

MARCH 2018

WOMEN'S DAY EDITION

# ST★RTISTS

The Talk Magazine

**Contemporary Women In Art**





# ST★RTISTS MAGAZINE

## Women's Day Special Edition

March 2018

Chief Editor/Writing Contributor

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### Graphic design

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Cover Photo Coutesy

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**ST★RTISTS** is a Premium Women's Art Talk Magazine featuring Contemporary women in art.

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### Submission Guidelines

If you want to contribute to the next edition, you can send us an email with your data and a PDF file that Shows your works, also a link of your website if you have any.

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ISBN: 9781980494492



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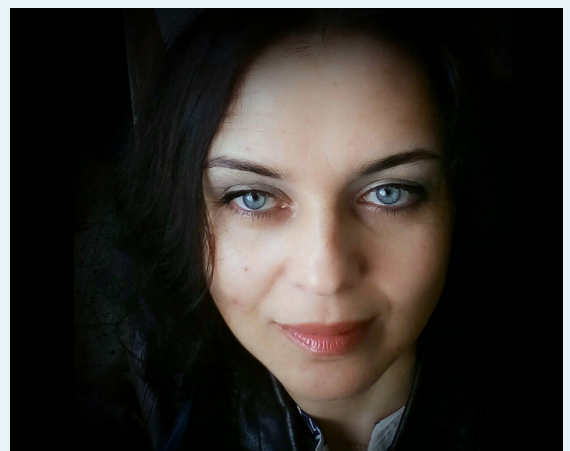


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Dear Readers

Happy Women's Day one and all!

I hope you've enjoyed the festivities so far and are looking forward to a very bright 2018. Last Year in 2017, when this magazine was launched, I was a bit jittery as how to manage things and bring out the best in the compiled editions.

But things have been more than good for me and the response I received from various Artists around the globe just put me in a great surprise. Today ST★RTISTS is an esteemed International Women's Art Magazine. Whatever you're doing this International Women's Day, please think of the women in your life who have only made it better – no matter how big or small their impact is. We'd love to share the women who have inspired you and made you inspire others. Our interviewees this month are all awe-inspiring women who share with us their passions and have achieved success in various other fields of life too. Some are multifaceted personalities, dignitaries who have been brilliantly managing their homes, work and passion for art. Hope you will have as much fun reading our special issue as we had putting it together and wishing you "A Very Happy Women's Day"!

Priya Yabaluri

Editor-In-Chief

Creativity

Creativity –  
a narrative  
of infinite passion,  
sweet and sour memories,  
dreams of the distant future.

Creativity  
is exploring timelessness,  
the present always mingled with past and fu-  
ture,  
and is all about  
rebellion of a free spirit  
an expression of freedom more than  
love.

Sangeeta Gupta





# ARTIST OF THE MONTH



## SANGEETA

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**Sangeeta Gupta** (B. Sc, M.A, L.L.B) born at Gorakhpur, U.P. in 1958 spent her childhood in Tamkuhi road a small town, part of Kushi Nagar district. She is the first woman who qualified Civil Services and is an officer of 1984 batch IRS. She was given the gold medal in 1986 by National Academy of Direct Taxes, Nagpur for being the best probationer of her batch.

She bagged the best bureaucrat of the year award of Make in India Excellence award conferred by Indo Global Business Council, Delhi. She has done her town, district, and state proud of her achievements in different fields like art, literature, filmmaking and civil services. For Sangeeta Gupta abstract art is a means to reach the non-objective experiences that help shape the inner life. It is a witness to the fact that man's spiritual needs do not disappear even at times engulfed by gross materialism. She strives to express the poetic vision in her works. Keeping in view her strong passion for painting and writing, one can only make guess about her performance on professional duties front. But the fact is that she has earned distinctions and achieved the targets assigned to her wherever she was posted to date. Presently, she is Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, Delhi.



Song of the Cosmos

In the year 1995, she held her first solo show at Birla Academy of Art & Culture, Kolkata, which was inaugurated by none other than Mother Teresa. The entire sale proceeds of this show were donated to CRY. She has held 32 solo shows all over India including Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Lucknow, Chandigarh and overseas in London, Berlin, Munich, Lahore, Belfast (Northern Ireland) and Thessaloniki (Greece). In August 2013, her 26th solo exhibition dedicated to Uttarakhand was inaugurated by the former President of India Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam. The fund of Rs. 20 lakh raised through the sale proceeds of her paintings has been used for creating a Fine Art Education Grant for the students of Uttarakhand

She is promoting Art and Culture through Prithvi Fine Art & Culture Centre, a charitable society of Delhi. As part of a cultural exchange programme of Prithvi, was instrumental in organizing an exhibition of 18 Greek artists at Lalit Kala Academy, Delhi (2014) and in 2015 a group of seven artists of India was represented in an exhibition at EMS Museum Gallery Thessaloniki (Greece) as part of Cultural Exchange project.

She is also promoting a project for Revival of Basholi Paintings, a heritage of Jammu, a project of Prithvi Fine Art & Cultural Centre. All profits from the sale of her photographs printed on Canvas is being utilized for helping students of Basholi art.

