



**Grosvenor
Gallery**

**KRISHEN
KHANNA**

KRISHEN KHANNA

*"When the band began to play,
he packed up his troubles and marched away"*

A collection of paintings and drawings from the
Bandwallah series

11 June – 10 July 2015

Grosvenor Gallery

21 Ryder Street
London
SW1Y 6PX

Private View

Wednesday, 10 June 2015
6-8pm

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grosvenorgallery.com



Grosvenor Gallery is pleased to announce its upcoming Exhibition of Drawings and Paintings by one of India's leading modernist painters, Krishen Khanna. The exhibition opens with a private reception on Wednesday, 10 June and runs until 10 July 2015.

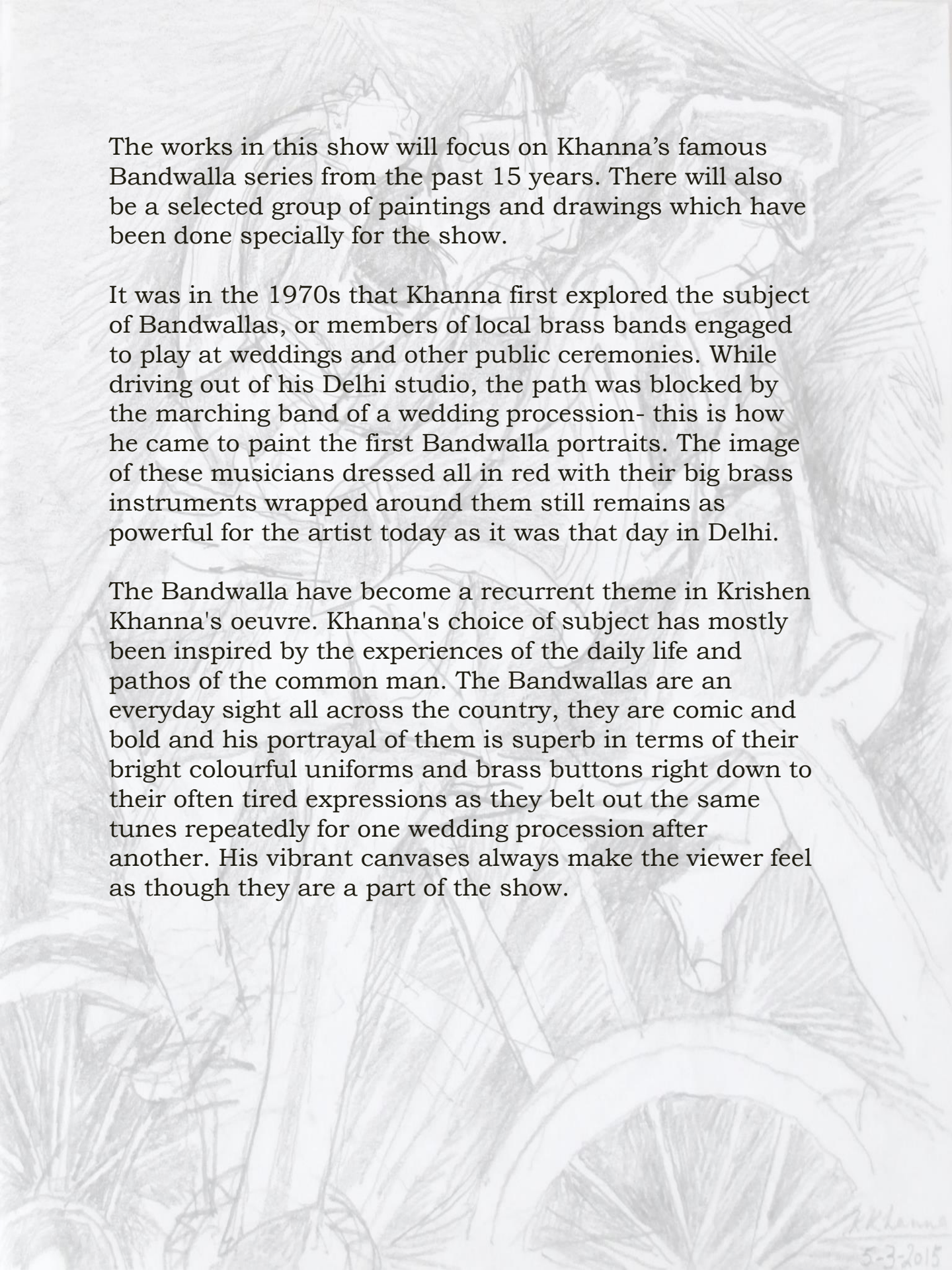
This is the first time that The Grosvenor Gallery will be exhibiting the works of Krishen Khanna. He is one of India's greatest and most celebrated artists and we are delighted to have been given this opportunity to work with such a senior and respected figure of 20th Century Indian Modernism.

Born in Lyallpur (now Faislabad, Pakistan), in pre partition India in 1925, Krishen Khanna moved to Shimla during the partition. In Lahore Khanna had attended evening classes at the Mayo School of Art.

After arriving in India he took up a post with the Grindlays Bank and was placed in Mumbai. Once there Khanna was invited to join the Progressive Artists' Group with whom he remained in active association for the rest of his time. In Mumbai he held his first major exhibition and sold his first painting to Dr. Homi Bhabha for the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research. Khanna had his first Solo show in the UK at The Leicester Galleries, London in October 1960.



