

Soundarya Lahari

by Sudhir Pandey



Artist: Sudhir Pandey
Title: Pluto Saturn Conjunction
Medium: Acrylic on Canvas
Size: 60 x 91 cm
Year: 2020

Sudhir Pandey, a conceptual artist, painter and clairvoyant/astrologist was born in Mandsaur, Madhya Pradesh to parents late Kushalprasad Pandey and Kamladevi Pandey. He has trained in Vedic astrology under the guidance of his maternal grandfather who was a priest in the temple. The artist works on the crossings of conceptualism, shamanism and astronomy, based in Mumbai. An avid Ham-radio enthusiast he wraps found objects in sacred cloths and strings drawing on an indigenous aesthetic delivered through a conceptual vocabulary and framework. He graduated with a postgraduate diploma in Painting from The Faculty of Fine Arts, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda. He was awarded the Babubhai Jashbhai Patel Silver Jubilee Gold medal in BFA Painting. He has continued his studies at the M.S. University to obtain P.G. Diploma in creative painting in 1998. In 1997-98, he was awarded the Residency Program at Ecole de beaux-arts Le Mans, by the Ministry of Culture France, Inlaks Foundation, New Delhi, Alembic Chemicals, Baroda. He has been awarded Junior, fellowship, by the Ministry of culture India recognizing his art practice and the occult para science interests.

Since then, he has participated in several significant solo and group shows and art residencies within and outside India. His works titled 'Radioactive Wrappings' and 'Transit' were shown in solo shows at the Chatterjee and Lal gallery Mumbai in 2006 and 2005. He has shown with Gallery Art & Soul- Text as text in 2017. His works were shown in India and abroad widely.

He has been connected to academics at the Rachana Sansad Academy of Architecture, Academy of Fine Arts and Crafts (AFAC) in Mumbai and since continues his designation as an assistant professor there. As the Head of the Department, in pedagogy he delineates art practice and history into a decolonial future drawing from locals' sources conversing with a global imagination. Antoni Tapies, Rubem Valentim, Himmat Shah, Jeram Patel, Christian Boltanski, Christo & Jean Claude as well as well as abstract 17th century Tantric paintings from the Malwa Region in Rajasthan to which he belongs. He is an astrologer, world

radio programmer and has attended many residencies

workshops and shaman gatherings. "I was a student of Ecole des Beaux arts Le Mans in 1997-98, where I began wrapping found objects that I encountered around Le Mans whilst on walks. My basic contention is that all objects, regardless of shape or size, utility or luxury, have their respective existences and destinies that are influential to the collective consciousness.", says he. He was taught by Ghulam Mohammed Sheikh, Bhupen Khakkar, Vivan Sundaram and Jyoti Bhatt.

The Global Coronavirus Crisis is precisely the time when artists should go to work. There is no time for despair, no place for self-pity, no need for silence, no room for fear. We speak, we write, we do language. That is how civilizations heal. During these strange days, a lot has been said and written about the importance - even the necessity - of art amidst this sanitary, social, and economic crisis. A quick reading through newspapers and magazines, both national and international, leads to boastful, demanding, and glib phrases. "The artists are the only ones who cannot be silenced", "art will save us", or the headline "The art standing up to Coronavirus." Furthermore, it is interesting to note that most people who make those statements are not artists. How did we get to the point where we demand so much? How did we imagine that a very informal sector could "stand up to" a virus?

As he is a shaman and not only an artist, alternate foreseeing and practices help human existence to overcome the psychological impact of the Coronavirus pandemic. There was a tradition of auspicious and inauspicious casting of time in the traditions of Indian art and architecture such as prior to the establishment of deity (sculpture, architectural foundation etc. These time observations were used to observe Planetary positions and distinguish the auspicious from the inauspicious omen to begin work or a consecration. Sudhir's works as cultural objects and their statistical configuration suggest reading of mid heavens, imaginary (planetary or cosmology) transits and immediate surroundings. This takes from

discourses on the understanding of the world as an altruistic tool rather than a taboo. At times the use of found cultural objects, which belongs to our collective society with constellations and consciousness.