She has participated in more than 200 group shows in India and abroad, in national exhibitions of Lalit Kala Akademi, AIFACS, and Sahitya Kala Parishad and in several art camps.

Her paintings are in the permanent collection of the Bharat Bhavan Museum, Bhopal, Museum of Sacred Art (MOSA) Belgium and Macedonian Museum of Contemporary Art, Thessaloniki (Greece). Her works have been represented at the India Art Fair, New Delhi in 2011, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016. As part of Indian Delegation, she had a solo exhibition of paintings at Shenzhen, China 11th International Cultural and Industrial fair 2015. She has participated in 3rd Jerusalem Biennale, Jerusalem (2017).

Apart from winning all India awards for drawing and painting her works occupy space on the walls of the country's most prestigious residences and offices including those of the President and Prime Minister as well as Governors of Karnataka and Jammu and Kashmir. This multifaceted lady also dabbles in several other fields like photography and she has taken part in national exhibitions of photography in 1999 and 2001, New Delhi.

Sangeeta Gupta has contributed a lot to literature too. There is a collection of short stories and six anthologies of poems in Hindi to her credit. Sangeeta Gupta's collection of poems "Iss Par Uss Par", has been translated in Bangla and Pratinad, has also been translated into Bangla, English, and German. Weaves of Time, a collection of English poems was published in 2013 by Partridge, a Penguin company which is also translated in Greek Sparsh Ke Gulmohar (collection of Hindi poems published by Rajkamal Prakashan 2015) also translated in Dogri. Lada-kh: Knowing the unknown" published by Full Circle 2015 launched at Jaipur Literature Festival 2015, Nehru Centre London and in Thessaloniki, Greece. EKAM a book of poems and photographs published in 2017, launched at Jaipur Literature Festival 2017. Beparwah Ruh:(2017) poems in Hindi. Song of Silence: (2017) poems in English.

She has also directed, scripted and shot seven documentary films. Her films have been screened at various prestigious venues in Delhi and telecast on DD Bharati and Lok Sabha channels several times. Kung Fu Nuns in Mystic Ladakh was screened at 3rd Delhi International Film Festival 2014

Sangeeta Gupta has been awarded with many honours .She was awarded” Achievers Award “ on 11th October 2017 by India Eye International Human Rights Observer. 7th Rajiv Gandhi Excellence Award on 23rd September 2016, India Habitat Center, New Delhi. The Great Women Achievers Awards - 2016 by The Performer (group of art & culture) on 31-August-2016, Jammu. Kala Drishti Award (2016) for exemplary work done in the field of Civil Service & Art. Delhi Gaurav Award 2015 in Professional Category for Art & Culture by Indian Brave Hearts supported by Union Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment; 6th Rajiv Gandhi Excellence Award (2015); India Excellence Award for Poetry 2015; Priyadarshini Award 2015 as an International Cultural Entrepreneur by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Entrepreneur (MSME) India. 35th Women Entrepreneurship Award 2015 by Bharat Nirman; Global Women Achievers Award 2015 by IGBC; Poet of the Year Award (2014) by 3rd Delhi International Film Festival 2014; Awarded and honored as an Artist by 3rd Delhi International Film Festival 2014.

She is also the recipient of 6th National Women Excellence Award (2013); Rashtrakavi Maithilisharan Gupt Samman (2013) for contribution to Hindi poetry; Women Achievers Award (2013) by Indian Council for UN relations on the eve of International Women’s Day; Vishwa Hindi Pracheta Alan-karan (2013); Udbhav Shikhar Samman (2012) for achievements in the field of art and literature; Hind-prabha Award (1999) for Indian Women Achievers by Uttar Pradesh Mahila Manch; 77th Annual Award for Painting (2005) by All India Fine Arts & Craft Society, New Delhi and 69th Annual Award for Drawing 1998. She was awarded Gold medal for Best probationer (1984 batch Indian Revenue Service).

Today it is a great pleasure and honor to feature Smt Sangeeta Gupta’s interview for which she took out her precious time ,to share with us her experiences and knowledge in the art field .

