

# Blues Browns and Greens

by

**Balaji Ponna**

artdistrict

**XIII**

October 7, 2017

# Blues Browns and Greens

**Writing on painting is easy if you think writing and painting don't mix. So long as paintings not writing and writing is not painting easy enough to keep writing (or painting). But it is just bad to think that writing and painting are simply the same sort of thing.**

Geoff Bennington.  
Deconstruction is not what you think.

Picture would be somewhat difficult to write about if their sub semiotic marks were ultimately beyond the reach of linguistic analogies as many people take them to be, but picture would be even more difficult, and far more analytically engaging, if marks were neither hopelessly beyond the reach of analysis, nor entirely assimilable into the system of semiosis. Both of those possibilities are reductive in their own ways: positing that marks are non semiotic give up a large part of what pictures are, and claiming marks are signs more or less avoids reading pictures as such by making them into other kinds of object.. I don't think pictorial marks can be discussed on the model of written marks, but neither are they inarticulable, inchoate mutterings forever divided from the signs of language. Semiotics, I think, has several deleterious effects on the ways we understand picture. Despite its claim to be neutral between linguistic and other sign system, semiotics slights the meaning of marks, bringing visual narratives unpleasantly close to written ones (*so that without illustrations in the text, it would sometimes be difficult to tell if a semiotic account were referring to a painting or another text*). In the end, semiotics shrinks the notion of what a picture is, assimilating picture to texts and overlooking their painted strangeness..

## Anchoring the Other...

Blues, greens and brown “The temporary context in constant viewing “allude to Balaji Ponna’s most recent set of paintings. What I would be more of grasping is not that of making an abstract generality of his work nor a prefecture gesture of a text and preface and their relationship. What drives me to do is a intertextual reading as well as contextualizing his work in a pluralistic global scenario of art where diverse languages of visual art coexist in a same plane, excepting differences in art I would also like to trace the process of a constant shift of imageries essential sing the concept of being and becoming a perpetual drive, reflecting at oneself, and end up with a auto critical gesture.

What is clearly visible in Balaji’s work is a strong narrative approach a surreal plane with different imageries formulating a language of its own which is highly eclectic in nature...abstract images stand along with imageries of mundane objects followed by an ambiguity for the viewer, free to interpret with or without any preconceive notion of art. a textual discourse . “Silent as Grave” depict a landscape with a sense of tranquility a grave stands an object of desire. “The temporary context in constant viewing “A cabinet staked with different objects a symbolic representation of objects with a strong narrative. “Sending a message to God and he replies in rain” In this work one can distinctively see two different pictorial language a naturalistic representation of a group of people in the centre while rain interestingly perceived in a different manner.”A barren tree with its burden fruits” the work has a political sub text also has a reference to those farmers who committed suicide because of ongoing issues in main stream politics. “At the end I am able to see the sky and the stars” an image of pig represent the under privileged section within the society, and their resistance to the hegemonic discourses. By the end of the day pig’s desire to see the sky got materialize.