His recent work based on Saundarya Lahari, are one of the oldest treatise of India, The **Saundarya Lahari** (Sanskrit: सौन्दर्यहरी) meaning "The waves of Beauty" is a famous literary work in Sanskrit believed to be written by sage Adi Shankara. Some believe the first part "Ananda Lahari" was etched on mount Meru by Ganesha himself (or by Pushpadanta). Sage Gaudapada, the teacher of Shankar's teacher Govinda Bhagavadpada, memorised the writings of Pushpadanta which was carried down to Adi Shankara. Its hundred and three shlokas (verses) praise the beauty, grace and munificence of Goddess Parvati / Dakshayani, consort of Shiva. W. Norman Brown translated it to English which was published as volume 43 of the Harvard Oriental Series in 1958.

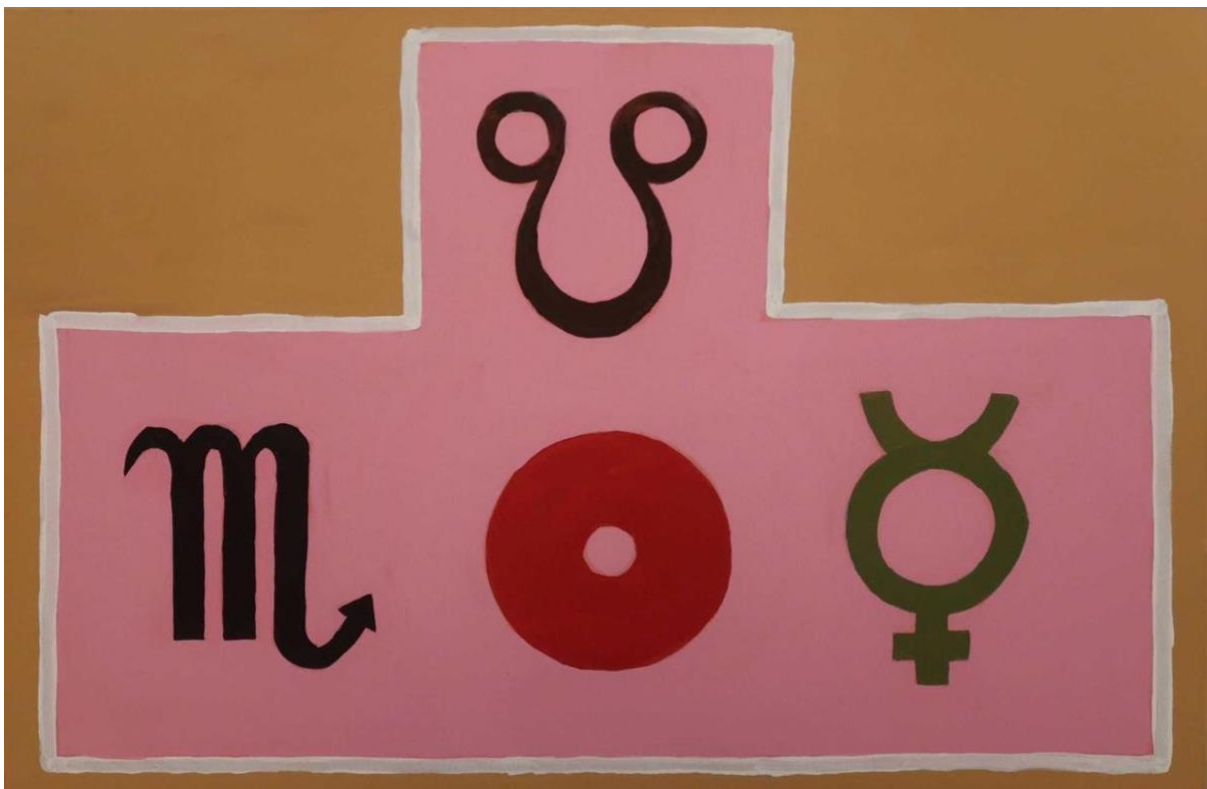
The Saundarya Lahari is not only a collection of holy hymns, but also a tantra textbook, giving instructions on Puja, Sri-Yantra and worshiping methods, 100 different hymns, 100 different yantra, almost one to each shloka; it describes the appropriate tantra method of performing devotion connected to each specific shloka; and details the results ensuring therefrom. There are many interpretations and commentaries but best of these are arguably those that provide word-to-word translations, as also the yantra, the devotion to be performed and the results of the devotion. Sudhir Pandey's work is based on hieroglyphics of astrological sign and symbols and Yantras, major planetary transit of Pluto, Saturn and Jupiter during the year 2020 and some Yantra appropriated from this great treatise of Saundarya Lahari. Follow you Bliss.

In 1995 he was awarded the Babubhai Jashbhai Patel Silver Jubilee Gold Medal. At the M.S. University he obtained a P.G. Diploma in Creative Painting in 1998.