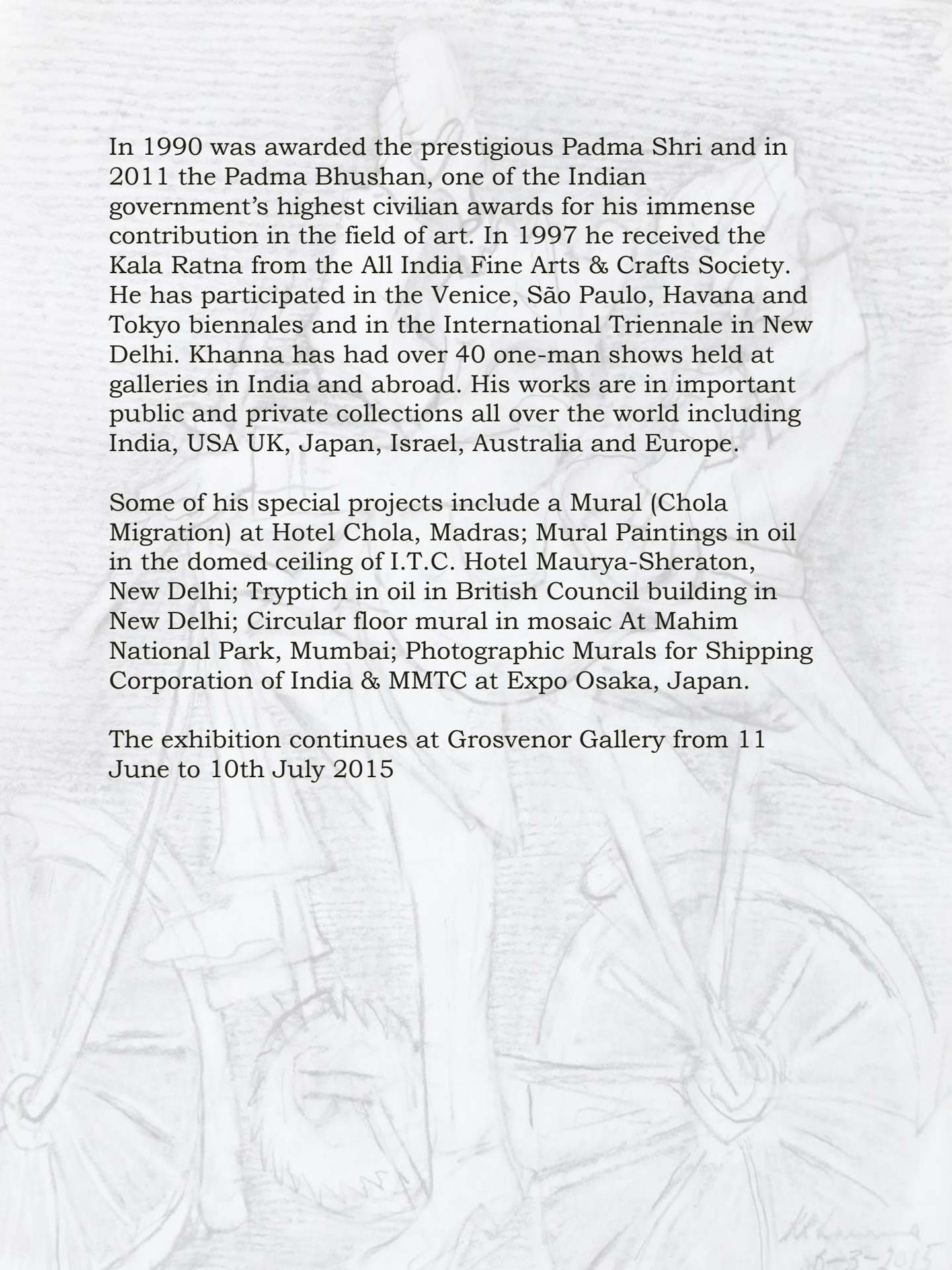
The Progressive Artists Group (c. 1947-56) and supporters



The works in this show will focus on Khanna's famous Bandwalla series from the past 15 years. There will also be a selected group of paintings and drawings which have been done specially for the show.

It was in the 1970s that Khanna first explored the subject of Bandwallas, or members of local brass bands engaged to play at weddings and other public ceremonies. While driving out of his Delhi studio, the path was blocked by the marching band of a wedding procession- this is how he came to paint the first Bandwalla portraits. The image of these musicians dressed all in red with their big brass instruments wrapped around them still remains as powerful for the artist today as it was that day in Delhi.

The Bandwalla have become a recurrent theme in Krishen Khanna's oeuvre. Khanna's choice of subject has mostly been inspired by the experiences of the daily life and pathos of the common man. The Bandwallas are an everyday sight all across the country, they are comic and bold and his portrayal of them is superb in terms of their bright colourful uniforms and brass buttons right down to their often tired expressions as they belt out the same tunes repeatedly for one wedding procession after another. His vibrant canvases always make the viewer feel as though they are a part of the show.



In 1990 was awarded the prestigious Padma Shri and in 2011 the Padma Bhushan, one of the Indian government's highest civilian awards for his immense contribution in the field of art. In 1997 he received the Kala Ratna from the All India Fine Arts & Crafts Society. He has participated in the Venice, São Paulo, Havana and Tokyo biennales and in the International Triennale in New Delhi. Khanna has had over 40 one-man shows held at galleries in India and abroad. His works are in important public and private collections all over the world including India, USA UK, Japan, Israel, Australia and Europe.

Some of his special projects include a Mural (Chola Migration) at Hotel Chola, Madras; Mural Paintings in oil in the domed ceiling of I.T.C. Hotel Maurya-Sheraton, New Delhi; Tryptich in oil in British Council building in New Delhi; Circular floor mural in mosaic At Mahim National Park, Mumbai; Photographic Murals for Shipping Corporation of India & MMTC at Expo Osaka, Japan.

