

RAJINDER SINGH (B.1964)

He is an artist, mathematician and researcher who holds an enduring interest in South Asian magico-religious belief systems, and the shape and space that they deny us. In 1993, he obtained a PhD in Engineering & Mathematics at the Queen's University Belfast (QUB), UK. In 2010, he achieved his Masters degree in Fine Arts from LASALLE College of the Arts, Singapore, and has been a full time artist ever since. His art practice is multifaceted, as he explores the variety of ways the human body unfolds at the intersections of the world of the otherworldly and the dynamics of global modernity.

In 2020, Rajinder did a solo presentation entitled *Border Tours* as part of the Tulca Festival of Arts, in the An Post Gallery, Galway, Ireland. In the same year, he also presented *Un-migrant-ing*, a solo exhibition of painting, drawing, installation, sculpture at the LinenHall Arts Centre Gallery, Mayo, Ireland. The artworks presented are based on a text on the 19th century unverified sighting of the Purple Martin in Dublin, from the Museum of Science and Art (National Museum of Ireland). The show is developed around an 'unverified report' on the said bird.

He presented a special performance project called *'The Undiscovered Country - a reflection on mortality through performance art'* at Art Stage Singapore, Marina Bay Sands Exhibition Centre in 2018 led in collaboration with Italian artist Daniela Beltrani. Together, they invited four fellow artists to perform a piece about the meditation of death and dying. The award-winning performance artists involved were Ezzam Rahman, Sophia Natasha Wei, Isabelle Desjeux and Tinu Verghis.

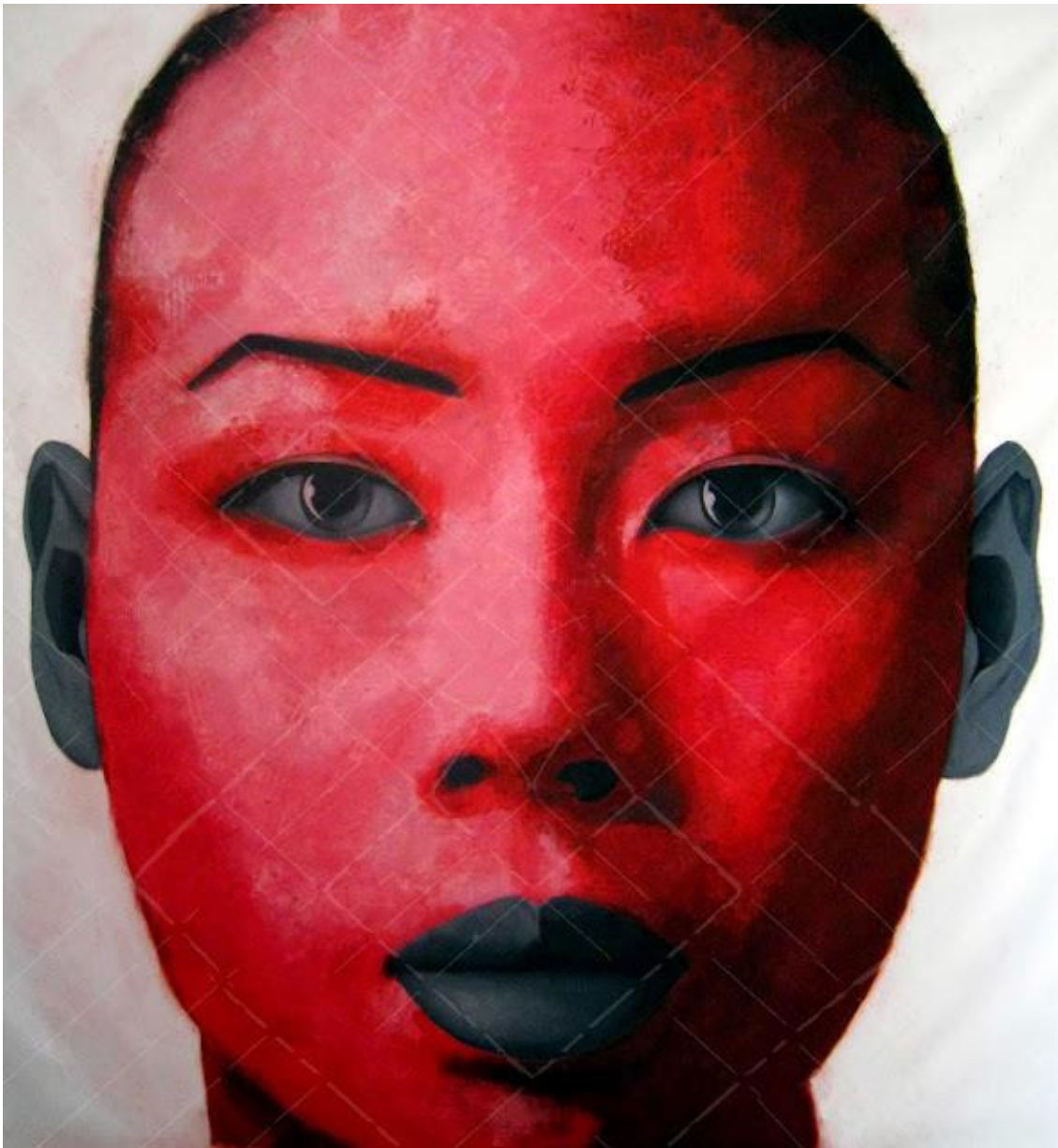
'Woundbloom' was a project that was conceived in 2017, where the idea of the wound in its many different forms, physical, mental and metaphorical sense is a recurrent motif in much of Rajinder's work. Rajinder sees the wound as failure of language when the wound itself becomes the language, articulating secrets in the presence of pain through the testimony of cut and ripped skin. Rajinder's wounds speak impossibly not only of a trauma in the past but reanimates the boundary between existence and non existence to reveal conditions of possibility that exceed the limits of the suffering flesh and gives us a glimpse of that blurry unity, the great throbbing consciousness beyond. These aspects of language and the wound are embodied especially in Rajinder's assembled gods that are at once scarred fragmented deities and healing, embracing unities.

