



Sutra Foundation

2023

SURREAL

SYMPHONY

An Exhibition of paintings and drawings
by **Sivarajah Natarajan**

SIVADDEC

2023

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Sutra Gallery

12 Persiaran Titiwangsa 3, 53200 Kuala Lumpur

I've learnt from experience that a painting isn't finished when you put down your brush – that's when it starts. The public reaction is what supplies meaning and value. Art comes alive in the arguments you have about it."

— Banksy

These artworks were conceived both before and after the COVID era, with the intent of capturing the profound simplicity and vulnerability that characterise life during isolation. I delved into the artistic realm, employing materials such as bitumen, inks, recycled canvas, and corrugated board to explore the nuances of my craft. Remaining adaptable as an artist, I create pieces using the materials at hand.

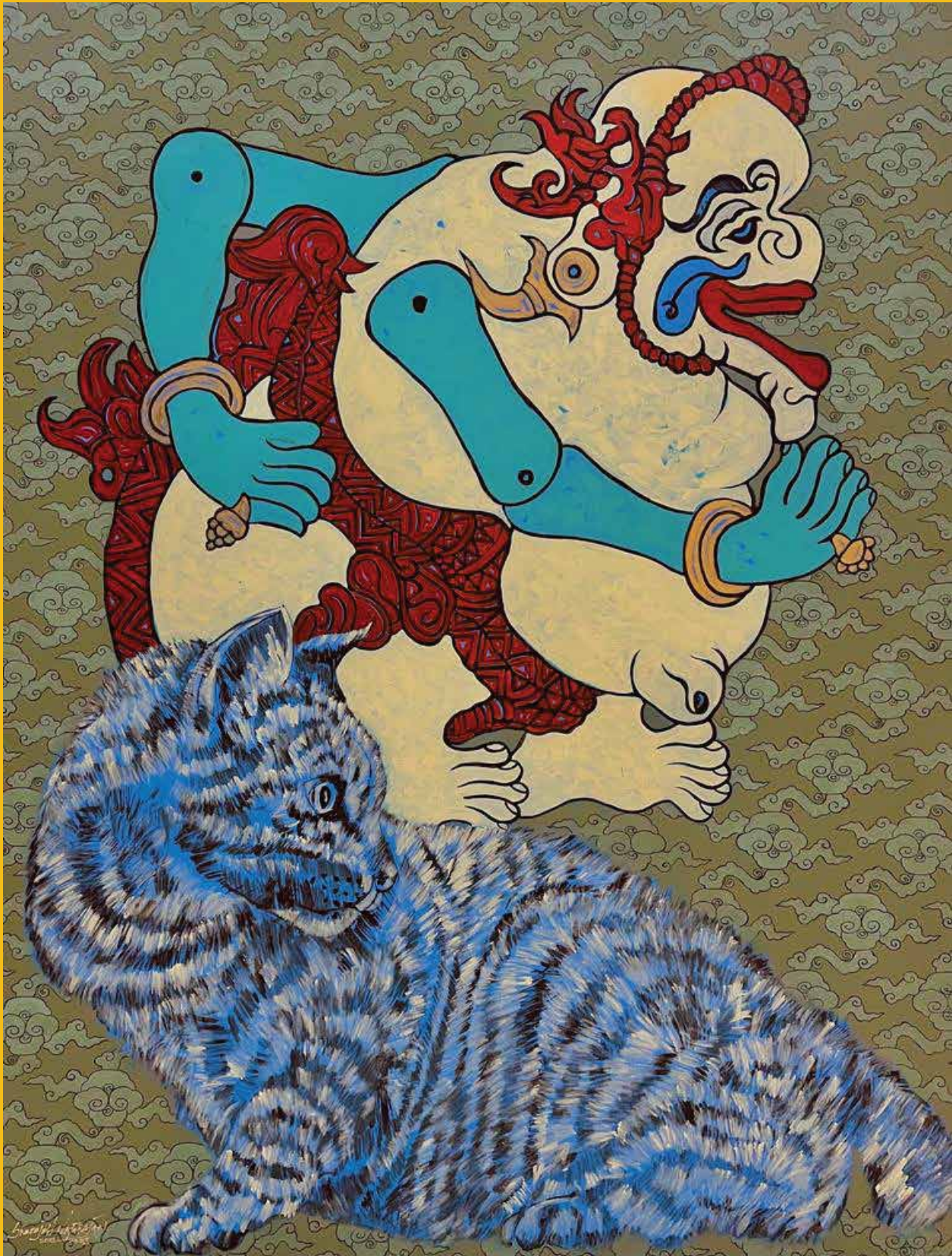
Penglipur Lara (I) & (II) emerged in 2013 from the Ahimsa exhibition. Despite being unsold during the event, these pieces found refuge in my studio, only to be resurrected during the COVID period. Adding layers and motives, I embraced the evolution of both myself as an artist and my creativity over two decades. For me, the artwork is an ongoing journey; it is never truly completed until it departs from my side.

Simultaneously, I embarked on a venture into vintage and antiquities, reminiscing about flashes from my childhood. While confined to my studio, memories of childhood toy cars and trips to the barbershop chair with my father during school holidays flooded back. The GE fan, our solace after play in the scorching sun, takes me back to a time when air conditioning was unknown to me until the age of 14, prompting reflection on its impact on our environment.