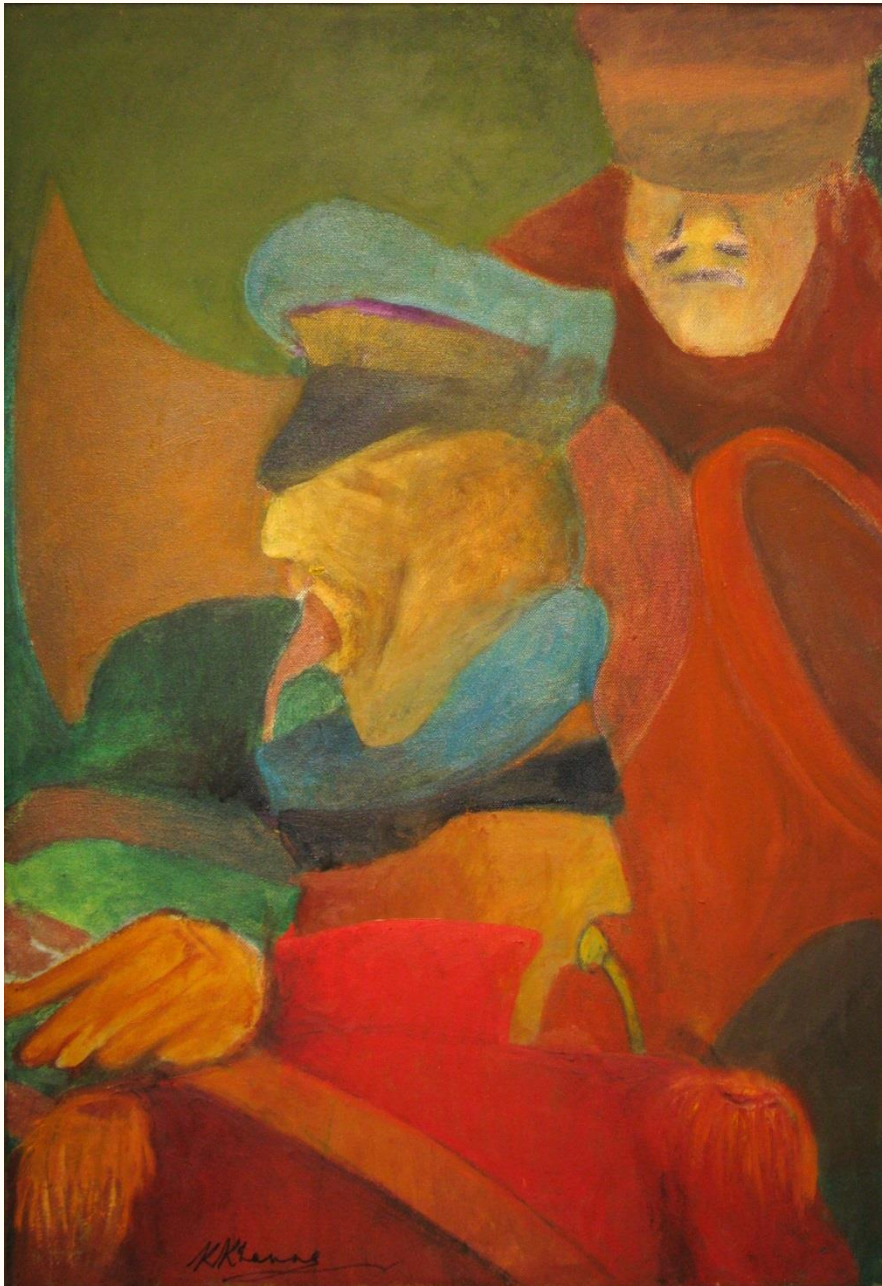
The exhibition continues at Grosvenor Gallery from 11 June to 10th July 2015



1. *Untitled (Bandwallas)*, 2015
Oil on canvas
182.8 x 121.9 cm.
(72 x 48 in.)



2. *Untitled (Bandwallas in Red)*, 2015
Oil on canvas
76.2 x 91.4 cm.
(30 x 36 in.)



3. *Untitled (Bandwallas)*, 2015
Oil on canvas
60.9 x 38.1 cm.
(24 x 15 in.)