'Cage of Deliverance' (2016) returned Rajinder to his distant past, to a life in Malaysia, to a pageantry of human spirit triumphant over flesh, in order to construct spacious cages in his paintings, free to roam about in, their oceanesque tranquility oblivious to the trauma transcribed onto their very walls.

In **'A Paradigm Shift - Relecting on Twenty Years of The Malaysian Art Scene'**, Rajinder's *'Last Rites in Exile'*, *'suddenly I felt an enormous tiredness coming over me'* and *'rewind back to summer 75 years ago'* explore ideas around identity and belonging through a vocabulary of movements on canvas from the perspective of his grandfather's relationship with his turban and consequently his God, prioritising his gestures and their historical weight in worship. The artist questions time, space, place, memories and historical narrative through his choreographic practice through the act of painting.



Rajinder Singh
A Weighted State
Mixed Media on Canvas
213cm x 150cm
2006



Rajinder Singh
Lopez
acylic on polyester cloth
165cm x 182cm
2009



Rajinder Singh
Inimitable Southall
Bitumen, acrylic paint, oil paint, varnish on unprimed canvas
120cm x 120cm
2011

Exhibition:
Mixed hanging of works by represented artists
Group Show
April – May 2014
WEI-LING CONTEMPORARY



Rajinder Singh

I am a black ocean, leaping and wide

Acrylic on acetate

122cm (H) x 248cm (W) / 48" (H) x 97.6" (W)

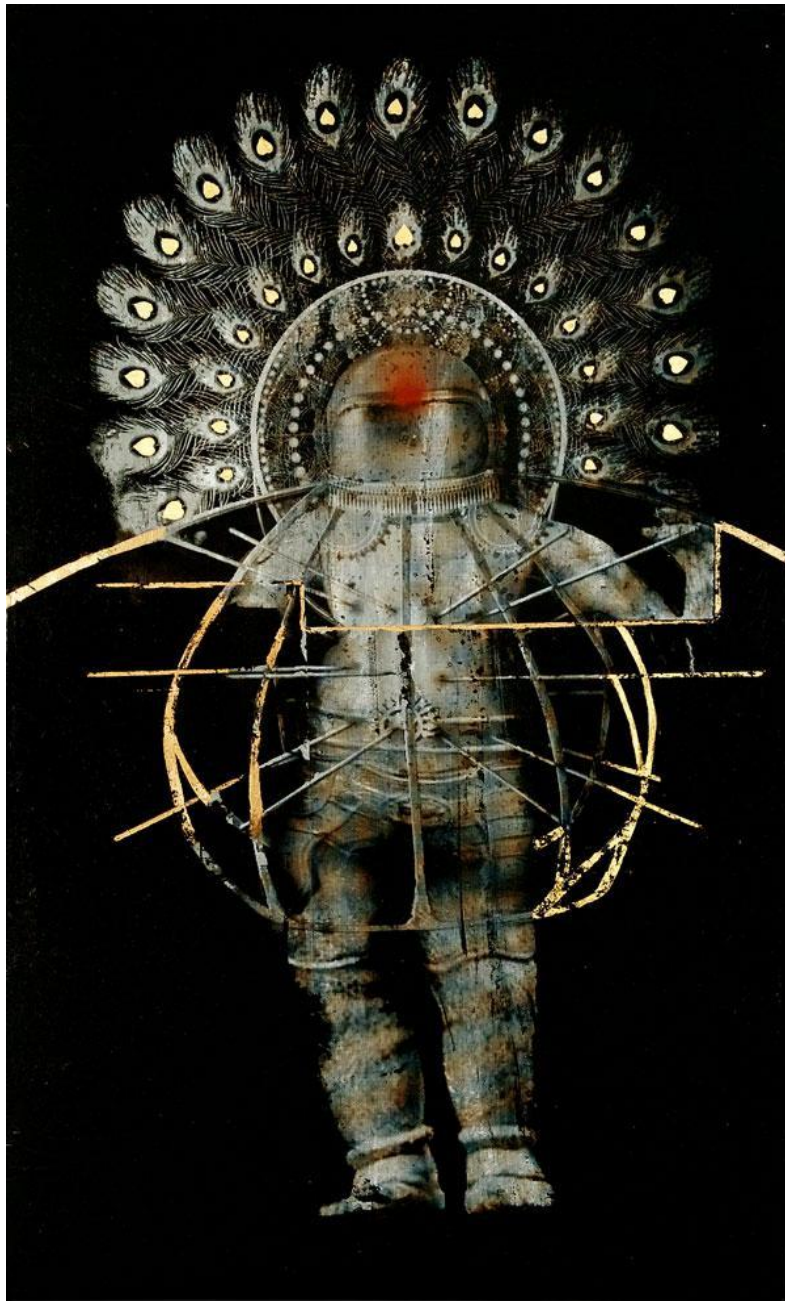
2014

Exhibition:

"...the ceiling floats away with a sigh.."

9 July – 4 August 2014

WEI-LING CONTEMPORARY



Rajinder Singh

Atonement

Oil, powder and gold leaf on canvas

147.5cm x 240cm

2016

Exhibition:

Cage of Deliverance

Rajinder Singh

20 August – 30 September 2016

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