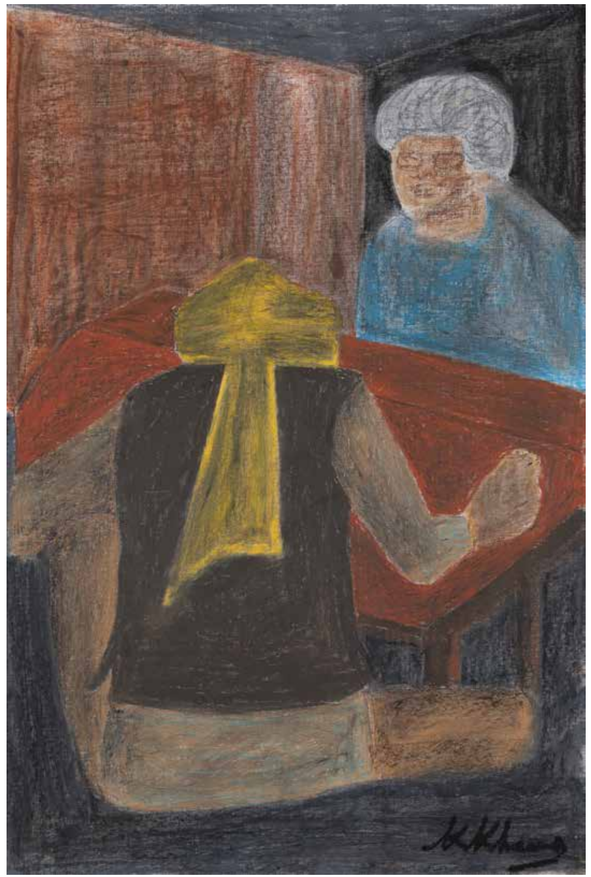








Mixed media on canvas | 38” x 28”



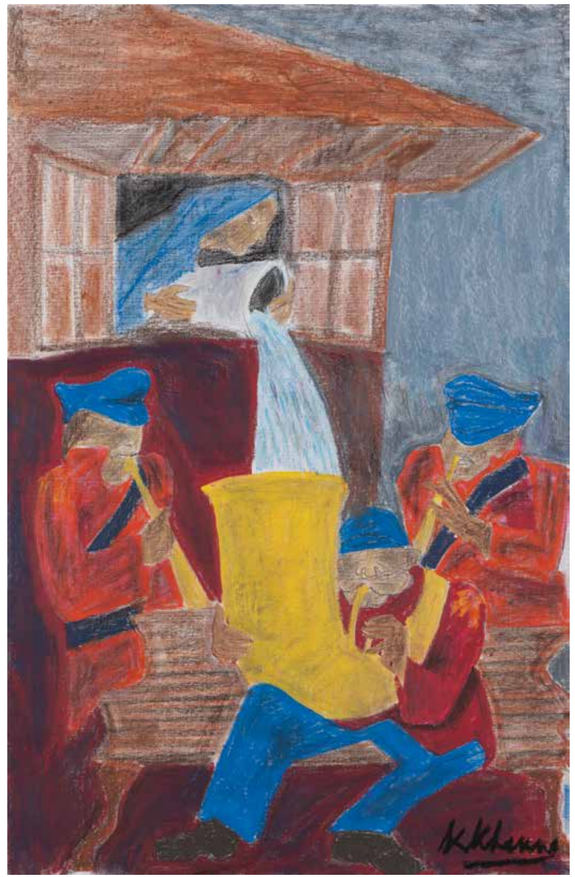






Mixed media on canvas | 41” x 24”







“Friendships are about the preciousness of being there for each other. Relationships have a closeness, a sense of comfort in the bonds that remain.”

