

RUWAN PRASANNA

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11.11.21 - 11.12.21

SASKIA FERNANDO GALLERY
41 HORTON PLACE
COLOMBO

There is something ethereal about Ruwan Prasanna's latest exhibition, Aluyama. Beginning with his Unknown Bird series, as his career has progressed, so has Ruwan Prasanna's foray into abstraction. Today, his works are arboreal landscapes, unabashedly abstract and evoking the sensation of being immersed in nature rather than literally depicting it. At the forefront of Ruwan Prasanna's work is instinct; when asked when he knows a work is complete, the artist states that he stops when the process of painting no longer brings him excitement. It is this temporality and immediacy in his work that brings it to life. Their calculated imperfection represents their vitality, alerting us to the fleeting nature of Ruwan Prasanna's subject matter. The impasto of the paint, in its thickness and overt irregularity, draws attention to the texture of Ruwan Prasanna's work. He places atmosphere at the forefront, distancing himself from the tired figurative nature of the traditional landscape.

In his 2018 series Komorebi, the artist represented the dappled filtering of the sun through leaves; a gestural motif he returned to a year later in his Twilight series. Now canonized as his signature style, Twilight boasted a dark colour palette that was deep and dusky. It is clear that there is something markedly different about his conceptualization in this latest series - alerting us to his progression as an artist who has come to be considered one of Sri Lanka's most important abstract painters. The colours explored in Ruwan Prasanna's Aluyama, or Dawn, are those unseen by the naked eye; instead, they are representative of the essence of dawn. Splashed across the canvases in spontaneous, thick gestural strokes are a kaleidoscope of bright, pulsating vivid colours.

To Ruwan Prasanna, the dawning of a new day represents a rejuvenation of energy. In this he finds something soothing, something wonderfully hopeful. Aluyama fully embodies the poetic sense of colour that Prasanna inherits from the Post-Impressionists. The dancing light and colours of dawn vibrate at a frequency that shakes away the worries of yesterday; leaving us feeling fresh and light. This is the feeling that Ruwan Prasanna evokes in his exhibition through the twenty canvas works bathed in swaths of rich orange and yellows with supple pinks and greens dissolving together to create a sense of fluidity. The sequential nature of his work leads the viewer from one moment in time to another, from one slant of light to the other, in a procession that mimics the dawning of a new day.



Aluyama VII, Acrylic on Canvas, 183x 183cm



Aluyama XXII, Acrylic on Canvas, 214 x 214 cm



Aluyama XXI, Acrylic on Canvas, diptych, 214 x 107 cm (x2)



Aluyama VIII, Acrylic on Canvas, 153 x 153 cm



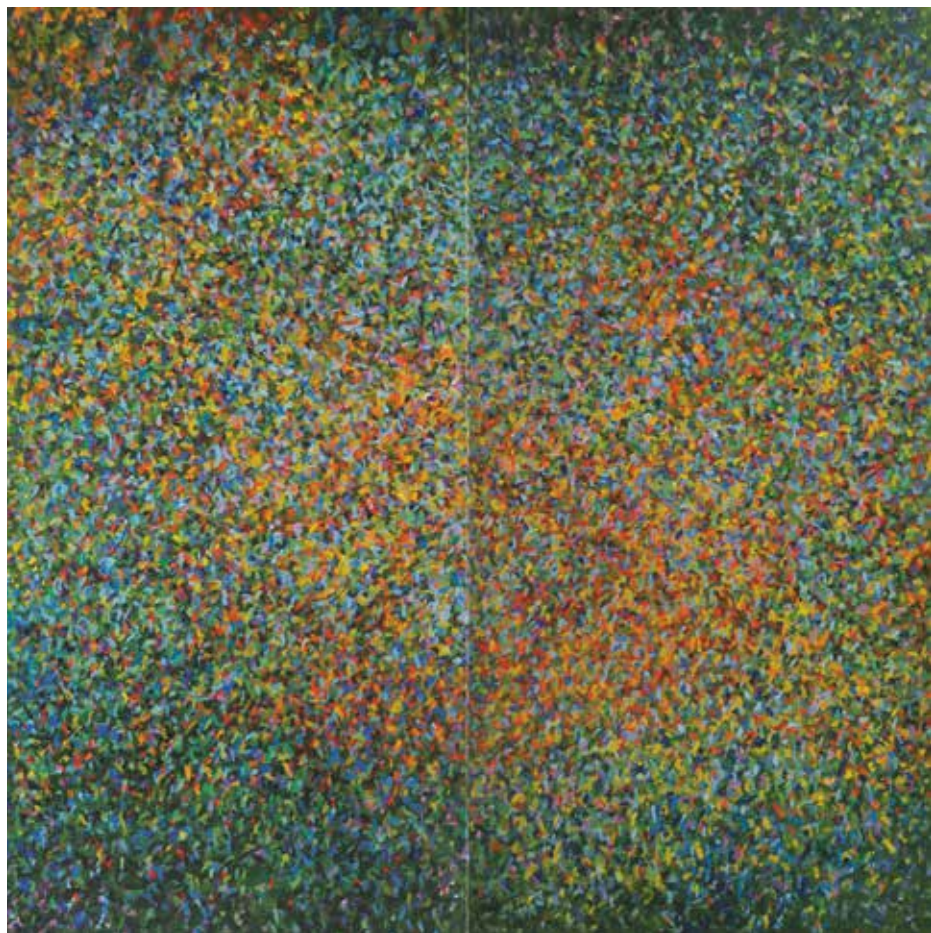
Aluyama XX, Acrylic on Canvas, diptych, 244 x 122 cm (x2)



