

Komal Saxena – *Radial Balance*

Visual Description

This exhibit is of acrylic paintings on canvas, most are fairly large and are hung one per panel. The exhibit is mostly of mandala-style paintings where repeated geometric patterns are arranged, often in concentric circles. There are four double sided panels, covered with a beige carpet-like material, stacked in a line, running north-south. The panel faces are north facing and south facing. The panels are numbered 1 through 8, with 1 being the northernmost panel, 2 being the south facing panel on the rear side of panel 1, and so on, through panel 8 being the southernmost panel. I will describe four of the works.

Komal Saxena is a Vancouver based artist who specializes in fusion dot mandala art but is also experimenting with other styles. Finding things that others toss aside is where the game starts for her. She love to challenge herself and work with artwork that requires immense patience, time and which is entirely unique. For her, creating art is about being able to feel free and spontaneous.

Komal says of the exhibit, “I believe the artist’s hand lives on in the things that it has created. We lead with our hands, into people, new objects and places. I have always loved the idea of how things speak. The teapot can say – ‘Hello, please hold me this way’. To touch an art at an art gallery is a way of feeling the love of the artist. And to hold a brush in the hand is a way for expressing the light and energy of creating something new, something beautiful.

“My goal is to convey peace and grace to my viewers, offering a moment of pause and the feeling of deep belonging. Stop, take a pause, look, admire, accept and cherish... with patience.”

Panel 3 – Ocean’s Blue (36”x48”)

This painting is a combination of a circular mandala pattern alongside some expressive commentary in the same colour scheme. The top half of the painting is the mandala pattern (circular, contained within the rectangular frame). The middle of the circle is a golden centre, and radiating out from that are concentric rings with different geometric repeated patterns. Some patterns resemble flower petals, some are arches, some are multicoloured dots. About halfway along is a ring with a complex pattern of blue flowers with green and red leaves on a background of blue dots. The main colours of the painting are gold, light blue, darker blue, white and highlights of red. Dividing the painting horizontally across the middle are two gold lines, one thin (above) and one thicker (below). Between the two we can see more of the mandala. But the bottom half of the painting is different entirely. Using the same main colour scheme (light blue, dark blue, gold and white), expressionistic brush marks that look like waves or leaves floating on water provide a dramatic counterpoint to the rigid formality of the top half of the painting.

Panel 5 – Tint of Gold (36”x48”)

This painting is a circular mandala pattern within a rectangular frame. The background of the painting is an opaque black, without brushstrokes. In the centre of the frame is the mandala with radiating circles

of petal-like patterns. Each pattern is composed of multiple tiny dots of colour. The colours are gold, silver and white. The dots vary in size, and some of the larger ones are slightly raised in texture, like droplets. Behind the mandala is a significant area of blank (black) space. Then the patterns reappear in each of the four corners of the painting along the corner diagonals. These range from dense strips of tiny dots to delicate lace-work like patterns, and use the same colours and styles of patterns as the centre mandala. Finally in a 3" border around the whole painting is a gold line made of tiny dots. Where the horizontal and vertical lines of this border intersect in the corners, are four black squares. The whole work is covered in a shiny clear varnish.

Panel 7 - Glimmer (36" diameter circle)

This circular painting is divided into two sections. On the upper left side (if you imagine the painting as a clock face divided in a straight line from approximately 1:00 to 7:00) is a black background with gold abstract splatters, suggesting stars in the night sky. A band of gold approximately 2" thick followed by a thin black line divides the circle. On the lower right side of the circle is an iridescent gold colour, with thickly textured paint.

Panel 8 – Glittery Red (36" diameter circle)

This painting is also in a circular format, in a traditional mandala formation. Starting with white and orange in the middle with some freehand interlocking patterns, the painting then has a thickly textured ring of dark red paint. Then the patterns build out again with flower motifs accented with the application of tiny mirrors and shiny coloured glass pieces. These shimmery accents bring to mind beaded saris with the rich colours of red, orange, and gold with white accents.