

NATURE MORTE

ZIMBIRI: IMAGINARY LINES

March 2, 2022 - March 18, 2022

Nature Morte is pleased to present an exhibition of nine new paintings by the artist Zimbiri.

Zimbiri continues to employ traditional techniques in her new body of work. On view will be paintings, all rendered using the natural colours of *Saa-tshen* (pigmented earth) on *Rhay-shing* (hand-woven canvas). She revisits her familiar subject of the tiger, furthering transforming it into abstractions. The animal no longer submits to realism but is in fact in close relation to representations of tigers as found in the murals adorning the walls of Bhutanese temples..

Zimbiri contains the ferocious tigers, constricting and conforming their energies into box-like formations. She then fragments, shatters, superimposes, warps, distorts and juxtaposes these magnificent beasts with their iconic stripes. Zimbiri gives the creatures leeway to interact as they divulge into each other. Some canvases accommodate multiple beasts spilling into one another while a few others are isolated, giving them a sense of hibernation. Some works showcase the tigers as animated, demonstrative of a range of emotions from rage to desire, uneasiness to bliss.

Her technique is not wedded to the message. Zimbiri explains, "With every empty canvas I paint, I always try to figure out what exactly I want to portray in my art. And I have realised that this is the most difficult process. In simple words, my works are just the questions I pose to myself."

Zimbiri (b.1991, Bhutan) graduated from Wheaton College, Massachusetts, with a double major in Economics and Fine Arts. Her first exhibition, *Faces* in 2015, was the first solo exhibition by a woman artist in Bhutan, held at the Royal Textile Academy in Thimphu. Inaugurated by Her Majesty the Queen Mother, Sangay Choden Wangchuck, *Faces* put forth the artist's perspective on masks worn during *Cham* performances of Bhutan's *Tshechu* festival. Through this body of work, the young artist commented on the constant masquerade of society, where temperaments shift, acting as coping mechanisms.

Over time, traditional Bhutanese materials and imagery became an integral part of Zimbiri's practice. The materials of *Saa-tshen* (pigmented earth) and *Rhay-shing* (hand-woven canvas) rooted her contemporary practice to the long-established conventions of art making in Bhutan. Tigers, symbols of luck and prosperity, were repetitively incorporated into her paintings. Her second solo, *Found Icons* (2017), portrayed them as icons of strength that ward off evil. Her paintings of 2020 were showcased at *Asia Art Week* by Grosvenor Gallery, London. Although her work has a traditional Bhutanese foundation, her approach is informed by 20th Century schools of Western art such as Minimalism and Colour Field Painting. Her art is a perfect Post-Modern synthesis: combining the local with global, the contemporary with traditional. *Nature Morte* presented a solo show of Zimbiri's works at the Delhi Contemporary Art Week in 2019, and included her in a group show at the gallery in 2018 and at the India Art Fair in 2017.

Imaginary Lines will be on view in our gallery space at #7 Poorvi Marg, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi starting on Wednesday, March 2nd and continuing to Saturday, March 18th. The gallery is open to the public from 10am to 6pm every day but Sunday.

For press-related inquiries and high resolution images, please contact outreacha@naturemorte.com