In 1997-98 he was awarded the Artist in Residency Program at Ecole de Beaux Arts, Le Mans by the Ministry of Culture France. His residency was funded by the Inlaks Foundation, New Delhi and Alembic Chemicals, Baroda. I was awarded a cultural fellowship by Govt of India in 2013. 'Radioactive Wrappings' and 'Transit' were Pandey's solo presentations at Gallery Chatterjee & Lal Gallery in 2006 and 2005 respectively. In 2007, he participated in a group show at the Shades & Wood Gallery, London and in 2008 showed in a group showed with Chatterjee & Lal, NY and In 2012, he obtained a life membership of Indian council of astrological sciences (LM No.10065) and was awarded a diploma in astrology from centre of excellence Manchester UK and also He has completed Nadi Visharad from ICAS (Indian Council of astrological sciences Chennai).



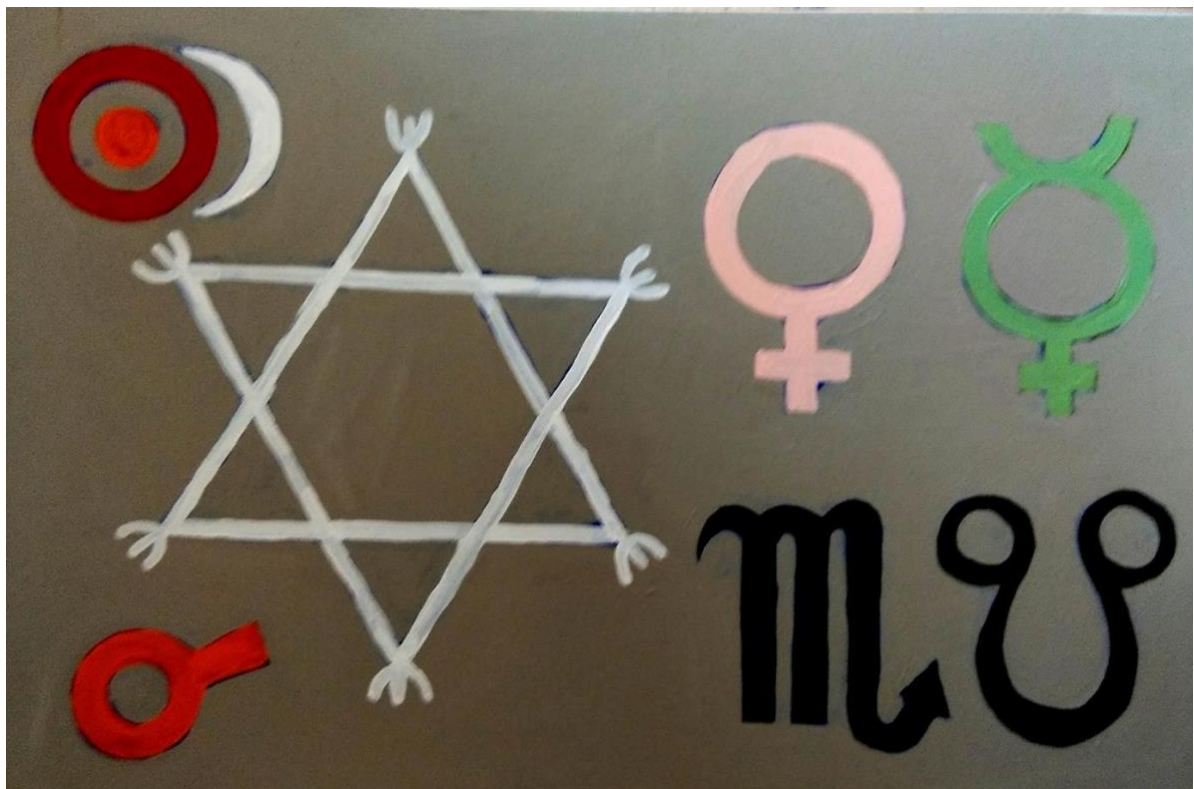
Artist: Sudhir Pandey
Title: Moon in Cancer
Medium: Acrylic on Canvas
Size: 60 x 91 cm
Year: 2020



