

List of paintings (copyright Aparna Maladkar)

All images and photographs are copyright of Aparna Maladkar

Under the naked trees

Environmental and Climate Series, 2018

Medium: Watercolour and ink on paper

Description: The story of the seasonal pruning cycle of trees on the London streets.

Silence is a dark language

Humanitarian and Social Series, 2019

Medium: Watercolour and ink on paper

Description: The inspiration for the painting came during a course on philosophy in practice with the realisation that for many people silence can be all consuming.

Green Gold: The only gold we should be saving

Environmental and Climate Series, 2019

Medium: Acrylic pens and gold leaf on paper

Description: Today, do we *really* need any other gold than the trees and the nature?

Knock on your heart's door, find the golden core of humanity and let it spread like wild fires

Humanitarian and Social Series, August 2019

Medium: Watercolour pens, mixed media on paper

Description: The news throughout July and early August 2019 had been extremely sad...mass shootings, flooding, Kashmir, Brexit, Hong Kong, climate change, the far right...and it seemed never ending. I had the intense feeling of wanting to be swept under the Earth in a safe cocoon. It made me extremely anxious and this painting was the outcome to support the struggles of humanity. Think for a second before every oppressive thought that comes to your mind, bury it deep, search for the golden stream of humanity within you, and make it flower with hope. If we don't stand up for ourselves, who will?

The Wrath of the Wave

Environmental and Climate Series; Humanitarian and Social Series, 8 August 2019

Medium: Watercolour pens on paper

Description: As I waited to join my family in August 2019 in my hometown, Kolhapur following my father's death, the punishing monsoons were ravaging the city. The ongoing severe floods in Kolhapur region had cut off the entire city and nearby towns and villages as national highways, train lines and roads went under water. Approximately 50,000+ people were being evacuated, and the army and navy were headed for rescue. As my concern grew for people, friends, family and animals in my hometown, I had no idea when I would be able to join my family. I realised then that the things I held most dear – represented in the yellow and orange circle I call the Flower of Life – were being consumed by the waves and were surrounded by high waters. The thought sank in that the Earth and her forces of Nature were unhappy with us.

The Concept of `Home

Humanitarian and Social Series, June 2020

Medium: Digital Art

Description: 'We carry our homes, wherever we go, in our hearts', a refugee said to me. 'I understood from a very early age that home is not necessarily a permanent place. It is an idea we carry with us wherever we go. We are our homes.' The painting with refugees carrying their concepts of home with them during migration and displacement is a tribute to all refugees on the World Refugee Day (20 June 2020).

Grenfell Gaman

Humanitarian and Social Series, 14 December 2019

Medium: Acrylics and ink on paper

Description: On 14 June 2017, a fire broke out in the 24-storey Grenfell Tower block of flats in London. The structural and architectural failure led to 72 residents losing their lives that day, more than 70 people were injured, while 223 people managed to escape. This painting is in remembrance to the people of Grenfell Tower, and created for one of the Silent Walks that was held 30 months post the tragedy. The letters at the top of the painting mean 'Gaman', which is a Japanese word that means 'enduring the seemingly unbearable with patience and dignity'. It is dedicated to all the families of Grenfell Tower and all the people who have helped. Peace and justice!

The flood of creativity: The resilient potter

Environmental and Climate Series; Strong Women Series; Humanitarian and Social Series, 2019

Medium: Watercolours on paper

Description: Following massive floods in August 2019 in my hometown, Kolhapur, I had a chance to talk with some locals like this woman potter, who had lost all her creations and tools for her livelihoods in the floods. The painting embodies the perseverance of this potter to plough on to make a living in spite of the walls of her home literally crumbling around her due to the flooding. The water marks on the walls show the level of water reached, and all around her the walls and floors were rotting from long exposure to water. But she was steadfast in the hope of making a living.

India is diverse, period.

Humanitarian and Social Series, January 2020

Medium: Watercolours, mixed media on cotton canvas

Description: 'India is diverse, period' is the lesson I grew up with – at home, in school and in daily life. India is going through a difficult phase at present; this painting is dedicated to all those struggling for the right to equality and non-discrimination in a secular India. The painting is created by using *Warli* painting style, which is a form of tribal folk art from the north-Sahayadri mountains in India. Why this style? Because these type of art forms are vital to the tribal minorities, and it's the minorities that need a voice in today's India. As the new year begins, we hope for non-violent and peaceful integration of all, and benevolent understanding of each other, which is vital for peace in the world today.