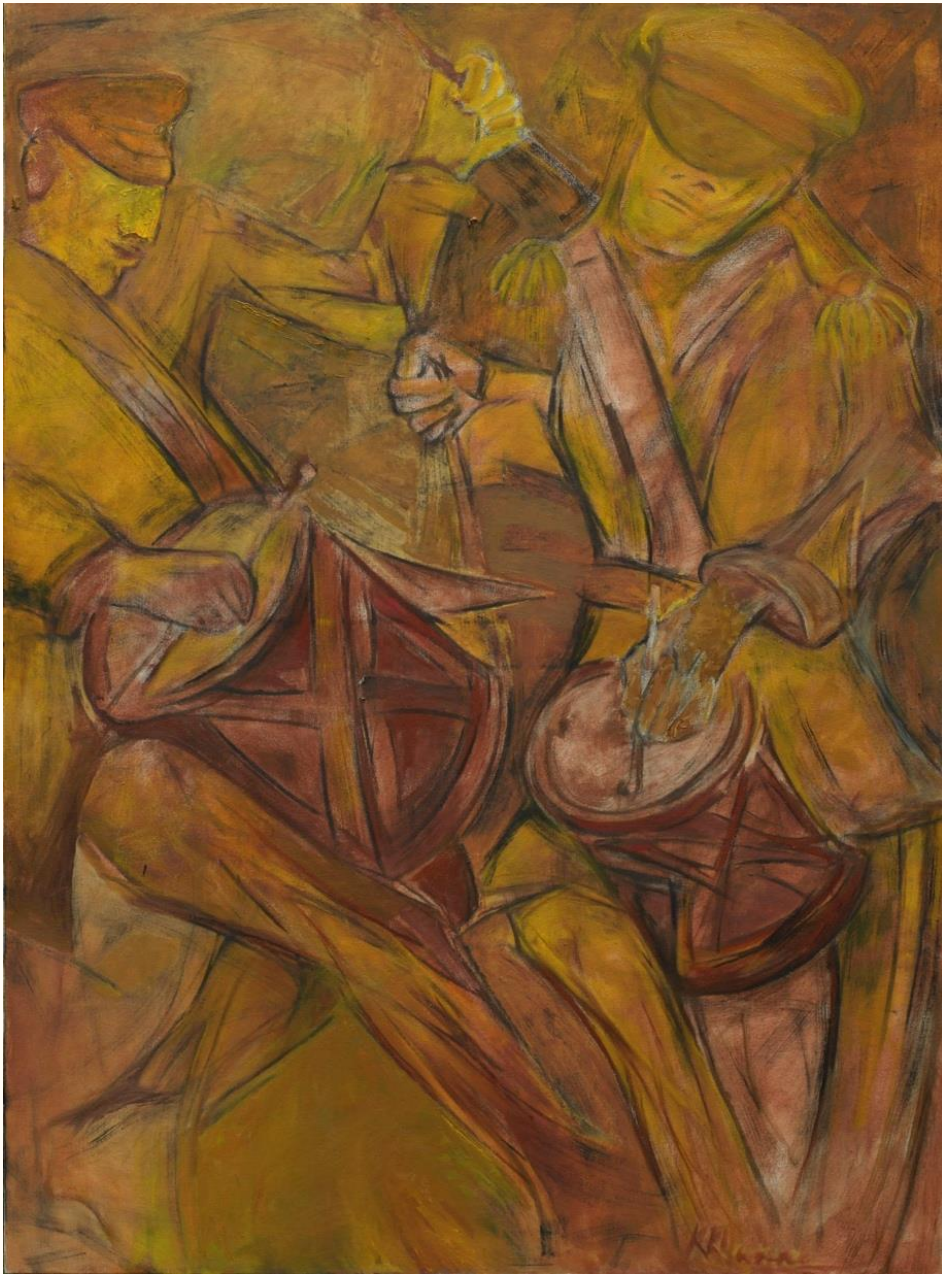
Bal Chabda, Tyeb Mehta, Krishen Khanna, S.H. Raza and M.F. Husain



Krishen Khanna, M.F Husain and Ram Kumar



4. *Untitled (Bandwalla with Trumpet)*, 2015
Oil on canvas
60.9 x 38.1 cm.
(24 x 15 in.)



5. *Untitled (Bandwallas in Ochre), 2014*
Oil on canvas
121.9 x 91.4 cm.
(48 x 36 in.)



6. *Untitled (Bandwallas at Dusk)*, 2014
Oil on canvas
60.9 x 91.4 cm.
(24 x 36 in.)



Wedding bands as seen on the streets of India



7. *Untitled (Bandwalla profile), 2013*
Oil on canvas
30.4 x 25.4 cm.
(12 x 10 in.)



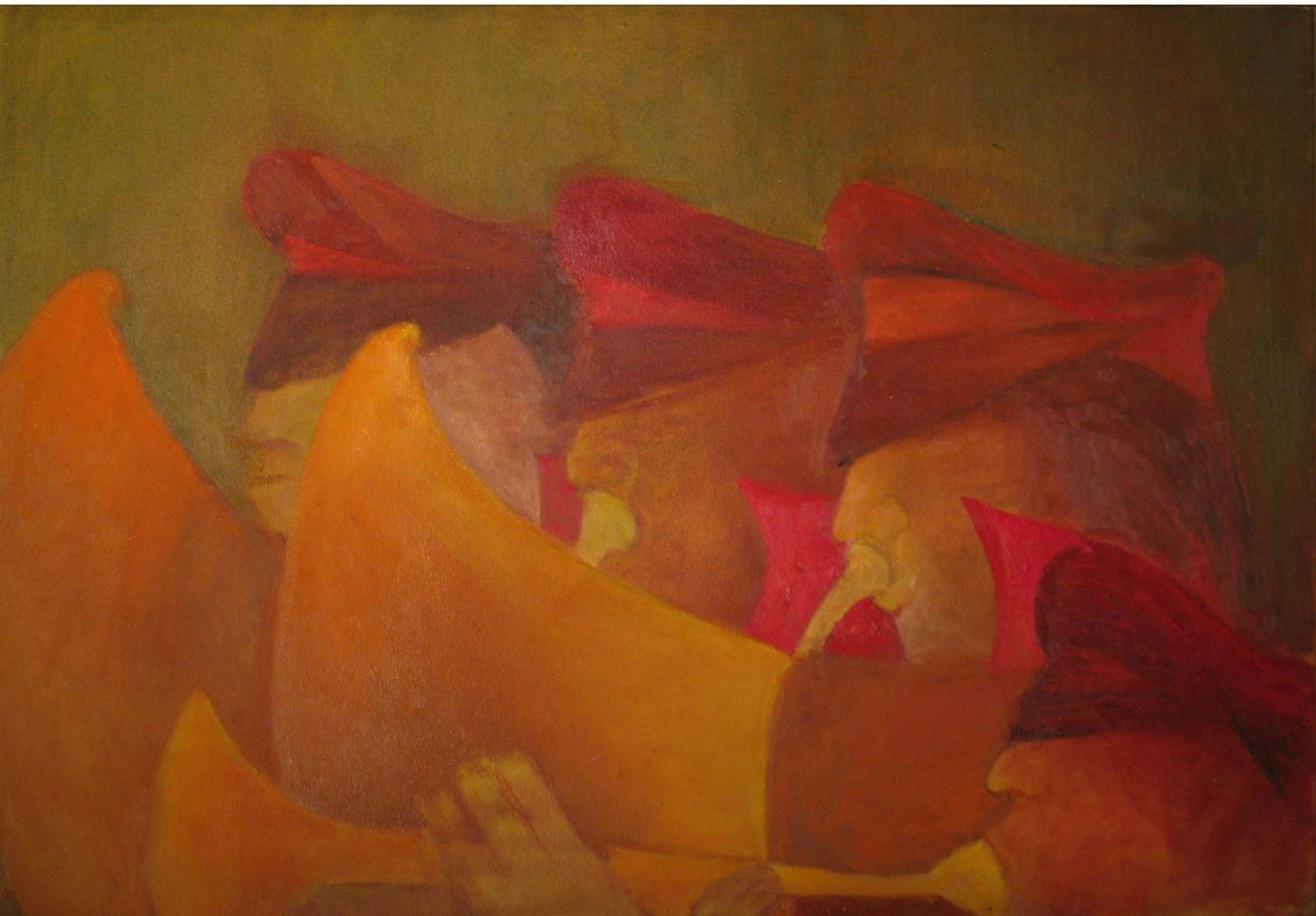
8. *Untitled (Bandwallas in White and Blue)*, 2012
Oil on canvas
127 x 182.8 cm.
(50 x 72 in.)