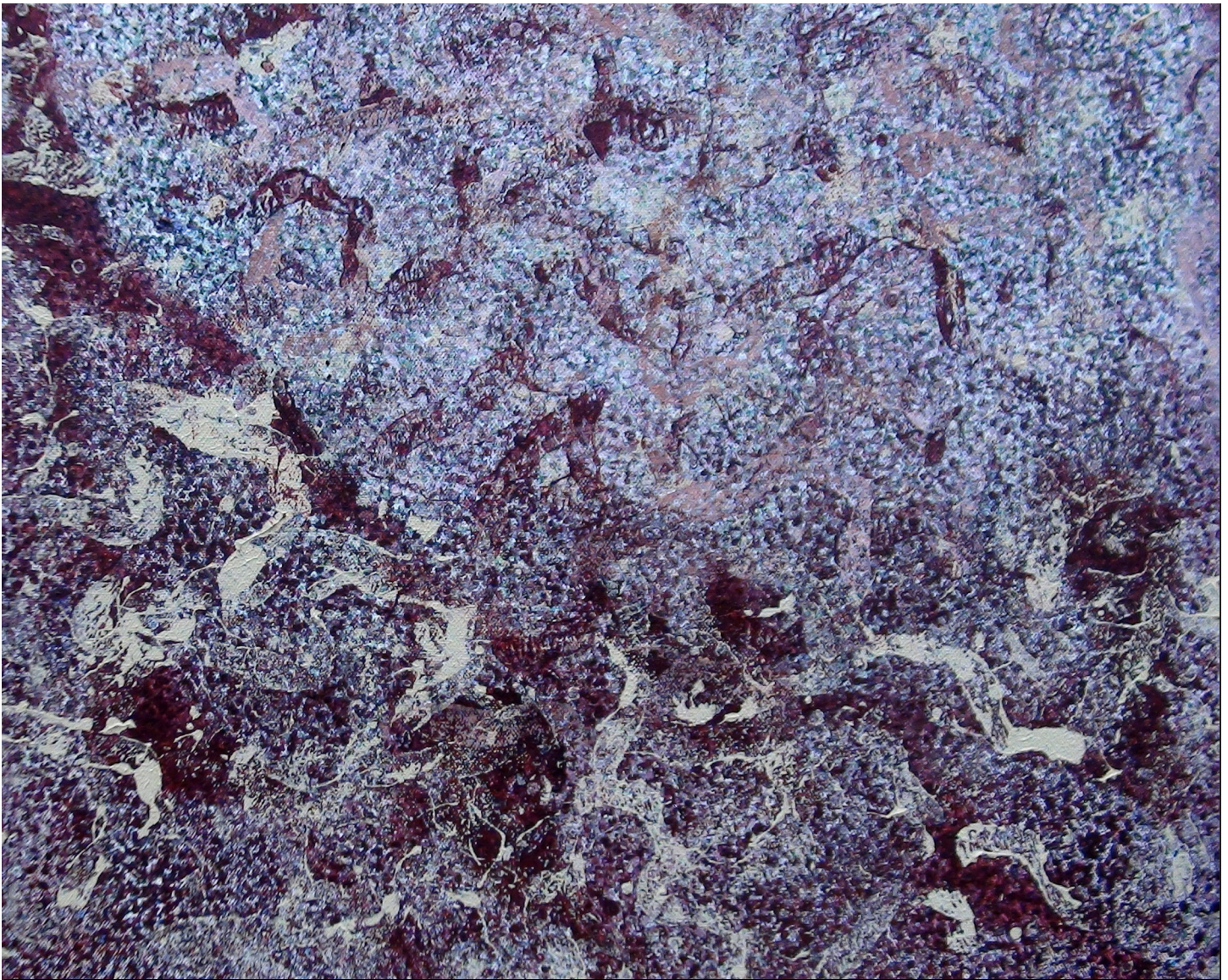
*STAR: How do you manage your professional life as a Chief Commissioner of Income Tax and as a successful artist? You must have really struggled hard to reach your goals and achieving them so brilliantly in both the fields.*

SANGEETA GUPTA: For me, abstract art is a means to reach the non-objective experiences that help shape the inner life. It is a witness to the fact that man’s spiritual needs do not disappear even at times engulfed by gross materialism. I strive to express this poetic vision in my works. Keeping in view my strong passion for painting and writing, one can only make guess about my performance on professional duties front. But

I have managed to earn distinctions and achieved the targets assigned to me wherever I was posted to date. Presently, I am working as Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, Delhi.

It is a question of your priorities. I do what I love to do, and I am always able to create time for that. It is all about time management, determination, focus, and discipline. I have never struggled with achieving anything in life. I always enjoy the process of doing what I do every moment of my life.





STAR: *When and where were you born? Tell me about your background. Where did your life as an artist begin?*