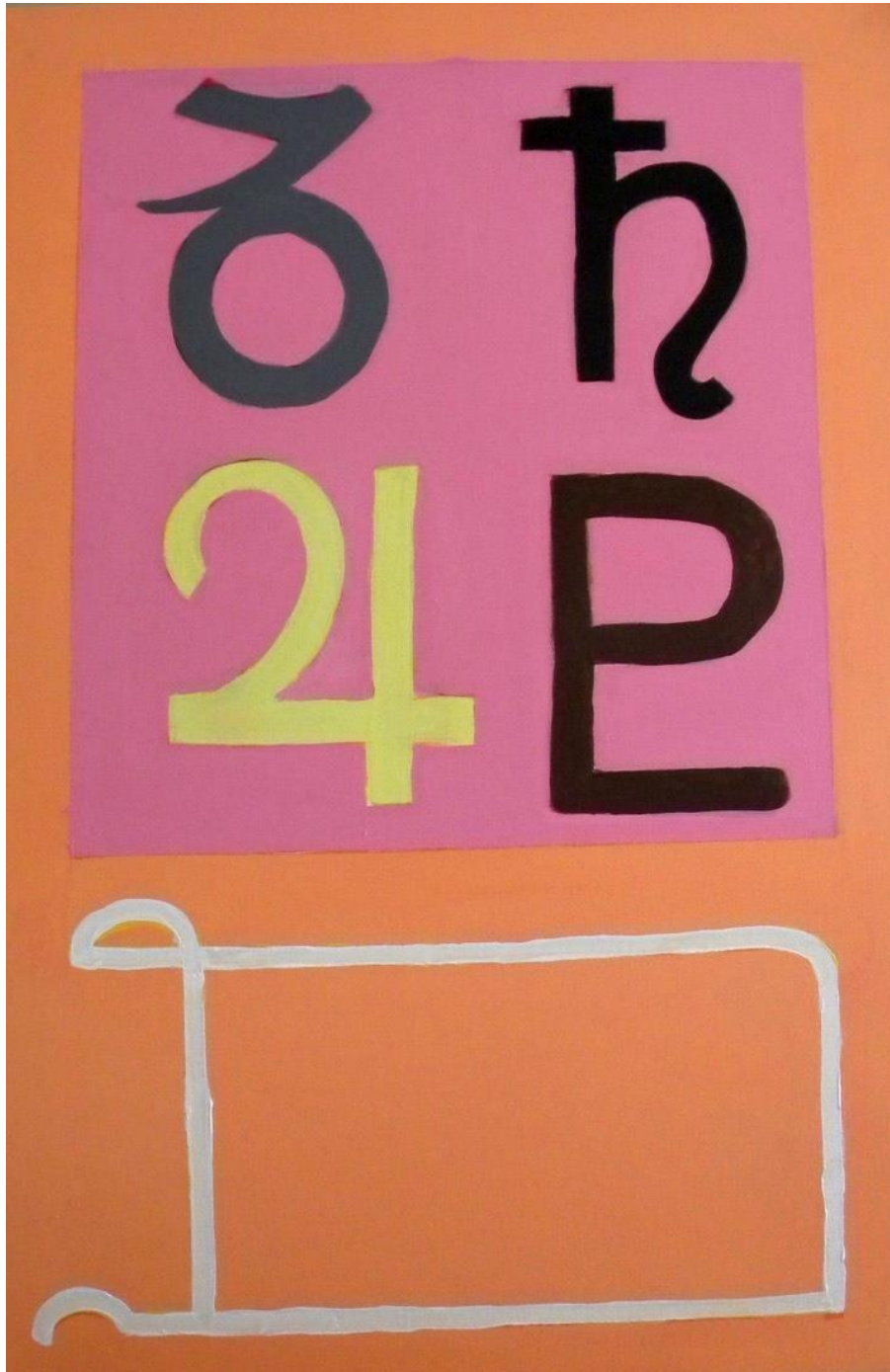
Artist: Sudhir Pandey
Title: Afflicted Sun
Medium: Acrylic on Canvas
Size: 60 x 91 cm
Year: 2020



Artist: Sudhir Pandey
Title: Pisces Mars
Medium: Acrylic on Canvas
Size: 60 x 91 cm
Year: 2020



