



# SHADOW AND LIGHT

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A REDEMPTION STORY

2<sup>ND</sup> APRIL 1PM - 7PM | 3<sup>RD</sup> APRIL 11AM - 6PM

OIKOS CENTRE, BEHIND TWO STAR HOTEL  
KALINA



ART GALLERY  
**INTRODUCTION**

# WELCOME

Welcome to Shadow and Light: A Redemption Story.

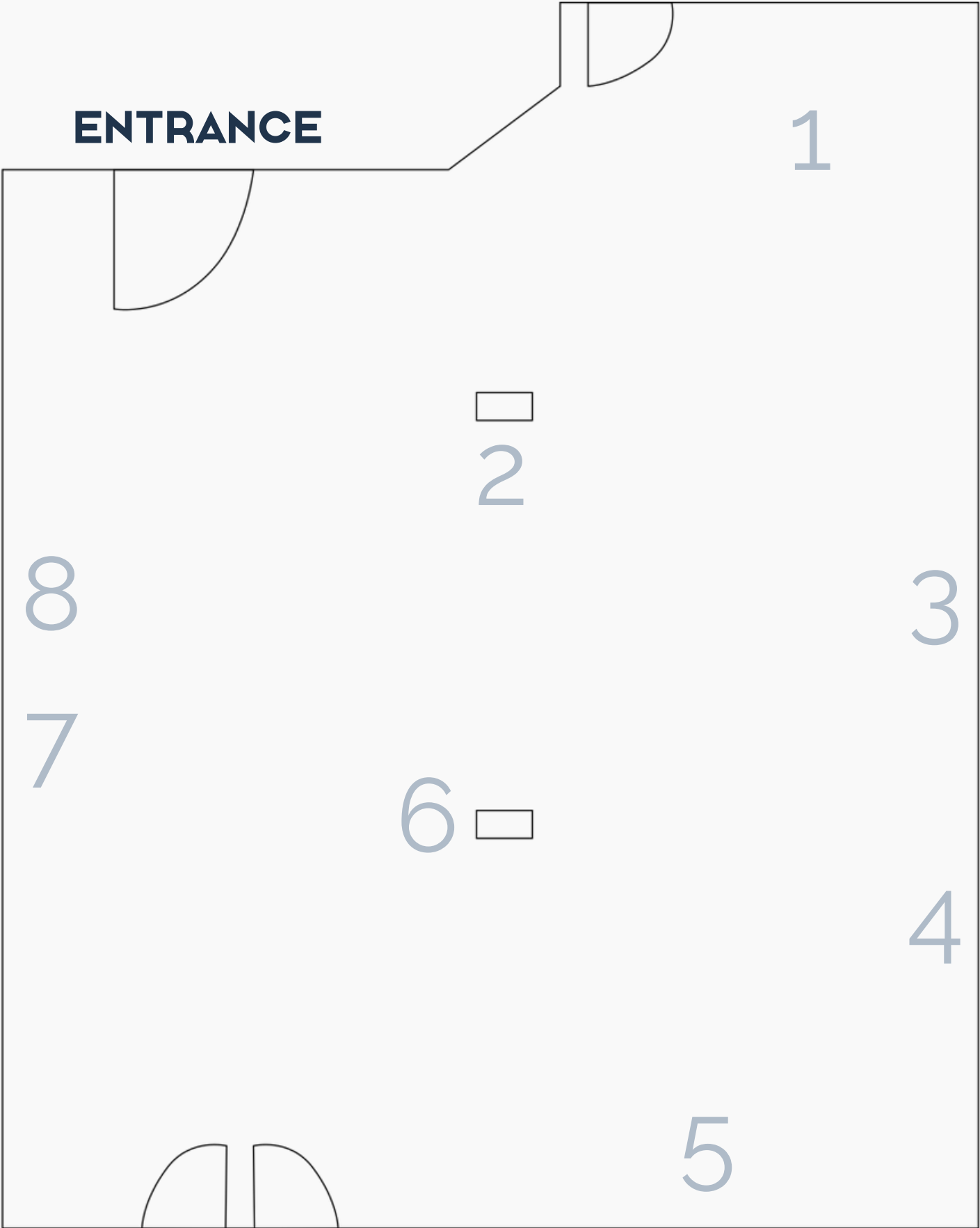
We are so glad to have you join us today. We hope that you will enjoy your time looking through the art installations that various artists from our community here at the Arts Collective Mumbai have lovingly put together. Each of these has a story to tell, and our hope is that you will find your own story among them