KRISHEN KHANNA







Mixed media on canvas | 41” x 24”

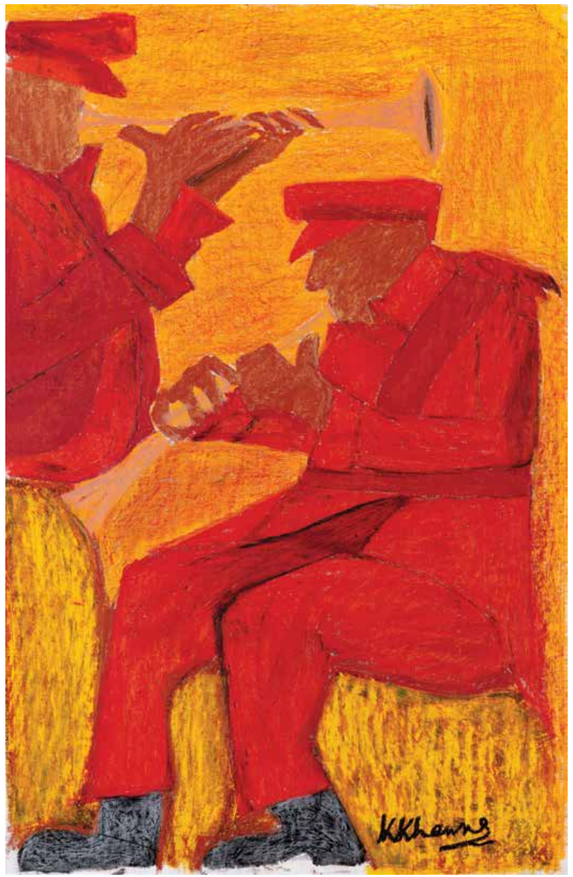








Mixed media on canvas | 41” x 24”









Mixed media on canvas | 41” x 24”









Mixed media on canvas | 41” x 24”

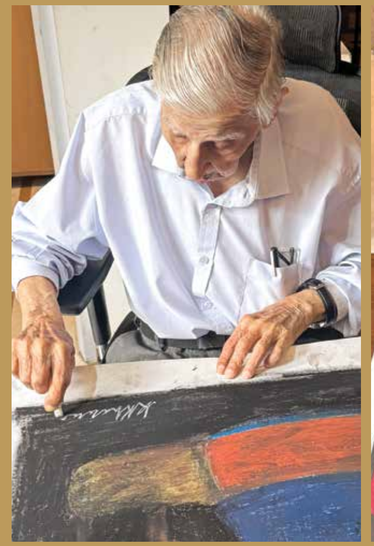


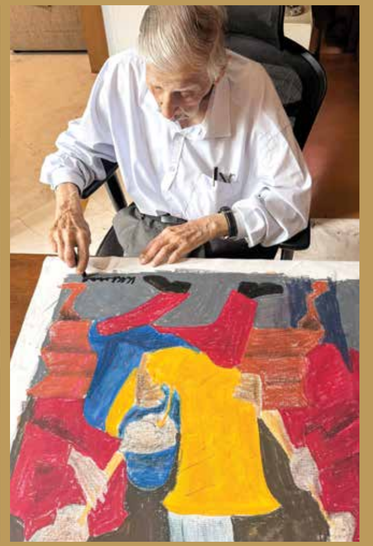




“Most people resort to creating categories to file away issues which they find difficult to resolve. I manage to live with an endless number of open ended thoughts.”

KRISHEN KHANNA

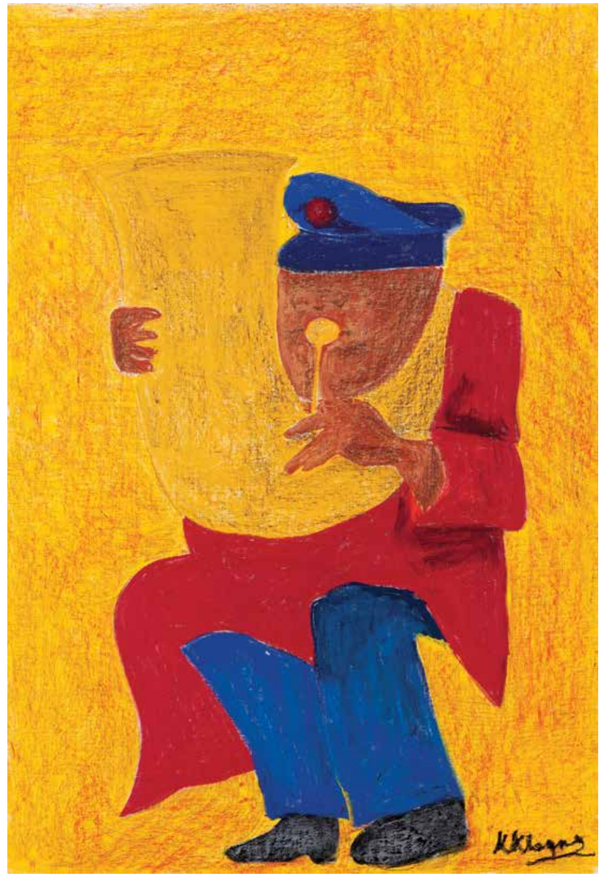






Mixed media on canvas | 36” x 24”









