

SONALI LAHA

Artist | Painting & Installation

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PROFILE

Sonali Laha is an artist based in Bengaluru, India, with a sustained painting practice of more than fifteen years. Her work is rooted in traditional Indian tempera painting and handmade wasli while engaging questions of mind, body and soul, self-love, mindfulness, memory, and the ways social and political conditions shape individual experience. She prepares her own wasli and works with natural pigments, earth colours, gold leaf and archival materials. Her current practice is expanding toward motherhood, memory, the body, and the relationship between intimate experience and broader social and political structures.

EDUCATION

2010–2012 M.F.A., Painting — *University of Hyderabad, Telangana*

2006–2010 B.F.A., Painting — *The University of Burdwan, West Bengal*

2003–2006 B.A. — *The University of Burdwan, West Bengal*

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

2019 Junior Fellowship — *Ministry of Culture, Government of India (CCRT)*

Research focused on traditional tempera painting, handmade wasli, and the artist's painting process, resulting in the research book *Joining Dots*, completed and submitted to the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

2012 All India Emerging Artist Award — *Odisha Lalit Kala Academy*

RESIDENCIES

2019 Kalakriti Art Residency — *Kalakriti Art Gallery, Hyderabad*

2019 Chitrangan — *WZCC Udaipur & Directorate of Art and Culture, Goa*

2016 National Art Conclave — *Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi*

2016 Water Colour Residency — *Kochi-Muziris Biennale*

SELECTED SOLO & TWO-PERSON PRESENTATIONS

2023 Converging Echoes — *Solo online viewing room, Terrain Art, Delhi*

2021 Echoes and Time Unfolded — *Two-person exhibition, Kalakriti Art Gallery, Hyderabad*

2019 Treasured Memories — *Two-person online exhibition, Kalakriti Art Gallery*

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

2025 Between Yesterday and Tomorrow — *Aem Contemporary, New Delhi; curated by Vandita Misra*

2024 Mirror Mirror on the Wall — *Champatree Gallery × EKCHITRA, Delhi*

2024 Measuring Life with Coffee Spoons — *APRE Art House, Mumbai*

2023 Art and Architecture Design Biennale (Bagh-E-Bahar) — *Red Fort, Delhi*

2023 The Secret Within — *ICONART Gallery, Hyderabad*

2023 A Room Full of Phools — *Champatree Gallery, Delhi*

2023 Reverence — *Gallery Veda, Chennai; curated by Annapurna M*

2022 The Art of India 2022 — *The Times of India, Ahmedabad*

2022 62nd National Exhibition of Art — *Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi*

2021 Land Spaces — *Art Houz Gallery, Chennai; curated by G. Vignesh*

2019 The Moving Yarns — *Alliance Française of Hyderabad; curated by Palakshi Dass*

2018 Displacement — *ICONART Gallery; curated by Avani Rao Gandra*

2017 57th National Exhibition of Art — *Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi*

2017 Art installations in public spaces — *Hyderabad; curated by Avani Rao*

2016 60th National Exhibition of Art — *NGMA Mumbai / Lalit Kala Akademi*

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS — CONTINUED

- 2017 Drawing Experience — *ICONART Gallery; curated by Avani Rao*
- 2017 Art o Graph — *HLF, Hyderabad*
- 2015 Clipboard — *Durbar Hall Art Centre, Kerala; curated by Shijo Jacob*
- 2015 Born A Girl — *Goethe-Zentrum, Hyderabad; Iconart Gallery*
- 2015 Group Exhibition — *Lamakanth, Hyderabad*
- 2015 National Level Exhibition — *Odisha Lalit Kala Akademi*
- 2015 Group Exhibition — *OED Gallery, Kochi*
- 2015 All India Art Competition & Exhibition — Selected — *State Art Gallery, Hyderabad*
- 2012 Project Art Next — *Lalit Kala Akademi, Delhi*
- 2012 Embarking Routes — *Shrishti Art Gallery, Hyderabad*
- 2010 Annual Exhibition — *Gaganendra Pradarsansala, Kolkata*
- 2010 Annual Exhibition — *Srijani Art Gallery, West Bengal*

RESEARCH PUBLICATION

2019 — *Joining Dots*

Research book developed through the Junior Fellowship, Ministry of Culture, Government of India (CCRT), focusing on traditional tempera painting, handmade wasli, and the artist's painting process. Completed and submitted to the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

PUBLICATIONS, PRESS & ARTIST TALKS

- 2022 The Art of India 2022 — *The Times of India*
- 2020 Artexplore XII — Sonali Laha in conversation with Ruchi Sharma — *Shield Art Initiative*
- 2020 Two Women, Two New Perspectives — *The New Indian Express*
- 2019 Artist-in-Residency Talk and Presentation — *Kalakriti Art Gallery, Hyderabad*
- 2019 The Moving Yarns — *The Pioneer*
- 2019 Silent Expression by Sonali Laha — *Hakara*
- 2019 Art o Graph: Art and the Written Word — *ICONART Gallery*

CURRENT PRACTICE & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2026–present Developing a new body of paintings exploring motherhood, memory, the body, and the relationship between intimate experience and broader social and political structures. Continuing research into traditional Indian tempera, handmade wasli, natural pigments, earth colours, gold leaf and archival materials.

2026 Two-year professional agreement with Champatree Gallery, New Delhi, involving planned group and solo exhibitions; a group exhibition is scheduled for October 2026.

MATERIALS & PROCESS

Traditional Indian tempera on handmade wasli; self-prepared wasli; natural pigments and earth colours; gold leaf; archival materials; painting materials and tools; and material/fabrication processes for larger works and installations.

WORKSHOPS & TRAINING

- 2012 Miniature Painting Workshop — *Vargina Wills, S.N. School, University of Hyderabad*
- 2012 Animation Art Workshop — *Manjunath Kamath, University of Hyderabad*
- 2010 Installation Workshop — *Paula Sen Gupta and Surekha, S.N. School, University of Hyderabad*
- 2010 Portrait Wash & Experimental Drawing Camp — *Burdwan University*

PROFESSIONAL CONTACT

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