Portrait of a Celebrity Cow during Vasubaras

Humanitarian and Social Series, 2019

Medium: Watercolour pens on paper

Description: This portrait was made following my visit to witness the worship of cows in a *panjarpole* on the auspicious *Vasubaras* day in my hometown, Kolhapur. The festival of *Vasubaras* is the first day of Diwali for celebration and adoration of the humble cows. '*Panjarpole*' is a sanctuary that cares for animals in distress, those that are sick, and those that do not belong to anybody. *Vasubaras* is dedicated to the cows and their calves to symbolise the concept of motherhood, who will grant people health and wealth. The quality of sacrifice in the cow is celebrated with utmost enthusiasm throughout India on this day. However, as I behold the dignity of the cow, her patience and tolerance, I recognise that it's her quality of acceptance that is the key to her holiness, which each one of us needs to embody in our own lives today.

Standing Tall: Padali women after 2019 floods

Environmental and Climate Series; Strong Women Series; Humanitarian and Social Series, 2019

Medium: Watercolours on paper

Description: Following massive floods in August 2019, I had a chance to visit a nearby village, Padali, which had been under water for almost 9-10 days. The women of Padali came to talk with me, particularly a middle-aged widow who lived alone with her young daughter and whose house had partially collapsed due to the floods. The widow and other women stood tall to find ways to make their voices heard and getting the support they needed.

My Little Gatekeeper

Strong Women Series; Humanitarian and Social Series, 2020

Medium: Digital art

Description: I met this little girl, about 8-9 years old, in Aida Refugee Camp in Bethlehem while conducting my field research on the role of art in conflict areas such as the West Bank. I was pretty stressed as three Israeli soldiers had stopped and questioned me as to why I was visiting Aida, and they didn't look too impressed with my answers. With no prior experience of interacting with soldiers with rifles, I was scared and lost my way. Completely out of depth and visibly shaken, I asked the little children for directions who were happily playing amidst the presence of the soldiers (*resilience!*) The little girl's father instructed her to take me to my host family I was supposed to interview. This little girl wearing a white slip, with unkempt long hair and oversized man's slipper became my first Gatekeeper at Aida and personified courage for me that day as she, skipping and hopping, took me through a labyrinth of camp lanes to my destination. I am forever indebted to her, humbled by her generosity, and in awe of her courage. The role of gatekeepers in research is crucial; field research can be a success if you meet a good Gatekeeper. If I hadn't met this little girl, I would have turned around and left the camp. But as it turned out, I had an amazing day at Aida and came back again and again, thanks to her.

Rancho: Life of a beagle bred for testing

Humanitarian and Social Series, 2020

Medium: Watercolour pens on paper

Description: Rancho died after four years with us. He was no more than seven years old. A beagle, he was bred for testing, which we came to know very late: just few days before he passed away and which explains his condition. It was luck that landed him with us. In his short life, Rancho was riddled with physical and mental health problems: swollen stomach with possible tumour, heart issues, hypertrophy, skin problems, teeth decay, warts, digestive problems, body and mouth odour and many more. His vocal chords were removed as they typically do for animals raised for testing so the testers need not hear the cries of the dogs. Vets had trouble diagnosing Rancho's physical problems; diagnosing mental problems for dogs is out of question, at least in India. Rancho was the quietest (of course, he couldn't bark), gentlest and sweetest dog. Hopefully his last years with us were happy. He loved riding on a scooter with his ears flapping in the wind! Animal testing especially on beagles is a big thing. This is because "beagles trust humans the most". Absolutely sinister, and it's vital that we fight against animal testing now!

The Book of Climate Series Doodles

Environmental and Climate Series; Humanitarian and Social Series, 2018

Medium: Watercolours and ink on paper

Description: This doodle series has been created following House of Illustration's launch of online 'Drawing a Day' challenge throughout September 2018. I created doodles on current climate issues and climate change impacts, and for each day created a doodle depicting the urgent issues and important facts and statistics about climate change. The 30 doodles are 8x8inch in size, are in black and white or monotone, and were put together to form The Book of Climate Series Doodles.