Mixed media on canvas | 36” x 24”







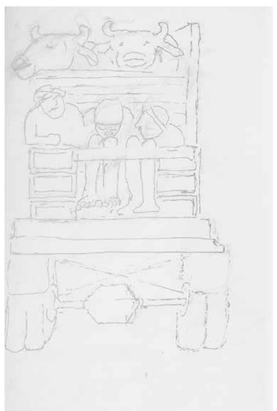








Mixed media on canvas | 36” x 24”



Mixed media on canvas | 38” x 24”







“Each Painting has a history and a destiny.”

KRISHEN KHANNA





Packard, 1932 | © Ramchander Nath Foundation, New Delhi | Images by Vicky Roy









Mixed media on canvas | 49” x 111”



SCULPTURE

Krishen's Bandwalla sculptures bring to life the unsung heroes of Indian wedding processions. Cast in fiber resin and bronze, these figures—trumpeters, drummers, and horn players—embody both celebration and quiet resilience. With a keen eye for human emotion, Krishen transforms these everyday musicians into powerful symbols of dignity, endurance, and the rhythm of life.



Prakash Chander Haran Wale
75” x 53” x 73” | Resinated Fibreglass with Automotive Paint











Prakash Chander Haran Wale
75” x 53” x 73” | Resinated Fibreglass with Automotive Paint











Prakash Chander Haran Wale
75” x 53” x 73” | Resinated Fibreglass with Automotive Paint









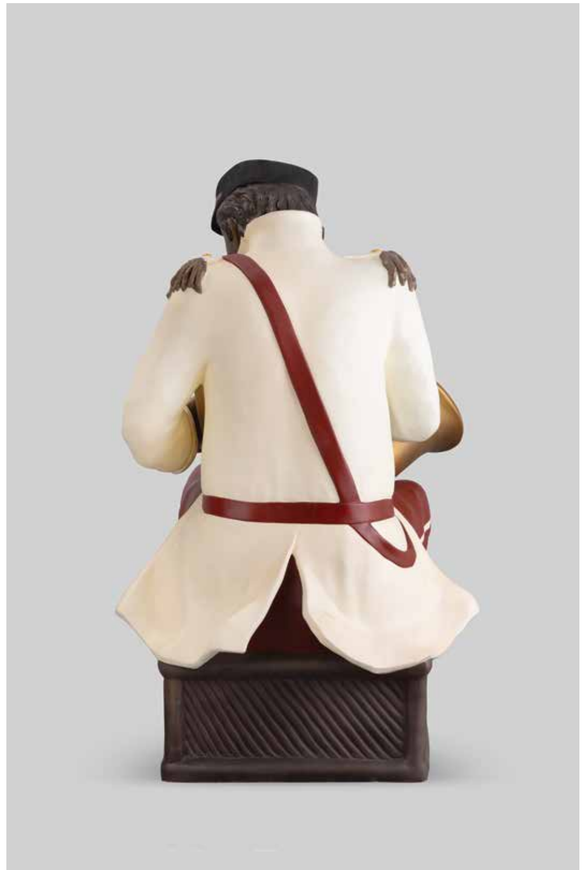


Prakash Chander Haran Wale
75” x 53” x 73” | Resinated Fibreglass with Automotive Paint











Prakash Chander Haran Wale
75” x 53” x 73” | Resinated Fibreglass with Automotive Paint











“These monumental Bandwalla sculptures are larger than life and maintain their casual poise.”