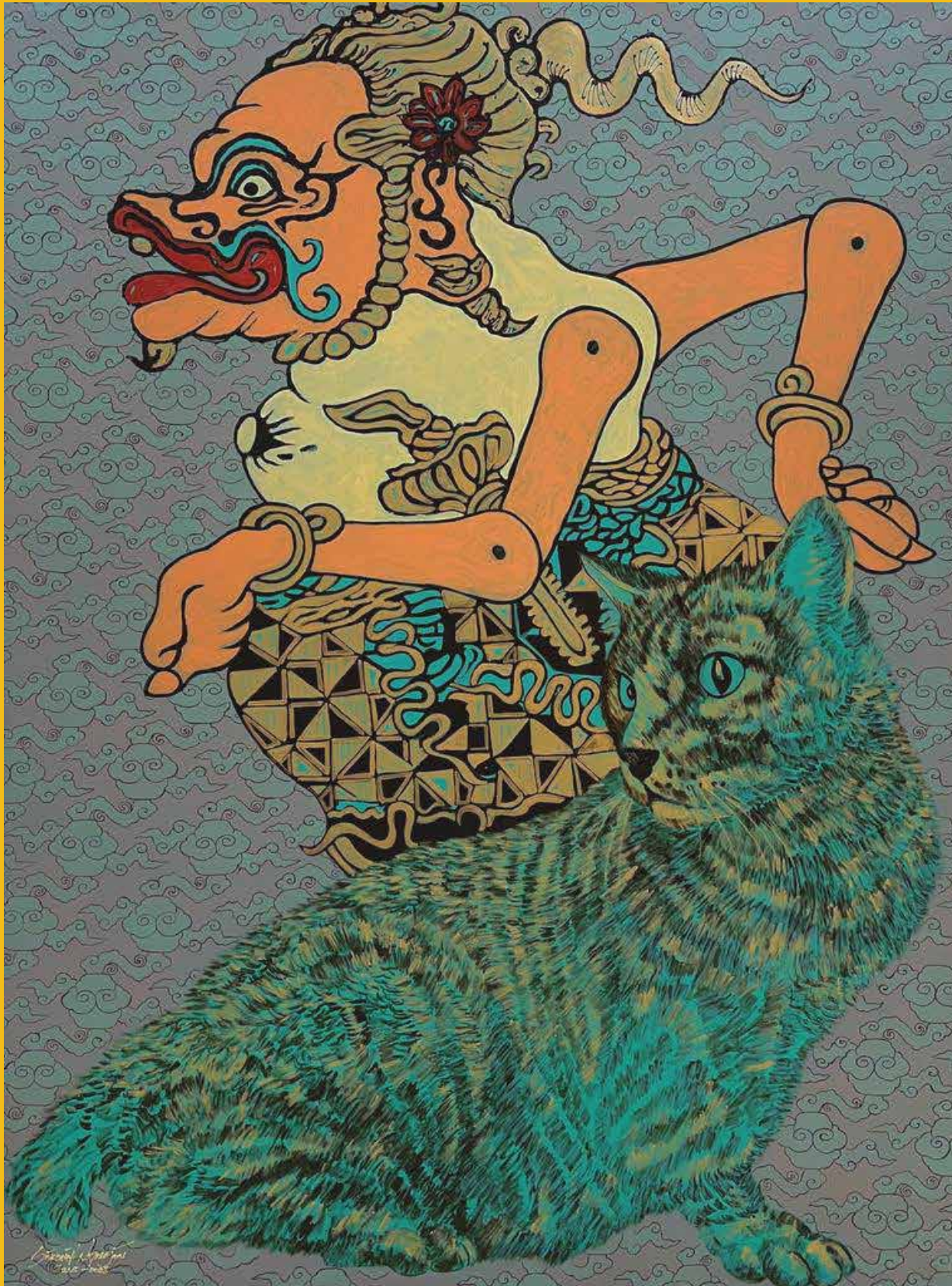
Venturing into Bitumen for the first time during the challenging circumstances of the COVID period, I explored images from folklore and mythology. This exploration not only kindled my affection for the medium but also deepened my understanding of material and rendering techniques.

Among my most cherished creations are the dancer sketches, showcasing a vast array of movements—from Indian classical and Malay traditional dances like Mak Yong, Menora, and Main Putri, to Malay shamanic ritualistic dances, Chinese opera with its intricate makeup and elaborate costumes, Japanese Noh theatre, and Western classical and contemporary dance movements. Additionally, I explored street theatre from Tamil Nadu, Javanese traditional dance and shadow theatre, and Balinese ritual dance. Utilising monochrome effects and wash, these sketches aim to capture the simplicity of human forms manifested in diverse shapes and movements.

My mind travels through a range of surreal experiences in my life, each like a special piece waiting to be painted. These artworks are more than just paint strokes; they are echoes of life events, resonating through different phases of my memories and reality itself. My art is a simple yet vibrant expression, weaving together the threads of life into a rich and intricate story with every brushstroke.



1 **Penglipur Lara (I)** | Acrylic on Canvas | 200 cm x 150 cm | 2013 - 2023 | **RM 34,000.00**



2 **Penglipur Lara (II)** | Acrylic on Canvas | 200 cm x 150 cm | 2013 - 2023 | **RM 34,000.00**



















11 **Zebra Crossing (I)** | Bitumen on Canvas | 46 cm x 102 cm | 2021 | **RM 5,000.00**