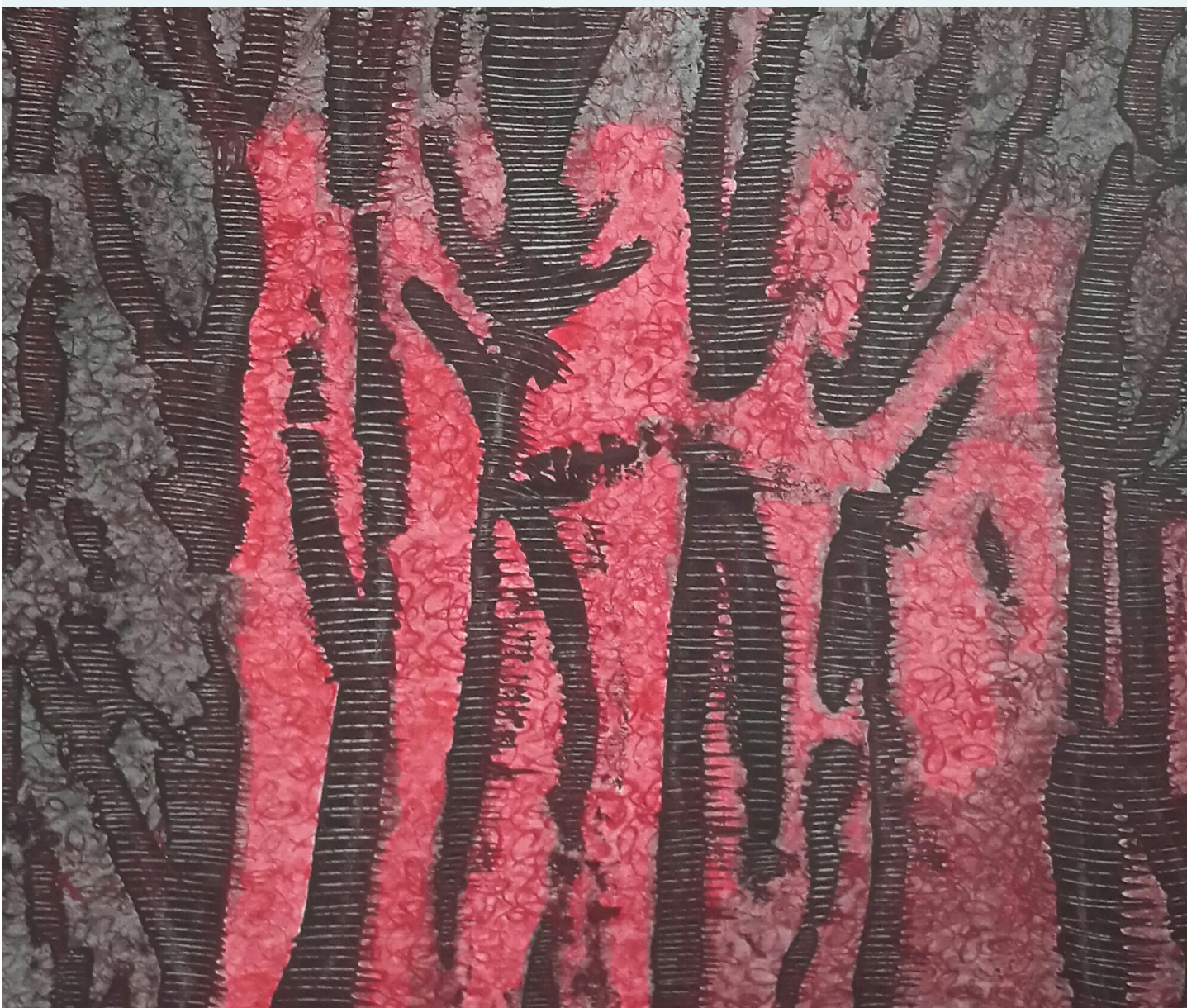
SANGEETA GUPTA: I was born in Gorakhpur, U.P. in 1958, spent my early childhood in Tamkuhi road a small town of Kushi Nagar district. My parents were highly educated and placed substantial emphasis on good education of their children. I was sent to a boarding school in Gorakhpur and completed my high school from Carmel School, Gorakhpur. My father was very keen that I should become self-sufficient and economically independent. I did my graduation and post-graduation from Banaras Hindu University. Much later in life I also did my LLB from Delhi University while working as a civil servant. I have no formal education in art. I come from the guru “shishya parampara”, wherein I was taught by my guru at home for long five years.

I started my career as a lecturer in political science and later appeared for civil services. I happen to be the first woman who qualified Civil Services from my district. I am an officer of 1984 batch IRS. I was bestowed with a gold medal in 1986 by National Academy of Direct Taxes, Nagpur for being the best probationer of my batch.

My first book of Hindi poems “Antas se” was published in the year 1988. I have 12 published books now. In the year 1995, I held my first solo exhibition at Birla Academy of Art & Culture, Kolkata, which was inaugurated by none other than Mother Teresa. The entire sale proceeds of this show were donated to CRY. Have held 32 solo shows all over India including Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Lucknow, Chandigarh and overseas in London, Berlin, Munich, Lahore Belfast (Northern Ireland) and Thessaloniki(Greece).



In August 2013, my 26th solo exhibition dedicated to Uttarakhand was inaugurated by the former President of India Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam. The fund of Rs. 20 lakh raised through the sale proceeds of my paintings have been used for creating a Fine Art Education Grant for the students of Uttarakhand.



*STAR: What artists inspire you. What is the source of inspiration?*

**SANGEETA GUPTA:** Inspiration for me always comes from within. The cosmic energy connects all living and non-living in a bond. The creative work of other artists can bring joy or influence one to some extent. I admire works of Van Gogh, Rothko, Monnet, Mark Stella, Kandinsky, Tyeb Mehta, Gaitonde and Ram Kumar, Biren Dey to name the few.