KRISHEN KHANNA



Raja Ram Tuba Wale
82” x 64” x 47” | Resinated Fibreglass with Automotive Paint











Raja Ram Tuba Wale
82” x 64” x 47” | Resinated Fibreglass with Automotive Paint











Raja Ram Tuba Wale
82” x 64” x 47” | Resinated Fibreglass with Automotive Paint











Raja Ram Tuba Wale
82” x 64” x 47” | Resinated Fibreglass with Automotive Paint











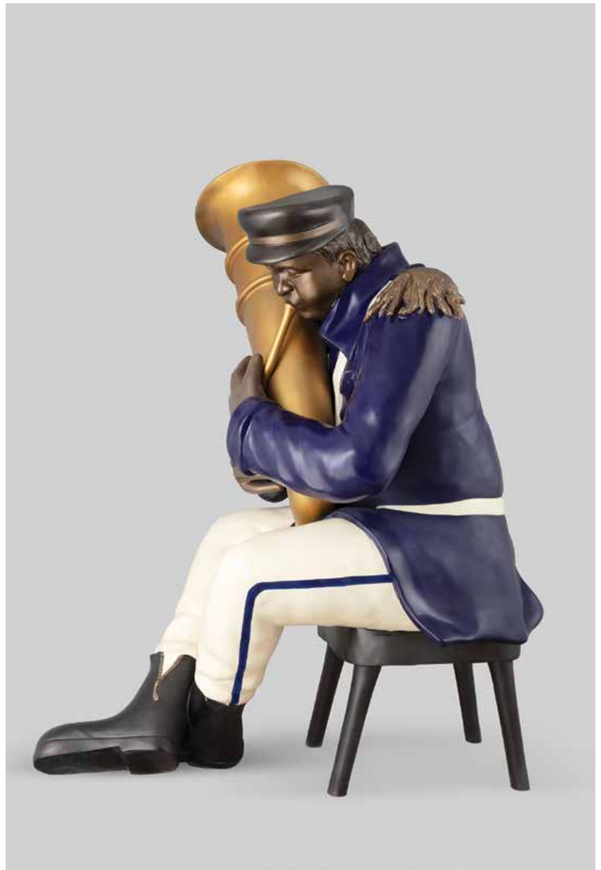
Raja Ram Tuba Wale
82” x 64” x 47” | Resinated Fibreglass with Automotive Paint











“The function of art is not decorative. True art defeats time, place and people. Art must go beyond a pretty picture. My gaze is independent of my pencil-holding hand. I think I could shut my eyes without ceasing to scribble. People say, ‘A map of an unknown galaxy’, ‘the pencil has become an extension of the nerves of my hand’, and other such nonsense. Sustained scribbling achieves only a small inroad which may dislodge an image. Sounds dramatic, doesn’t it? But it isn’t always so. I would repeat the contours of a subject I have tackled before, which is not to say that I would not go back to the same subject in the hope of discovering another dimension.”

KRISHEN KHANNA





Retd Captain Ramesh Kumar Accordian Walae
12" x 8" x 12"
Bronze Edition of 9



Shyam Pratap Bhompu Walae
12" x 8" x 8"
Bronze Edition of 9



Davinder Raj Tutu Walae
10” x 6” x 10”
Bronze Edition of 9



Rajpal Ringodi Tuba Walae
12” x 6” x 12”
Bronze Edition of 9



Rajinder Kaka Horn Walae
12” x 7” x 6”
Bronze Edition of 9



Gulratan Bhon Bhon Walae
12” x 6” x 4”
Bronze Edition of 9



Satwant Sher Singh Cymbal Walae
14” x 5” x 6”
Bronze Edition of 9



Adhikari Dada Drum Walae
12” x 5” x 5”
Bronze Edition of 9



Patinder Rawat Trumpet Walae
12" x 5" x 5"
Bronze Edition of 9



KC The Bandmaster
13" x 12" x 8"
Bronze Edition of 9

“What is certain, and which gives me some comfort,
is that a moment of my life was spent in such
absorption that bypassed time.”

KRISHEN KHANNA



Clay Models for sculptures
being cast in Bronze








JEWELLERY

Conceptualised by **Preeta Agarwal**
Designed & Manufactured by **Sanskriti Jewels**





Brooch
Gold Purity - 14K
Gross Weight - 24
Net Weight - 24.2
Diamond Weight
Clarity / Color - S
Gemstone - Blue
Weight - 1.20ct
Gemstone - Oran
Weight - 0.68ct





Brooch
Gold Purity - 14KT
Gross Weight - 15.485g
Net Weight - 15.033g
Diamond Weight - 1.07ct
Clarity / Color - SI / H-I
Gemstone - Orange Sapphire
Weight - 1.19ct



