Lavanya Mani

b. 1977, in Hyderabad, India

Lavanya Mani pursued BFA (1995-1999) and MFA (1999-2001) in Painting from The Faculty of Fine Arts, M.S.U, Baroda. Her multi-layered works are a collage of the artist’s thoughts and ideas expressed through a combination of several different media, most notably various textiles that she has dyed, printed or otherwise worked on. The traditional textile-crafts like kalamkari that she references along with her muted palette give the artist’s audiences a sense of nostalgia, while the iconic images she uses allude to very contemporary issues.

Lavanya held her first solo show, ‘In Praise of Folly’, at Chemould Prescott Road, Mumbai, in 2009 and more recently in March/April 2019 had her second solo show, titled ‘Signs Taken for Wonders’, with the gallery.

Amongst the selected group exhibitions in which her works have been featured are: ‘Hungry for Time’, Raqs Media Collective, Academy of Fine Arts, Vienna, 2021; 'Whorled Explorations': Kochi Muziris Bienalle, curated by Jitish Kallat, Aspinwall House, Fort Kochi, Kerala, India 2014; 'Drawing Seven Decades of Indian Drawing', co-curated by Prayag Shukla along with Annapurna Garimella and Sindhura Jois DM, celebrating 25 years of Gallery Espace, IGNCA, New Delhi, 2014- 15; 'Aesthetic Bind: Floating World', celebrating 50 years of Contemporary art, curated by Geeta Kapur at Gallery Chemould Prescott road, Mumbai, 2014-15; 'The Fabric of India', at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, 2015; A Beast, A God and a Line curated by Cosmin Costinas, Dhaka Art Summit, Bangladesh, 2018; Para Site, Hong Kong, 2018 which travelled to partner institutions TS1 Yangon, Myanmar in 2018; Museum of Modern Art, Warsaw, Poland in 2018, Connecting Threads: Textiles in Contemporary Practice curated by Tasneem Zakaria Mehta & Puja Vaish, Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Mumbai City Museum, Mumbai, India, 2018-19.

In 2016, she conducted a workshop on Contemporary Natural Dye Painting at Fabric Textile Society of America SCAD, Georgia, USA, and in 2018 a workshop, ‘Kalamkari as Studio Practise’ at Penland School of Craft, North Carolina, USA. In August 2019, she conducted a Kalamkari Workshop at JJ School of Art, Fort, Mumbai.

The artist divides her time between Bangalore and Vadodara, India.