9. *Tuba Players, 2008*
Oil on canvas
121.9 x 91.4 cm.
(48 x 36 in.)



10. *Untitled (Bandwallas)*, 2000
Oil on canvas
121.9 x 91.4 cm.
(48 x 36 in.)



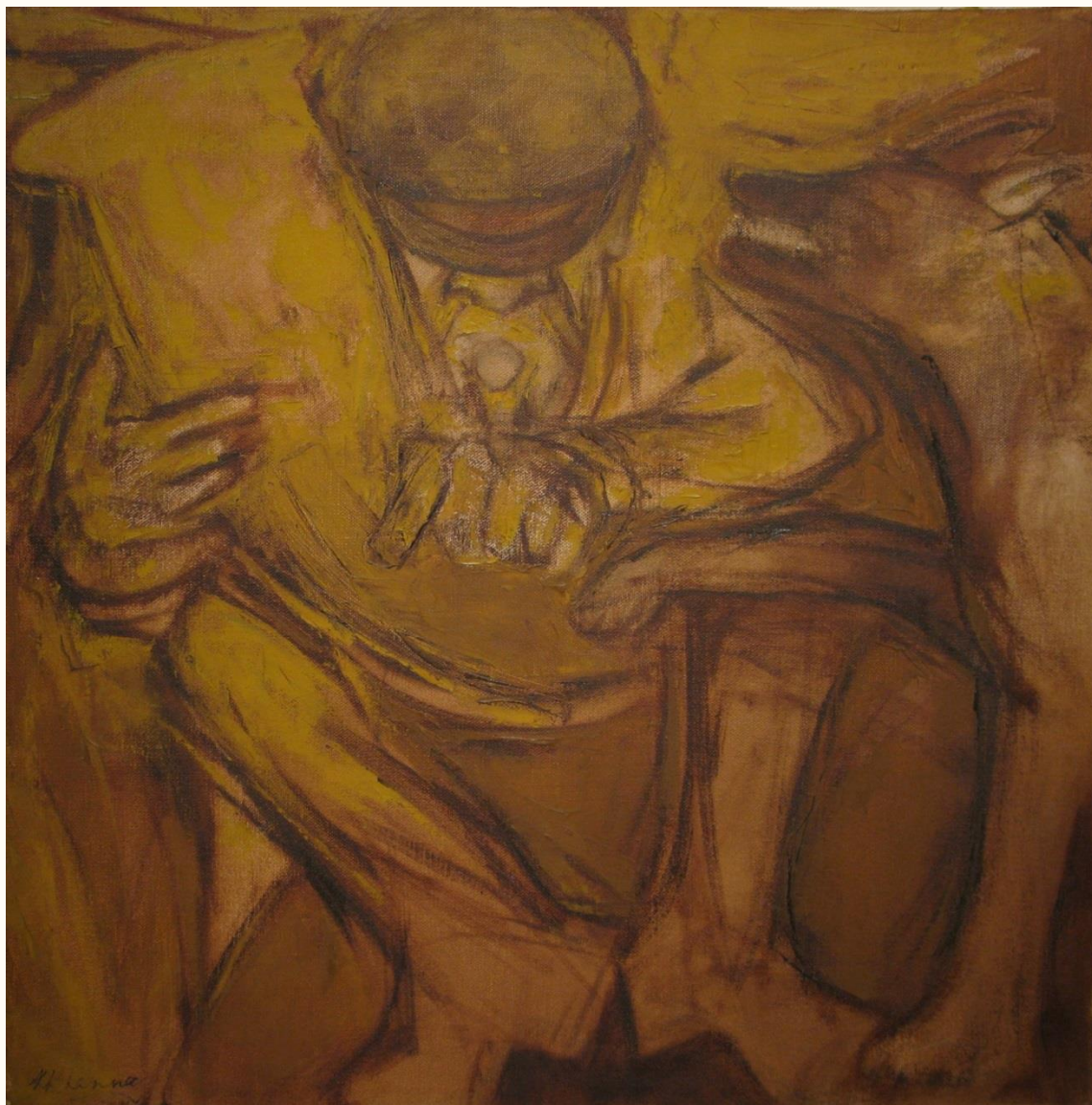
11. *Untitled (Procession of four Bandsman)*
Oil on canvas
46 x 66 cm
(18 x 26 in.)