Button Cover
Gold Purity - 14KT
Gross Weight - 14.715g
Net Weight - 14.429g
Diamond Weight - 1.43ct
Clarity / Color - SI / H-I





Button Cover
Gold Purity - 14KT
Gross Weight - 13.790g
Net Weight - 13.496g
Diamond Weight - 1.10ct
Clarity / Color - SI / H-I
Gemstone - Emerland
Weight - 0.37ct





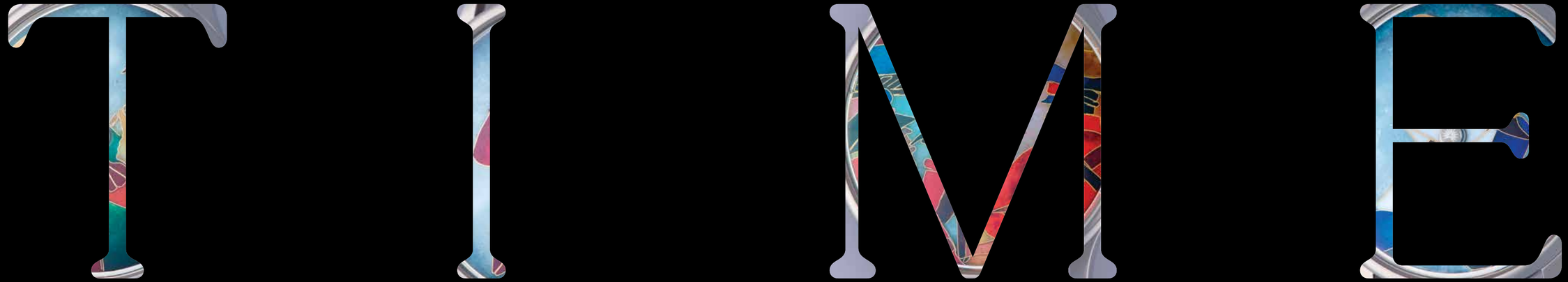








BANDWALLAS IN HARMONY WITH





These unique watches are a collaboration between Krishen and some of the best craftsmen across the world.. Each watch carries Krishen's founding legacy of the bandwallas juxtaposed and gilded in 24-carat gold wire.

These watches withstand the demands of contemporary art as well as creating an insignia of the cultural fabric of our country. The bandwallas are omnipresent and tied to rituals of our country from birth to the end of life.

Showcasing Swiss craftsmanship at its finest, upholding the standards of 'haute-horlogerie' with a touch of elegance, these masterpieces are in a 40mm case, measuring just 9.2mm in thickness. Powering these timepieces is a Peseux caliber mechanical hand-wound movement. With seventeen jewels and a slim height of only 2.5 mm, this movement seamlessly combines allure with functionality—embodying Swiss precision, elegance, and a deep reverence for horological tradition.





The Grand Feu Cloisonné dial is a stunning example of enamel artistry. Crafted in Georgia by a highly skilled enamel master, it features intricate designs using 24-carat gold wire and a vibrant colour palette. The meticulous creation process involves up to nine firings at high temperatures, with each firing posing risks of cracking or distortion. Yet, the successful outcome is a testament to exceptional craftsmanship. The adaptation of art colours, executed with care, honour the original artwork's integrity. The dials showcase Georgia's mastery of enamelling in the face of the unpredictable nature of the process.







The strap, crafted from premium alligator leather in France, is as unique as the watch itself. Each strap boasts natural patterns and textures, adding an organic touch to the design. Carefully selected and coloured to complement the dial, the rich hues and subtle sheen enhance both the visual appeal and comfort for the wearer of the watch.

Deguiret, a custom watchmaking company, takes pride in crafting one-of-a-kind timepieces with a personal touch. Seamlessly merging Swiss watchmaking, Georgian Cloisonné Enamel ‘Grand Feu’, and French leather craftsmanship, each watch is an exclusive work of art.