STAR: *Why are you so passionate about ART?*

SANGEETA GUPTA: There are few why's which cannot be answered in certain terms. For me, it is connecting with my inner self. Most people do not know and also do not make enough efforts to know what makes them happy. I have always been interested in painting and writing. Invariably it has always brought joy and immense peace to me. Once, I realized that painting and writing are my sources of happiness, I have always created time to pursue my passion.

STAR: *How do you go about the planning and beginning work on a painting? How important are balance and tension? Do you use any form of dynamic symmetry or similar in your abstracts?*

SANGEETA GUPTA: I do not plan to make a painting, I am basically a spontaneous painter. Each painting expresses the cumulative experiences of one's life stored in one's subconscious mind. I strive to create a harmonious balance through the definition of five elements i.e. Prithvi(earth), Vayu(air), Jal(water), Aakash(ether) and Agni(fire). I have chosen to be an abstract artist to liberate myself and therefore do not like to use any forms which can restrain my being.

STAR: *Describe a situation in which you were able to effectively 'read' another person and guide your actions by your understanding of their individual needs or values as an artist.*

SANGEETA GUPTA: Any sensitive person understands the situational needs of others and always keeps that in mind before conducting oneself. All creative people are blessed with this natural instinct.

STAR: *What mediums do you work in and why?*

SANGEETA GUPTA: I have tried my hands in various mediums, however, I enjoy working with acrylic on canvas the most. I am also very comfortable painting with oil on canvas. I still continue to do my ink drawings on paper on a regular basis. I also experiment with mixed media often.

STAR :*What obstacles do you face in making and exhibiting your work?*

SANGEETA GUPTA: I have been especially blessed all throughout and have not faced any obstacle in making or exhibiting my works. Being economically independent gives you the freedom to experiment with your creativity. Art is not a fulltime occupation and can be best expressed when one is free from economic constraints.

STAR: *Give an example of an important goal that you set in the past. Tell about your success in reaching it.*

SANGEETA GUPTA: Goals are generally set for official/mundane work and it is very important to achieve them within the stipulated time.

For creativity goals cannot be set, it is a spontaneous act. However, discipline is a requisite intrinsic quality to establish oneself as a poet or artist. There is no substitute for sustained efforts in whatever one is pursuing. Opportunities have always knocked my door and I have always said yes to them.

STAR: *What are your favorite works you have created? Can you explain us 2- 3 works and the thought process behind them?*

SANGEETA GUPTA: I am a spontaneous painter and once I start a painting, it is my endeavor to make it a masterpiece. Each and every piece which I create is close to my heart, it is like giving birth to a child. I do not categorize my works into favorites or lesser than that. It is the privilege of viewers to decide which one is their favorite. Once I initiate a painting, the painting itself dictates how to go about it and when to finish it. My works are reflections of the subconscious mind. Painting is like meditation to me.



STAR: *What other forms of creativity do you like?*

SANGEETA GUPTA: I have been keenly interested in writing especially poetry, I have 12 published books to my credit, 6 of them are translated in various languages i.e. Bangla, Dogri, English, German and Greek.

I have also scripted and directed 7 documentary films. Some of them have been telecast on various television channels.

STAR: *Any other advice for artists trying to get established?*

SANGEETA GUPTA: Any creative field needs sustained practice and this is like a sadhana which every artist has to undertake, there is no shortcut to establishing yourself in any field.

STAR: *What is your average day like?*

SANGEETA GUPTA: I work as an officer from 10 a.m to 6 p.m, five days a week. After office, I generally eat an early dinner and work in my studio or do some creative writing or just catch up with my reading. I go off to sleep around 11 p.m.

In the mornings I do my exercise, look after the household works, do my chanting and sometimes I also paint or write if I rise early.