12. *Untitled*
Oil on canvas
46 x 41 cm.
(18 x 16 ¼ in.)



13. *Untitled (Profile)*
Oil on canvas
30 x 30cm.
(11 3/4 x 11 3/4 in.)



14. *Untitled*
Oil on canvas
51 x 51cm
(20 x 20 in.)



15. *Cornet Solo, 2015*
Oil on canvas
76 x 76cm.
(30 x 30 in.)



16. *Untitled*
Charcoal on canvas
51 x 41 cm
(20 ¼ x 16 in.)



17. *Untitled*
Charcoal on paper
69 x 48 cm
(27 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ in.)



18. *Untitled*
Graphite on paper
18 x 18 cm.
(7 x 7 in.)



19. *Untitled*
Graphite on paper
18 x 18 cm.
(7 x 7 in.)



20. *Untitled*
Graphite on paper
18 x 18 cm.
(7 x 7 in.)



Krishen Khanna (b. 1925)

Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2013 'A Celebration of Lines', Sakshi Gallery, Mumbai
- 2010 'Krishen Khanna: A Retrospective', presented by Saffronart, Mumbai at Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi
- 2008 'The Savage Heart', Cymroza Art Gallery, Mumbai
- 2005 Saffronart and Berkeley Square Gallery, London
- 2004 'An Airing' Pundole Art Gallery, Mumbai
- 2001 Kumar Art Gallery, New Delhi
- 2001 Saffronart and Pundole Art Gallery, New York
- 1995 Sakshi Gallery, Mumbai
- 1994 Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi
- 1991 Gallery Espace, New Delhi
- 1989 Centre for Contemporary Art, New Delhi.
- 1986 Exhibition of drawings and paintings at Sarla Art Centre, Chennai
- 1983 Exhibition of drawings, Garhi Studio, New Delhi
- 1980 Rabindra Bhavan, Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi
- 1979 Dhoomimal Art Gallery, New Delhi
- 1975 Dhoomimal Art Gallery, New Delhi
- 1974 Black Partridge, New Delhi
- 1973 Pundole Gallery, Mumbai
- 1969 Photographs, Kunika-Chemould, New Delhi
- 1969 Experimental Photographs, Pundole Gallery, Mumbai
- 1966 Kumar Art Gallery, New Delhi
- 1965 Egan Gallery, New York
- 1964 Kumar Art Gallery, New Delhi
- 1964 Watkins Art Gallery, American University, Washington D.C.
- 1962 Kunika Art Centre
- 1962 Leicester Galleries, London
- 1961 Ashoka Gallery, Kolkata

- 1961 Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai
- 1960 Kumar Art Gallery, New Delhi
- 1960 Leicester Galleries, London
- 1959 Kumar Gallery, New Delhi
- 1958 Kumar Gallery, New Delhi
- 1957 All India Fine Arts and Crafts Society (AIFACS), New Delhi
- 1955 USIS, Chennai

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2013 'Ideas of the Sublime', presented by Vadehra Art Gallery at Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi
- 2013 'Edge of Reason- and beyond, into pure creativity', presented by Indian Art Circle at Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi
- 2013 'The Discerning Eye: Modern Masters', Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi
- 2012 'Talking Heads', Art Alive Gallery, New Delhi
- 2011 'The Art of Drawing', The Guild Art Gallery, Mumbai
- 2011 'Masterclass', Dhoomimal Art Gallery, New Delhi
- 2010-11 'A Collection', Sakshi Gallery, Mumbai
- 2010 Sakshi Gallery, Mumbai
- 2010 '10 x 10', Gallery Threshold, New Delhi
- 2010 'Black is Beautiful', India Fine Art, Mumbai
- 2010 'Essential, Eclectic,...Ephemeral', The Harrington Mansions, Kolkata
- 2009 'Bharat Ratna! Jewels of Modern Indian Art', Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
- 2009 'Master Class', The Arts Trust, Mumbai
- 2009 'Sacred and Secular', India Fine Art, Mumbai
- 2009 'Kalpana: Figurative Art in India', presented by The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) at Aicon Gallery, London; The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)
- 2008 'Faces', Tao Art Gallery, Mumbai
- 2008 'Baisakh 08', Polka Art Gallery, New Delhi
- 2004 'Concept and Form', Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi
- 2003 Exhibition of drawings, Pundole Art Gallery, Mumbai
- 2003 Transition at UBS in London
- 2003 'Of Memories, Dreams, Reverses', at Anant, New Delhi

- 2001 'Living Legends of Indian Contemporary Art', Tao Art Gallery, Mumbai
- 2001 'In Conversations', Gallery Espace, New Delhi
- 2001 Indian Art Circle, Habitat Centre, New Delhi
- 2001 Saffronart and Pundole Art Gallery, New York
- 1999 'Mahabharat', Gallery 7, Mumbai
- 1998 'The Probing Eye', an exhibition of Photographs, Surendra Paul Art Gallery, New Delhi
- 1998 'Drawings', Guild Art Gallery, Mumbai
- 1997 'Tryst with Destiny', Art from Modern India 1947-1997, Singapore Art Museum, organized by Centre for International Modern Art (CIMA), Kolkata
- 1997 'Six Modern Masters', Kumar Gallery, New Delhi
- 1996 Modern and Contemporary Indian Paintings, Sothebys Auction, London
- 1996 'A Tree in my Life', Village Gallery, New Delhi
- 1996 'The Moderns', Inaugural Exhibition, National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), Mumbai
- 1996 'The Mahabharata, The Card Player and The Scribe', Kumar Gallery, New Delhi
- 1995 'Indian Contemporary Paintings', Christie's Auction, London
- 1995 'Bombay', presented by RPG Enterprises
- 1995 'River of Art', Inaugural Exhibition, Art Today
- 1994 'Indian Drawing Today', All India Fine Arts and Crafts Society (AIFACS), organized by Gallery Espace, New Delhi
- 1994 'The Solids', second Indian Drawing Biennale, exhibited as a special invitee
- 1993 'Reflections and Images', Vadhera and Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai
- 1992 'Masters of Indian Art', Hotel Intercontinental, Mumbai
- 1991 'Remembering Kali Pundole', Pundole Art Gallery, Mumbai
- 1991 Birla Academy of Art, Anniversary Exhibition, Kolkata
- 1991 'Addressing Gandhi', traveling exhibition by Sahmat
- 1989 'Timeless Art', Exhibition and Auction
- 1989 Sothebys in Mumbai
- 1989 'Artist's Alert', exhibition and auction by Sahmat, New Delhi
- 1984 Inaugural Exhibition, Gallery 7, Mumbai