SHADOW & LIGHT | A Redemption Story  
2nd & 3rd April 2021

**THE ARTS COLLECTIVE TEAM**

# GALLERY GUIDE

Please follow this layout to see each of the Art Works  
in order to follow with the Audio and PDF Guides



## DIRT AND DIVINE BREATH BY SURAJ JAISINGH

*So God created mankind in His own image, in the image of God He created them; male and female He created them.*

When God made the universe, He first created light and separated it from the darkness. After He had finished making the world and everything in it, the last to be created was man and woman. Out of all the things in the world, they were made in His 'image' – His 'tselem', a Hebrew word meaning a copy, a statue, or a representative. And this being, the Bible says, was literally made from dirt.

*Then God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.*

These ordinary, everyday objects, when seen in the light, casts the image of a human being. When God is in the picture, the whole is always greater than the sum of its parts. God is light, and it is in His nature to bring order out of the chaos and the miracle of life, out of the mundane.

Here the artist poses the question to us – how differently would we see the world, and each other, if we were to look at it through God's perspective, instead of our own?

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&  
LIGHT



INSTALLATION 2

## OBSCURED (BY LIGHT) BY VINCENT KOLA

*Then Adam and Eve heard the sound of God as He was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the God among the trees. But God called to Adam, "Where are you?" And he answered, "I heard You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."*

When Adam and Eve disobeyed God and ate the forbidden fruit, they brought a dark shadow into the world that hangs over all of us to this day. The very first thing this shadow touched was their relationship with God, and their relationship with each other. They felt shame for the first time, and hid themselves in response.

None of us are a stranger to shame, and we all have the same instinctive gut reaction. Nowhere is this more evident than in human relationships, where we hide the parts of us that are uncomfortable and embarrassing, and show only what we want others to see. The light makes us uncomfortable because we are fearful of being exposed, of being known for who and what we truly are. The more intimate the relationship, the greater this sense shame and fear.

In this installation, the artist challenges us to confront this tendency in ourselves, which ironically does not protect us at all, but instead spells death for our relationships.



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&  
LIGHT

**SEEN & UNSEEN**  
**BY JEREMY KURUTHUKULANGARA**

*But everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that is illuminated becomes a light itself.*

But God was not content to let His children hide and bear the consequences of their bad choices by themselves. We may prefer the darkness, we may choose to hide ourselves from Him, but He still comes looking. His pursuit of us can at time be terrifying, because God is light, and we tend to be in love with our personal darkness. But His light is not out to expose our flaws so much as to show us a far higher, grander truth – that God is love, and all that He desires for us is good. Light reveals the true nature of all things, and it dispels the darkness and our fears along with it if we have the courage to look.

In this installation, the artist confronts us with an image of death and decay and invites us to see it in a different perspective – when illuminated by the light, we look beyond and through the first picture and see a different one, of beauty and hope. In the process, he challenges us to see through the layered realities of our lives as well, which are marked with the darkness of pain, grief and loss, but the promise of God's goodness still shines through it, if we are willing to see.



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&  
LIGHT

## INSTALLATION 4

# CONFLICTS OF SURRENDER BY VIVEK CHANDELIYA

*The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

The world is full of the darkness of human suffering and evil. This is a reality that every single one of us has to live through, none of us are going to sail through life without knowing its bitter pain. On the other hand, it is still true that the world is inherently a good place filled with good things, because God created it that way. Ever since the fall, our lives have been torn between these two opposing realities – between the unending conflict of shadow and light.

In this set of photographs, the artist presents our world as a contrast of black and white, dark and light. For every one of us living in this world, this translates to a choice – will we choose to continue to live in the darkness, or will we choose to walk in the light instead?



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&  
LIGHT



## A TUSSELE WITHIN BY JOE D'SOUZA

*Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."*

*The man asked him, "What is your name?"*

*"Jacob," he answered.*

*Then He said, "Your name shall no longer be Jacob, but Israel; for you have contended with God and with men, and have prevailed*

Sometimes, it's not enough simply to put a metaphor down on paper in ink. Some metaphors are serious enough to have to be enacted in actual life. In this painting, the artist is portraying the famous Biblical story of Jacob wrestling with God. The event itself, along with the dislocated hip that Jacob would get out of it, would become a metaphor for the greater struggle of light with darkness, God with man.