Manoj Mahanta



**"Silent as grave"**  
*84x60 inches*

**oil & soot on canvas**



**" In the end, I am able to see the sky and stars"**

*78x42 inches*

**oil on canvas**



**" A barren tree with its burden fruits"**

*72x60inches*

**oil on canvas**



**" Silence is also conversation"**

*84x60inches*

**Acrylic on Canvas**



**" I feel like I am diagonally parked in a parallel world"**

*96x60 inches*

**oil on canvas**



**" He who eat fire craps fire"**  
*54x54 inches*

**oil on canvas**



**"A madman sees what he sees"**

*72x60 inches*

**oil on canvas**



**" The temporary context in constant viewing"**

*54x54inches*

**oil on canvas**



**" Sending a message to god and he replies in rain"**

*36x36 inches*

**oil on canvas**



**" Yelling at the sky"**

*84x60inches*

**oil on canvas**



**" Happily ever after "**

*78x48 inches*

**oil on canvas**



**" The night watchman wife is virgin"**

*78x48 inches*

**oil on canvas**



**" God may not follow you.. But the dog will"**

*36x36 inches*

**oil on canvas**



**" Artist in residency/emergency"**

*36x48 inches*

**oil on canvas**



**"Silent Initiation"**

*14x14 inches*

**oil on canvas**



**“Look Like a Fish tank, Without Water”**

*54x54 inches*

**oil on canvas**



**" Most people think that, great God will..."**

*18.5x26.5 inches*

**oil on canvas**



**" The wall flowers"**

*20.5x28,5inches*

**water color on acid free paper**



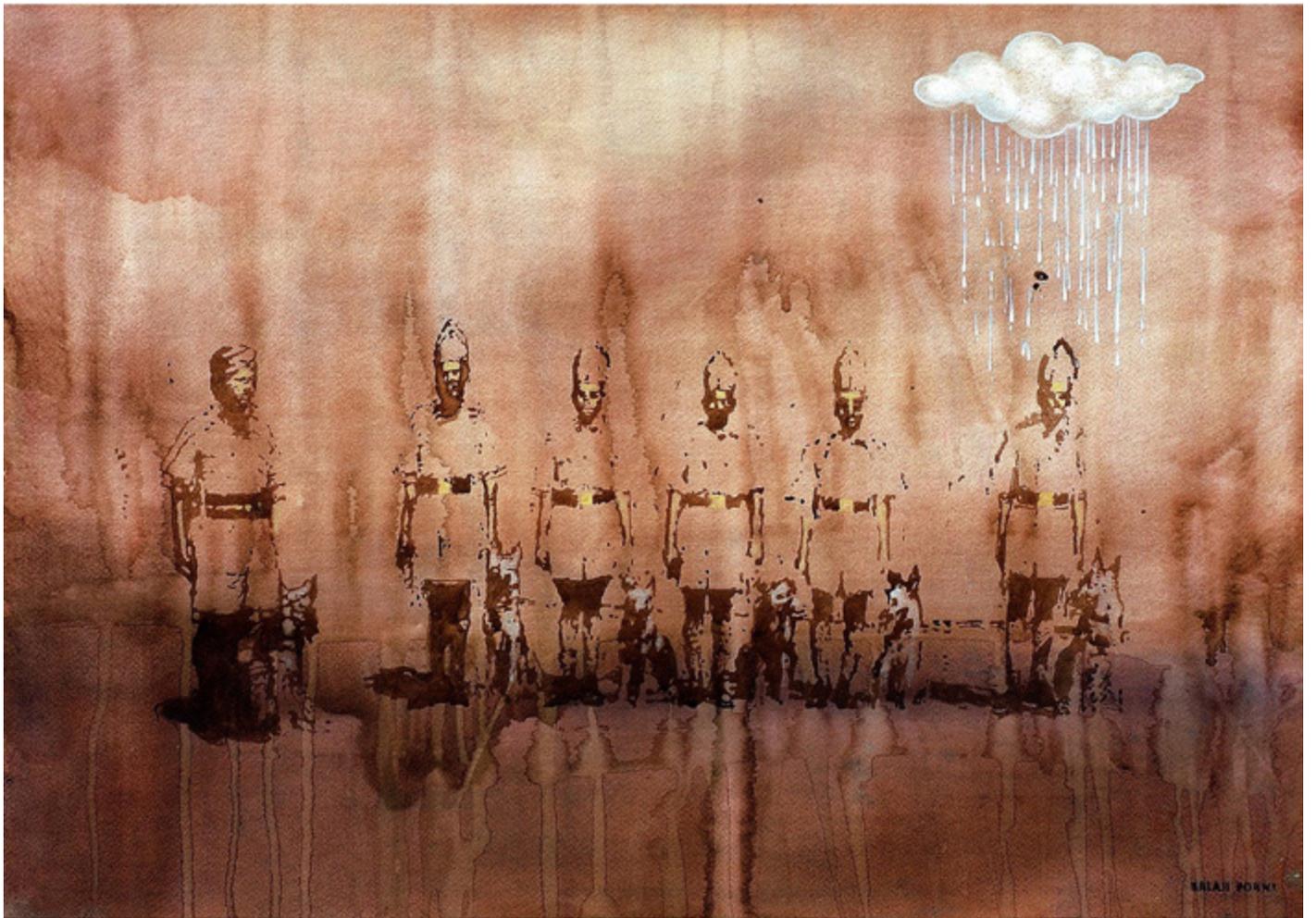
**"Enlightment"**  
*18.5x26.5 inches*

**water color on acid free paper**



**"First rain"**  
21x29 inches

water color on acid free paper



**"The Spying Cloud"**  
*18.5x26.5 inches*

**water color on paper**

# Balaji Ponna

## Qualification

M. F. A.(Graphics) From Viswa Bharti University Shantiniketan.

B. F. A.(Graphics) From Andhra University, Visakhapatnam. A.P.

## Solo Exhibition

2015 -"The Mirror has no Heart" at Art District XIII, collaboration with The Guild Art Gallery, New Delh,

"Looking is not seeing" solo show in The Guild Art Gallery, Mumbai, "Monuments" a solo project at India Art summit by the Guild at Gallery Mumbai at New Delhi.

2010- "The Things I say, "A Solo Show at Studio La Citta, Verona, Italy

2009- 'Black Smoke', at Bose Pacia & the Guild, Mumbai at Bose Pacia-Kolkata.

2007 - UNTITLED"- Osmosis Art Gallery, Mumbai.

## Exhibition & Participations:

2017 -" Forking Paths" An curated show at Fine Arts Gallery, Baroda, Installation for second edition of white field art collective and Art Chutney Bangalore, Hub-9 group show in Faculty Art Gallery, Baroda.

2016 - "A New Space" a group show at Nazar Art Gallery, Vadodara., "The Bird Project" by Vcare at Baroda.

2015 - A Group Show at Kalakriti Art Gallery, Hyderabad. "Known Sense" A Kitsch Art Group show at faculty of fine arts gallery, Vadodara. "A4-Art" at Priyarshi art gallery, Vadodara and Mumbai, "CIMA Award Show" at CIMA Art Gallery, Kolkata. "VAD FEST-Baroda Chronicles" An International Arts & Cultural Art Festival, Baroda.