- 1982 'Modern Indian Painters' Hirschhorn Museum, Washington D. C.
- 1982 'Contemporary Indian Art', Burlington House, London
- 1982 'Myth and Reality', Museum of Modern Art, Oxford, UK
- 1981 Inaugural Exhibition, Roopankar Museum, Bharat Bhavan, Bhopal
- 1981 'Indian Painting Today', Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai
- 1979 'Modern Asian Art', Fukuoka Art Museum, Japan
- 1976 'Pictorial Space', Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi
- 1976 'Indian Painting 1977', Chandigarh, organized by Black Partridge Gallery
- 1972 'Art Now', Kunika Chemould, New Delhi
- 1972 'One World through Art', Ben and Abbey Grey Foundation, St. Paul, MN, USA
- 1971 'Contemporary Indian Art', Renwick Gallery
- 1971 Smithsonian Institute, Washington D.C.
- 1970 'Art Now', Kunika Chemould, New Delhi
- 1969 'Contemporary Art, Dialogue between East and West', Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo, Japan
- 1969 'Indian Painters 69', Max Mueller Bhavan & Birla Academy, Kolkata
- 1968 New Art Centre, London
- 1966 Lincoln Centre, New York
- 1965 'Ten Contemporary Artists from India' University of South Florida, Tampa; Jackson Art Museum, Jacksonville; Delgado Art Museum, New Orleans; Hunter Gallery, Chattanooga; Colorado Fine Art Center, Colorado Springs, Long Beach; Art Institute, San Francisco; East Wing Center, Honolulu
- 1965 'Ten Contemporary Painters from India' MIT, Cambridge; New Jersey State Museum, Trenton.
- 1964 'Six Artists in Black and White', Shridharani Gallery, New Delhi
- 1963 'Contemporary Painters from India', Gallery 63, New York
- 1963 'Eight Contemporary Artists from India', Lever House, New York
- 1959 'Artists of Fame and of Promise', Leicester Galleries, London
- 1959 'Trends in Contemporary Painting from India', Graham Gallery, New York
- 1959 'Modern Indian Art', Cairo
- 1959 'Contemporary Art from India', Essen, Dortmund, Zurich

- 1959 Inaugural Exhibition, Gallery 59, Mumbai
- 1956 'Eight Painters', Indian and Eastern Newspaper Society Building, New Delhi
- 1952-53 Progressive Artists at Madras College of Art, Chennai
- 1949 Progressive Artist Group, Chetna Restaurant, Mumbai
- 1949 Progressive Artist Group, Artists Aid Centre

Joint Exhibitions

- 1985 Ram Kumar and Krishen Khanna , Gallery 7, Mumbai
- 1954 With M F Husain at All India Fine Arts and Crafts society (AIFACS), New Delhi

Participations

- 2015 'Abby Grey and Indian Modernism: Selections from the NYU Art Collection', Grey Art Gallery, New York University, New York
- 2014 'Ode to Monumental: Celebration, Visuality, Ideology', presented by Saffronart at Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi and Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai
- 2012 'Synergy 2012', 12th Anniversary Show, Tao Art Gallery, Mumbai
- 2012 'Crossings: Time Unfolded, Part 2', Kiran Nadar Museum of Art (KNMA), New Delhi
- 2011 'Ethos V: Indian Art Through the Lens of History (1900 to 1980), Indigo Blue Art, Singapore
- 2011 'Manifestations V', Delhi Art Gallery, New Delhi
- 2011 'Roots in the Air, Branches Below: Modern & Contemporary Art from India', San Jose Museum of Art, San Jose
- 2011 'Time Unfolded', Kiran Nadar Museum of Art (KNMA), New Delhi
- 2011 'Celebration 2011', Annual Exhibition, Kumar Art Gallery, New Delhi
- 2010 'Art Celebrates 2010: Sports and the City', represented by Art Alive Gallery at Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi to coincide with the hosting of the Commonwealth Games
- 2010 'Master's Corner', organized by Indian Contemporary Art Journal at Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai; India International Art Fair, New Delhi