Jacob might have seen himself as the protagonist in the story, but the truth is, he was no hero. Jacob was a man with an extremely colourful past - deceiving his father, cheated his brother of his birthright, on the run from his uncle - the consummate black sheep. And on that particular night, all of his past misdeeds were about to catch up with him, and he was a broken man. He was, in many ways, just like us - we are shadows trying to fend off the consequences of our bad choices, we are the architects of our own downfall.

This painting shows light and darkness wrestling as adversaries, but also embracing and becoming as one, as a parallel to the story in which God's wrestling match with Jacob was also the embrace of a loving Father with a prodigal son. The artist is conveying that God only ever confronts and contends with us in order to bless and save, recalling an ancient promise that God would make to Jacob's descendants:

*But thus says the LORD: "Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, And the prey of the terrible be delivered; For I will contend with him who contends with you, And I will save your children... and all flesh shall know That I, the LORD, am your Savior, And your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob."*

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&  
LIGHT



## INSTALLATION 6

# WHERE SHADOW & LIGHT MEET BY NIZA DAFNEY

*Where can I go from Your Spirit? Where can I flee from Your presence? If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me," even the darkness will not be dark to You; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to You.*

Loving faithfulness. It is one of the most defining traits of God's character, and it is repeated over and over again in the Bible that He is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, overflowing with loyal love and faithfulness.

But do we dare live our lives really believing it to be true?

God promises, over and over again, that He will never leave us – no matter what we are going through, how hard we try to run from Him, never. Period. Full stop. We might find ourselves drowning in the darkness, but His love is inescapable. Sure, there will be times when it may look like He has abandoned us, that He has lost the plot of our lives because of how bad things have gotten, but you have been wrestling with the concept of light and shadows long enough now to know that there is more to things than what meets the eye. Through every struggle, through every darkness God speaks to us saying that He is not done with our story, that He has a better word to speak over us.

In this installation, the artist calls back her own past and the moments of grief that have shaped her – but through it all, God's presence has remained constant. As it will with you.



SHADOW  
&  
LIGHT

## A TREASURE IN THE DARKNESS BY ROSITA WAGLE



*To all who mourn, He will give a crown of beauty for ashes, a joyous blessing instead of mourning, festive praise instead of despair.*

The light intends neither to destroy the shadow nor to co-exist with it. Instead, it will redeem it. The story of the battle of shadow and light is ultimately the story of our redemption. Because God into this shadowy world, not to condemn it, but to save it at any price. God, who sees through the darkness as if it were brightest day, sees us in the heart of the darkness and calls us hidden treasures, precious pearls to be fished out from the depths of the dark waters. Just as in the beginning His presence brought light and life out of darkness and chaos, it brings beauty and colour to our blackest shadows, even today.

Through this painting, the artist is portraying the transformative effect that true light can have on shadows. God promises to reverse the effects of the curse that has fallen upon the world, and us, because of man's disobedience. And this reversal is already underway – through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

SHADOW  
&  
LIGHT

## INSTALLATION 8

# IMAGO DEI (IMAGE OF GOD) BY SUPRIYA BALASUNDARAM

*The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His being.*

In the beginning was the Living Word of God, by whom everything was made. His action sparked by the beginning of the Bible's very first line, and His name signs off its last. This is the Word that became flesh and dwelt with man as a Son of Man. If Adam was a shadow-image of God, this Man was the exact representation of God's character – God Himself in the flesh. He is the one holding together the entire story that we have been telling – the story of the Bible, the story of our world and even of ourselves. He is the True Light that gives life to all things living, He is God's pursuing love given physical form, He is God-with-us in unconditional faithfulness. And His power is what redeems the shadows. God did not vanquish the darkness with power and might, but with love, because God is love. He demonstrated perfect love on the cross, and it was enough to conquer death. It is also enough to conquer all of the shadows within us.

In this painting, the artist depicts the effect the Living Word of God has upon every single person who comes to trust in Him – the shadows fills with colour and light as darkness dies and is born again to new life. When we see Him, behold Him, who is the Light of Lights, we become light-bearers ourselves – a new creation altogether, just as it is written:

*And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.*



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&  
LIGHT



AND NOW  
**YOUR  
RESPONSE**

**THANK YOU**

We hope you enjoyed this tour of Shadow and Light: A Redemption Story art gallery. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to any of the artists or volunteers, you can contact us on our social media as we would love to hear from you! Thank you once again for joining us, and wishing you a very happy and blessed Easter.

God bless you

Please write your reflections on shadow and light at the interactive response station.

**THE ARTS COLLECTIVE TEAM**