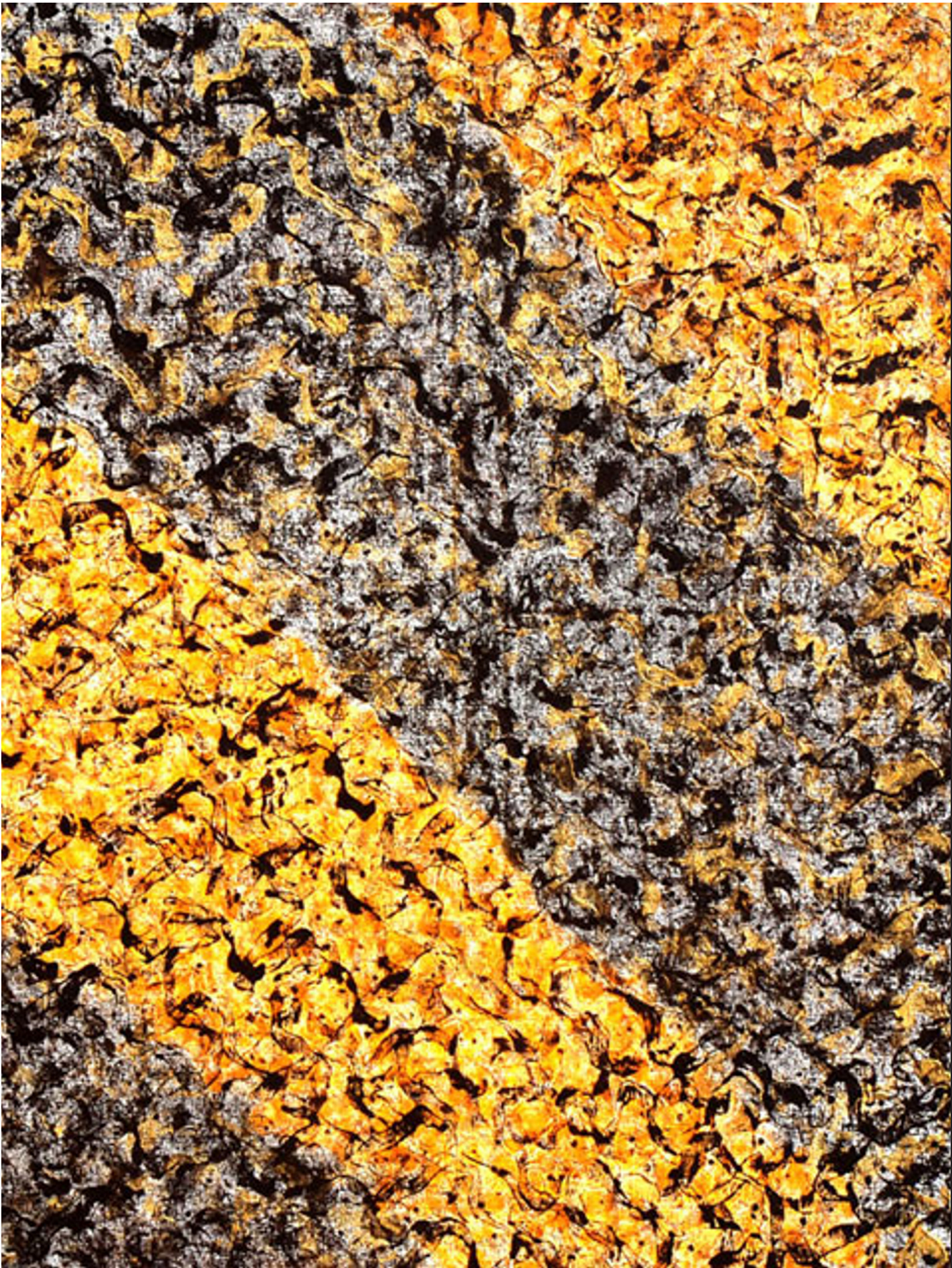
On weekends I lock myself in the house and paint or write.

I do not indulge in futile socializing or so-called networking. I love to interact with people and exchange ideas.