- 2010 'Contemporary Printmaking In India', presented by Priyasri Art Gallery, Mumbai at Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai; Priyasri Art Gallery, Mumbai
- 2010 'Evolve: 10th Anniversary Show', Tao Art Gallery, Mumbai
- 2010 Annual Exhibition, Chawla Art Gallery, New Delhi
- 2008-09 'Paz Mandala', Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi
- 2008 'Harvest 2008', organized by Arushi Arts at The Stainless Gallery, New Delhi
- 1991 The Fifth Biennale, Havana Cuba
- 1988 First International Biennale, Lahore, Pakistan
- 1988 Festival of India, Japan
- 1987 Festival of India, USSR
- 1987 'Coups de Coeur', Geneva
- 1986 Baghdad International Festival of Art
- 1982 International Triennale, New Delhi
- 1976 25th Pugwash Conference, Chennai
- 1975 3rd Triennale of Contemporary World Art, New Delhi
- 1970 Expo '70, Indian Pavilion, Osaka, Japan
- 1968 International Triennale, New Delhi
- 1965 Annual Exhibition, Lalit Kala Akademi , New Delhi
- 1962 National Exhibition, Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi
- 1962 Venice Biennale, Indian Participation
- 1961 Tokyo Biennale
- 1960 Sao Paulo Biennale
- 1957 Tokyo Biennale
- 1946 Annual Exhibition, Punjab Art Society

Honours and Awards

- 2011 Padma Bhushan, Government of India
- 2004 Lalit Kala Ratna from The President of India
- 1997 Kala Ratna, All India Fine Arts & Crafts Society(AIFACS), New Delhi
- 1990 Padma Shri, Government of India
- 1989 Gold Medal, First International Biennale of Art, Lahore, Pakistan
- 1989 Sahitya Kala Parishad Award, New Delhi
- 1986 Presidents Award at Baghdad International Festival of Art
- 1965 Award, Lalit Kala Akademi Annual Exhibition, New Delhi
- 1965 Fellowship of the Council for Economic and Cultural Affairs, New York
- 1964 Artist-in-Residence, American University, Washington DC.
- 1962-63 Fellowship Rockefeller Council, New York
- 1962 Travel Fellowship by Council for Economic and Cultural Affairs, New York
- 1955 Commendation, Bombay Art Society Award, Mumbai
- 1955 Saurashtra Government Award for Oil Painting

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A collection of paintings and drawings from the *Bandwallah* series

11 June – 10 July 2015

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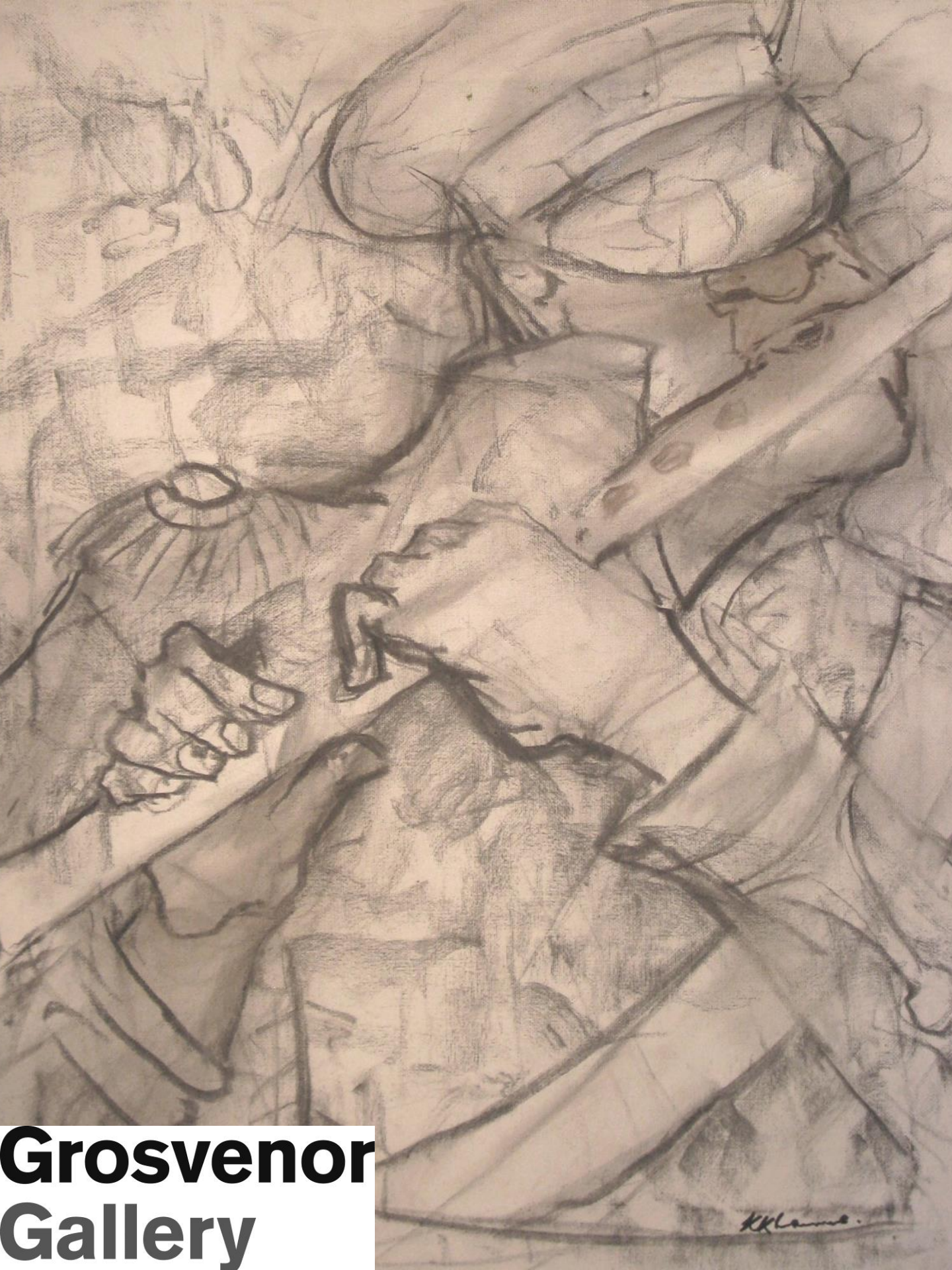
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