2014 - Regional art exhibition by Lalit Kala academy. Chennai. A Group show at 'Art Steam'-Singapore. A group show in Hyatt Hotel, Indian art consultants LLP, at Raipur. "Feb. show-2014" at ABS Laxness Gallery, Baroda.

2013- The Fondazione Benetton of Treviso-by Luciano Benetton, Ponzano, Italy. "Fluid" water color show at Site Art Gallery, Makarpura, Baroda. "Duality of image" at fine arts gallery, Barod. "Hail" a curated show by madhu venugpoalan, at MNS Art Gallery and Museum of Kerala, Kochi. Indian Art Summit 2013, by The Guild Art Gallery, New Delhi.

2012- show at Taj ends by The Guild art gallery. Mumbai. "Roti-Kapada& Makan " curated by Anubhav nath at ojas gallery New Delhi. "Art Chennai"Latitude28 Gallery, New Delhi.

2011- "Big picture-2" at Sumukha Art Gallery, Bangalore . "Giant elephant-Indian contemporary art. At Gong art space, South Korea. "New Trends in south" at Apparao Galleries Chennai. "Glocal-des parades" a group show, at Sarjan art gallery, Baroda and Derby Shire U.K

2010 - Bangalore hubba!!" apparao galleries, Chennai. "10x10" show at gallery threshold, New Delhi. "Art celebrates 2010 New Delhi commonwealth games 2010, New Delhi . "therefore graphiti" An group show in the guild, and saffron art, at Mumbai & New York. Art Basel, with studio la citta Italy. Arte fiera Bologna 2010. "Des parades: the challenge of Glocal, Derbyshire, UK "June show" at 1x1 art gallery, Dubai. Artist of the month- by Saffron Art, Mumbai.

2009 -"A group exhibition of paintings, by Navsar, Devi art foundation, New Delhi. "New van-guard" a group conducted by saffron art@ the guild New York. India art summit 2009, by the guild art gallery, at New Delhi. India art summit, by Nature morte, New Delhi. Residency Show at the Guild, Mumbai. Group Show at Nature Morte, New Delhi. 'Big picture' Group Show at Sumukha gallery, Bangalore. 'Contemporary Exoticism" curated by Marco Meneguzzo, at Studio La Citta, Verona, ITALY.

Basel Art fair, 2009 with studio la Citta, Italy. Hong Kong Art fair 2009 with The Guild, Mumbai. Work has been selected for France print biennale, France. On the paper 'group show at gallery with difference, Kolkata. preview at faculty gallery, MSU, Baroda. 'July Show', The Guild Gallery Mumbai.

2008 - A group show at Tulika arts Gallery, Mumbai. 'In the midst', Group show organized by zamaana arts, at Tehresharan gallery New York. 'Chronicles of Unspoken', group show at Travancore art gallery, New Delhi.

2007- 'Cross Roads', Anant Art Gallery, New Delhi, at Kolkata. Kala Ghoda art festival, by Osmosis art gallery, Mumbai.

Bharat Bhavan 7th international print biennial, Bhopal.

2006-"Trans-Local" an group show at faculty exhibition hall, Baroda. 'Stepping in Stepping out', by Art konsult & threshold art gallery at India habitat, New Delhi. "American curry" A print show at Abs Lanxess gallery Baroda by Tennessee university, U.S.A.

'Modus operandi', group show, ABS Lanxess gallery Baroda. 'Sense N Blend', Kaleidoscope art gallery, Baroda.

2005- 'Distilled embers' prints show organized by Alternatives & threshold art gallery, New Delhi. 'Are we like this only', Curated by Vidya Shivdas, Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi. Tokyo mini print biennial, Japan.

2003 - A group show of prints, at Nandan Art Gallery, Santiniketan.

2002 - 'Fusion' prints show at college of fine arts, Chandigarh. An exchange exhibition of prints, at Saga College of art, Japan

All India Exhibition of Drawing, by PKLA, Chandigarh. All India Exhibition of Art, by IAFA, Amritsar.

2001 -"Sojourn" artist camp and show, at Vizag, by threshold art gallery, New Delhi. Telugu university art exhibition, Hyderabad.

## **Participations:**

2001- Artist Camp organized by threshold art gallery New Delhi, at Vizag.

2003- National painting camp, organized by Lalit kala academy, at Hyderabad.

2005- Sojourn - Artist camp, organized by threshold art gallery, at Vizag.

2012- National print making camp, organized by Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi.

2016 - Harmony Artist Residency, by Reliance group of companies, Mumbai.

## **Scholarships and awards:**

2015 - Qualified for National Eligible Test [NET]

1997-2001: Merit Award [gold medal] from Andhra University.

2001-2003: Telugu University Scholraship, Hyderabad.

2001 -2003: Merit Award from Vishwa Bharati University, Shantiniketan.

2004-2005: H RD National Scholar Ship for young Artist.

## **Lives and works in Baroda**