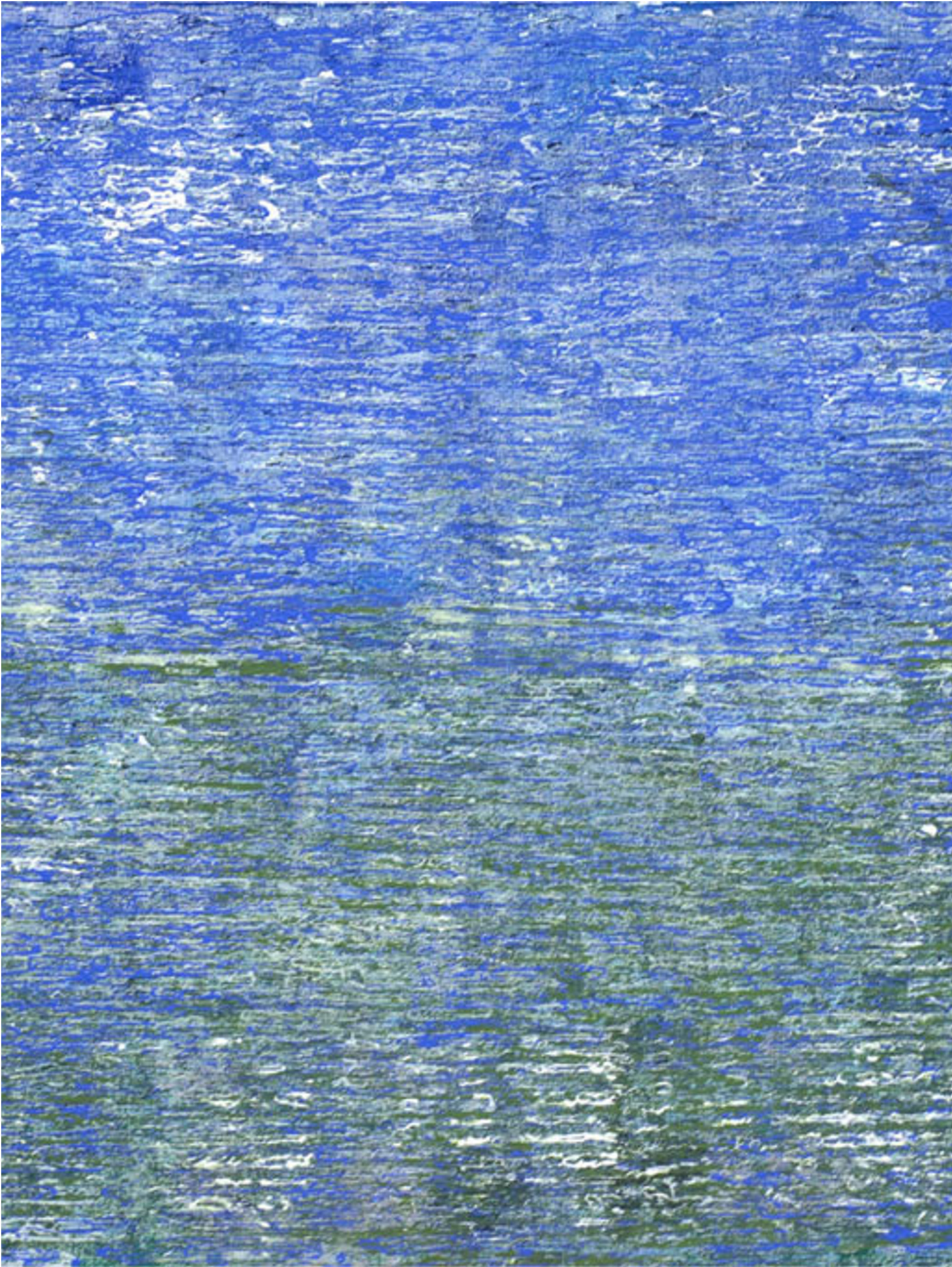




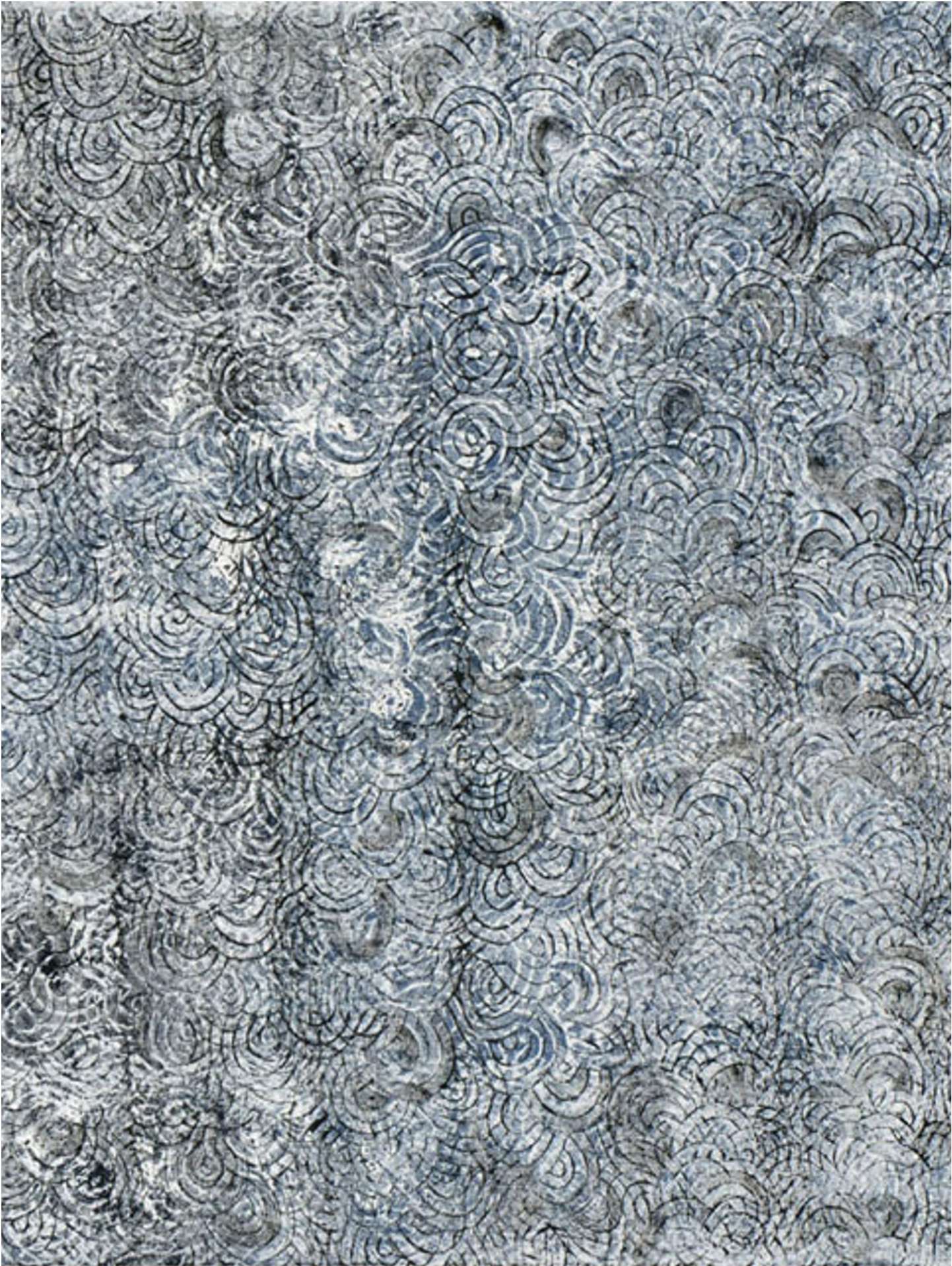
Swirling



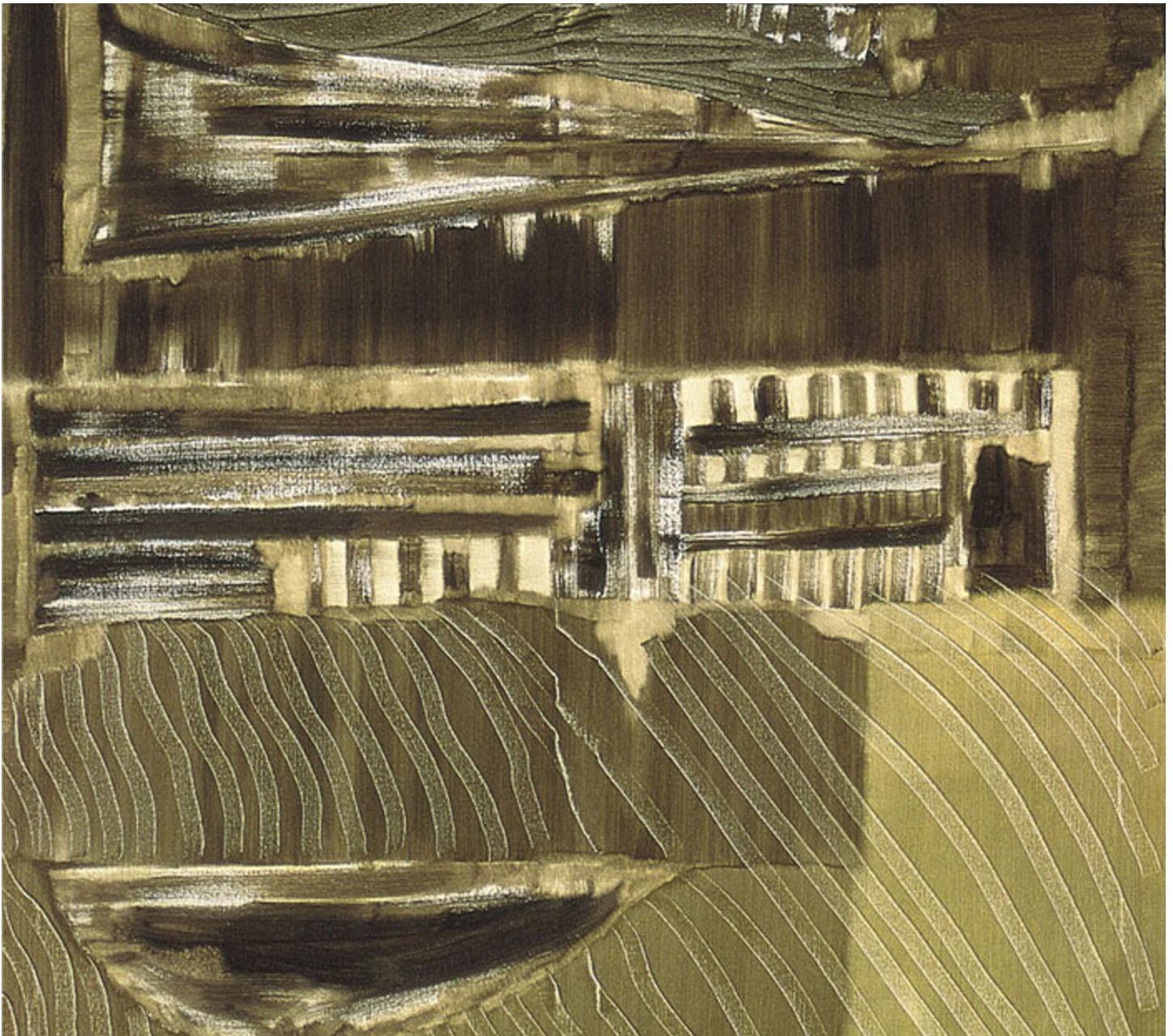












*Artist Sangeeta Gupta works her way through a psychological journey that juxtaposes aspiration and limitation; meanwhile, the forms in her art shift to reflect the intuitive abstracts which are usually powerful and have this captivating aura.*

*Some of her works with abstract designs imply natural images, such as the character of water and the texture and colors of earth or stone. The painting style is exceptional. The depictions and forms through the use of pure artistic elements like lines, textures, and colors liberate her expression from the direct representation of reality. The magazine is proud to feature this genius and multifaceted lady, who is an inspiring Icon to many.*

*( You can find more about Sangeeta Gupta on her website:[www.sangeetagupta.co.in](http://www.sangeetagupta.co.in))*