DEGUIRET


DEGUIRET UNIQUE PIECE
SWISS MECHANICAL MOVEMENT
SAPPHIRE CRYSTAL
ALL STAINLESS STEEL
WATER RESISTANT




timepieces
art collaboratio


DEGUIRET
Genuine Alligator
DEGUIRET
Genuine Alligator


HANDICRAFT

A few years ago, Krishen undertook the ambitious task of reimagining his paintings as tapestries—a medium vastly different from canvas. This required collaborating with master artisans who could faithfully translate his distinctive sensibility of colour, form, and texture into rich woven compositions using threads, beads, and textiles. The process demanded extreme precision, particularly in capturing subtle colour gradations in faces and bolder areas of flat colour in elements like the bandwallas' uniforms and instruments.

The project was a test of artistic synergy, where the painter's vision met the weaver's craft. It wasn't just about replication—it was about transformation, preserving the emotional depth and formal clarity of the originals while introducing the tactile richness of textile art. The resulting works are a testament to the meticulous collaboration and stand as compelling reinterpretations of Krishen's oeuvre in an entirely new medium.





Mixed media in textile micro beads & embroidery | 41” x 54”



Mixed media in textile micro beads & embroidery | 38.5” x 54”



Mixed media in textile micro beads & embroidery | 50” x 39”



Mixed media in textile & micro beads | 38.5” x 46.5”







DIGITAL ART

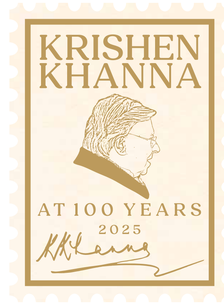
Celebration
Digital (MP4)
Edition 5 + 1AP
Studio NewArtX



“Through a series of happy coincidences, I have received so much from everyone in my life”

KRISHEN KHANNA









1925
Born in Lyallpur (Now Faisalabad, Pakistan)

1923-35
Schooling in Lahore at the Sacred Heart and Cathedral School. Passed two examinations of the Royal Drawing Society, London.

1936
Kipling Scholarship, Windsor, England

1940
Imperial Service College, Windsor, England







1945
B.A (Hons.) from Punjab University, Lahore

1945-46
Studio One with Sheikh Ahmed, Lahore

1946
J. Ray Bookshop, Lahore

1947-1961
Covenented Assistant at Grindley's Bank, India.

1950
Married Renuka Chatterji







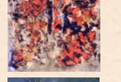
1952
Birth of his daughter Rasika

1954
Birth of his daughter Malti

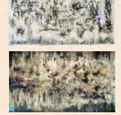
1955
USIS, Chennai

1956
Birth of his son Karan

1957
All India Fine Arts and Crafts Society (AIFACS), New Delhi
Tokyo Biennale











1958
Kumar Gallery, New Delhi

1960
Leicester Gallery, London
Solo Exhibition, Kumar Gallery, New Delhi
Sao Paulo Biennale

1961
Resigned from Grindlay's Bank
Tokyo Biennale
Ashoka Gallery, Kolkata
Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai

1962
Leicester Galleries, London

1962-63
Fellowship at Rockefeller Council, New York

1964
Artist-in-Residence, American University, Washington DC
Watkins Art Gallery. American University, Washington DC

1965
Egan Gallery, New York







1966
Lincoln Centre, New York

1968
New Art Centre, London
First International Triennale, New Delhi

1969
Experimental Photographs, Pundole Gallery, Mumbai

1971
Contemporary Indian Art, Renwick Gallery Smithsonian Institute, Washington DC





1973
Pundole Gallery, Mumbai

1974
Black Partridge, New Delhi

1975
Dhoomimal Art Gallery, New Delhi

1979
Modern Asian Art, Fukuoka Art Museum, Japan

1980
Rabindra Bhavan, Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi







1981
Inaugural Exhibition,
Roopankar Museum, Bharat Bhavan, Bhopal
Chola Migrations Mural at ITC Chola, Chennai

1983
Dome Mural at ITC Maurya Hotel
Exhibition of drawings, Garhi Studios, New Delhi

1985
Ram Kumar and Krishen Khanna, Gallery 7, Mumbai





1986
Exhibition of drawings and paintings, Sarla Art Centre, Chennai
President's Award at Baghdad International Festival of Art

1987
Festival of India, Japan
Coups de Coeur, Geneva

1988
First International Biennale, Lahore, Pakistan





1989
Centre for Contemporary Art, New Delhi
Sahitya Kala Parishad
Award, New Delhi
Gold Medal, First International Biennale of Art, Lahore Pakistan