Artist: Sudhir Pandey
Title: Conjunction
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Artist: Sudhir Pandey
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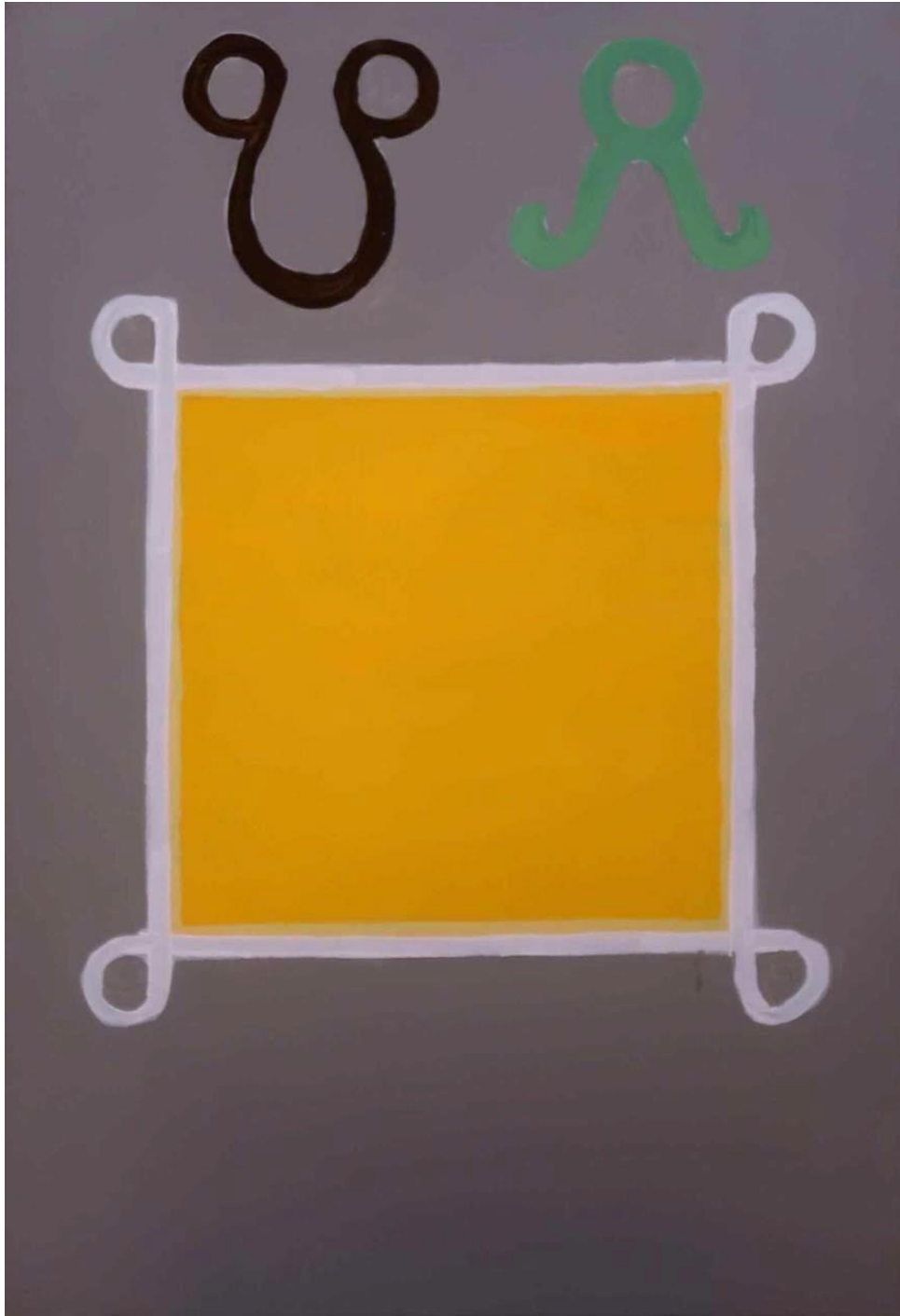
Artist: Sudhir Pandey
Title: Venus in Libra
Medium: Acrylic on Canvas
Size: 60 x 91 cm
Year: 2020



Artist: Sudhir Pandey
Title: Untitled
Medium: Acrylic on Canvas
Size: 60 x 91 cm
Year: 2020



Artist: Sudhir Pandey
Title: Jupiter Sextile Neptune
Medium: Acrylic on Canvas
Size: 60 x 91 cm
Year: 2020



Artist: Sudhir Pandey
Title: Rahu Transit Taurus
Medium: Acrylic on Canvas
Size: 60 x 91 cm
Year: 2020



Artist: Sudhir Pandey
Title: Virgo Rising
Medium: Acrylic on Canvas
Size: 60 x 91 cm
Year: 2020



Artist: Sudhir Pandey
Title: Neptune Square
Medium: Acrylic on Canvas
Size: 60 x 91 cm
Year: 2020

