

**Jai Chuhan - Paintings**

April 27 - June 3 2024

Champ Lacombe presents an exhibition of new work by London based, Indian born, artist **Jai Chuhan**.

Describing her practice Chuhan states; "My painterly process embodies an interplay of masses and lines, echoing the techniques of Auerbach and Kossoff, and the transformative essence of Giacometti's sculptural method. In each iteration, my life converges with the canvas, blurring the boundaries between reality and imagination. Through the abstraction of marks and colors, I try to evoke unseen narratives, merging personal history with the transcultural currents of our time."

In this new series Chuhan continues her exploration of the act of painting itself, and her unrelenting commitment to that practice. Simultaneously the works are an unequivocal exploration of self, and of how to create a visual equivalence to ones emotions. These new works in particular embrace the poignancy of the direct self portrait. The self portrait as a method to locate oneself. Each figure can be seen as a manifestation, each an attempt to unpack the artist's position in the world. Her work is both a refuge and a release. Tension and psychological twists are as evident as beauty and joy.

Expressionistic depictions of figures in abstracted architectures, Chuhan deftly navigates the canon of art history producing references that shift from Bonnard to Sickert, Bacon to Auerbach and across numerous other 'masters' - all translated into her canvases with a confident musicality and cadence all her own. Her sensibility derived as much from the tradition of western painting as it is from South Asian culture: of particular importance being the influence of Indian musical and painting compositions known as ragas, that link colour, emotion and time.

The spaces depicted in these works equally form an important thread through the practice. Depicted are both intimate locations, and public spaces - in both she is navigating how to claim space. How to occupy. Chuhan has spoken candidly of experiences as an immigrant to the United Kingdom as a child, and having to adapt to cultural differences, where art then became a refuge in this process.

These sensitivities and considerations feed the humility and warmth of Chuhan's works.

The works, whilst psychologically complex invite a proximity, a closer reading. Time dissolves and we, the viewers, are left enveloped in her poignant practice.

**Chuhan's** paintings have been exhibited internationally throughout the course of her career, at locations including; Tate Liverpool; Barbican, London; Bluecoat, Liverpool; Ikon, Birmingham; Tramway, Glasgow; Arnolfini, Bristol; Commonwealth Institute, London; Horizon Gallery, London; Watermans Arts Centre, London and Pitzhanger, London. Solo exhibitions include 'Small Paintings', Qrystal Partners, London (2023); Paris Internationale with Champ Lacombe, Paris (2023); 'Remodel: Painting Studio', Asia Triennial, Manchester (2018); 'Decanting Desire', Liverpool Biennial (2014) and 'Jai Chuhan: Recent Paintings', Victoria Gallery & Museum, Liverpool (2013). Her work is currently on view as part of the Hayward Touring exhibition 'Acts of Creation: On Art and Motherhood', curated by Hettie Judah, at the Arnolfini in Bristol.

For further information and images please contact [info@champlacombe.fr](mailto:info@champlacombe.fr)