1990
Padma Shri, Government of India

1991
Gallery Espace, New Delhi
The Fifth Biennale, Havana Cuba







1994
Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi

1995
Sakshi Gallery, Mumbai

2001
Kumar Art Gallery, New Delhi
Living Legends of Indian Contemporary Art, Tao Art Gallery, Mumbai

2003
Exhibition of drawings, Pundole Art Gallery, Mumbai







2004
Lalit Kala Ratna from the President of India

Ari Airing, Pundole Art Gallery, Mumbai

2005
Saffronart and Berkeley Square Gallery, London

Saffronart (Mumbai, New York, London)

2007
Saffronart, Berkeley Square Gallery, Royal Academy, London

Aspects of Modern and Contemporary Indian Sculpture, Saffronart



2010
Krishen Khanna: A Retrospective, Saffronart

Sakshi Gallery, Mumbai

Gallery Threshold, New Delhi

Essential, Eclectic... Ephemeral, The Harrington Mansions, Kolkata
Akademi, Commonwealth Games, New Delhi

Master's Corner, Indian Contemporary Art Journal, Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai

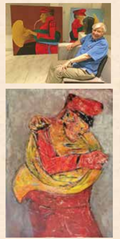
Tao Art Gallery, Mumbai
Bharat Ratna! Jewels of Modern Indian Art, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

Chawla Art Gallery, New Delhi



2011
Padma Bhushan, Government of India

2012
Time Unfolded, Part 2, Kiran Nadar Museum of ART (KNMA), New Delhi



2013
Ideas of the Sublime, Vadehra Art Gallery at Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi

Edge of Reason and beyond, into pure creativity, Indian Art Circle at Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi

The Discerning Eye: Modern Masters, Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi

2014
Ode to Monumental: Celebration, Visuality, Ideology, Saffronart at Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi and Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai

A Far Afternoon –A painted saga – Piramal Art Foundation



2015
When the band begins to play..., Grosvenor Gallery, London

Abby Grey and Indian Modernism: Selections from the NYU Art Collection, Grey Art Gallery, New York University, New York

2016
Krishen Khanna: Drawings & Paintings, Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi

Krishen Khanna, Saffronart, Mumbai

2020
K Khanna 95 years Artaholics, Karan Khanna. At ITC Maurya

The Quartet of Life Mural – Adani Corporate Centre, Ahmedabad

2021
The Last Supper, Saffronart, Mumbai

2022
The Last Man Standing, Saffronart

2024
My Sketchbook in Colour, Saffronart

2025
Alchemies of Form, Saffronart, New Delhi

SAFFRONART

Website: www. saffronart. com
Facebook: @saffronart
Instagram: @saffronartindia
Twitter: @saffronart
Pinterest: @saffronart
LinkedIn: @saffronart

ABOUT SAFFRONART

Founded in 2000 by Minal and Dinesh Vazirani, Saffronart is a leading international auction house, and India's most reputed, with nearly five hundred auctions to its credit. Its flagship gallery is in Mumbai, with offices in New Delhi, London, and New York. At the forefront of selling Indian art, Saffronart has, over the past twenty-one years, held online and live auctions, exhibitions, and Dialogues in Art, working with collectors, gallerists, and artists to develop a strong market for art and aesthetics. Its focus is to bring transparency to the auction process and provide easy access and information to collectors around the world. Saffronart's services go beyond auctions to include private sales, appraisals, and valuations for clients. Saffronart has set several global benchmarks for online auctions and was the subject of a case study at Harvard Business School in 2005.

ABOUT KRISHEN KHANNA ART LLP

Krishen Khanna Art LLP, a Public Art Initiative; an endeavour to make art accessible to everyone, with an aim to showcase the incredible works of artist Krishen Khanna across various locations in India through sculpture and other mediums to create accessible and engaging art experiences for the general public. The introduction of public art in India represents a significant step towards fostering a more culturally vibrant and inclusive society. This initiative would create a legacy of art that enriches our urban landscapes and connects with the community on a profound level. By celebrating the talent of Krishen Khanna along with making art an integral part of everyday life, we can preserve India's rich cultural tapestry and elevate public spaces through the power of art potential. Krishen Khanna Art LLP represents the interests of the artist and is the official entity incorporated by the artist with a select group of partners to carry his legacy forward through his artworks.



“Through a series of happy coincidences, I have received so much from everyone in my life”

KRISHEN KHANNA