Aluyama V, Acrylic on Canvas, 183 x 183 cm



Aluyama XVII, Acrylic on Canvas, diptych, 183 x 92 cm (x2)



Aluyama XI, Acrylic on Canvas, diptych, 244 x 122 cm (x2)



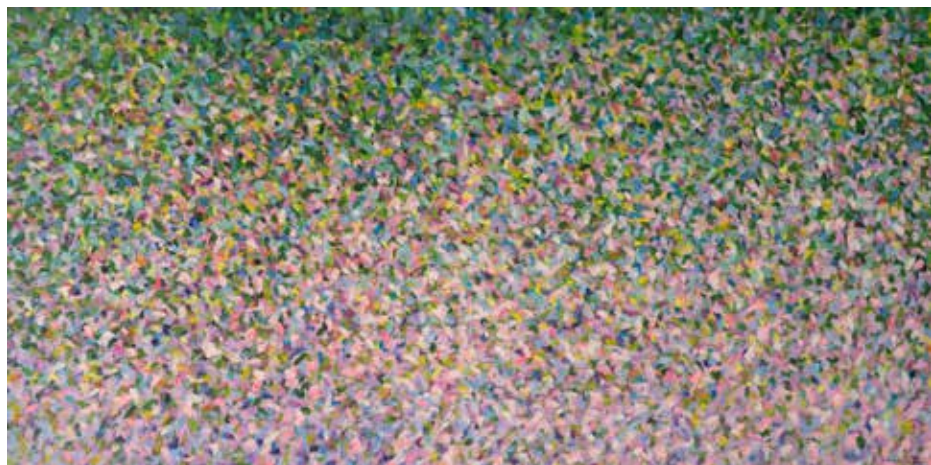
Aluyama VI, Acrylic on Canvas, 183 x 183 cm



Aluyama II, Acrylic on Canvas, 124 x 149 cm



Aluyama I, Acrylic on Canvas, 136 x 136 cm



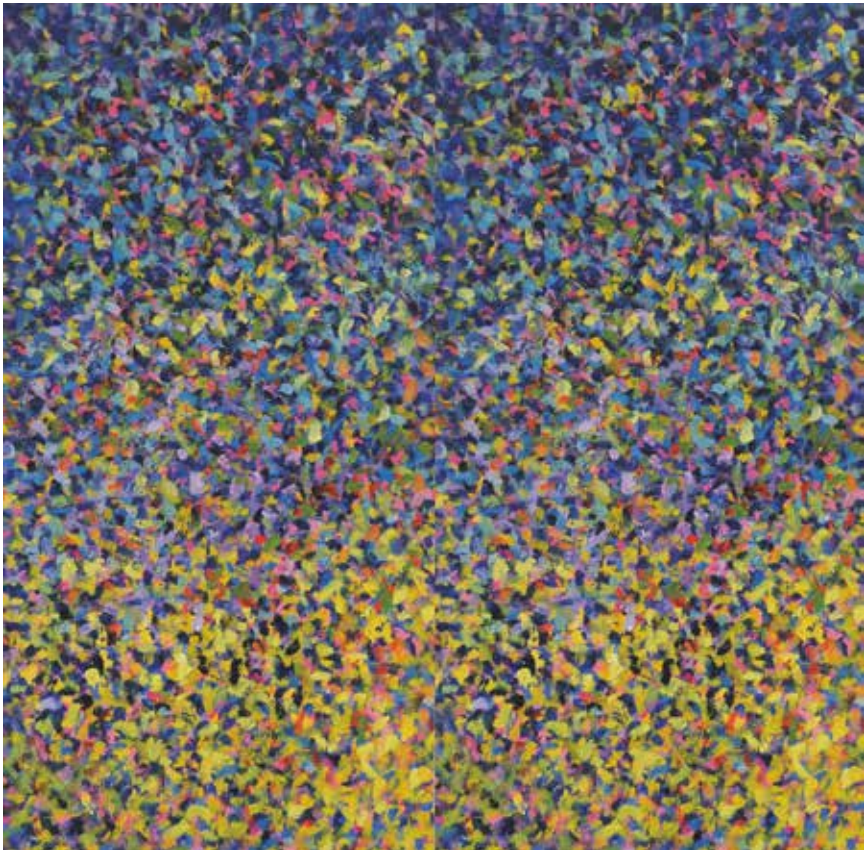
Aluyama XIV, Acrylic on Canvas, 92 x 183 cm



Aluyama IX, Acrylic on Canvas, 183 x 92 cm



Aluyama XIII, Acrylic on Canvas, 92 x 122 cm



Aluyama Aluyama XIX, Acrylic on Canvas, diptych, 122 x 61 cm (x2)



Alyama IV, Acrylic on Canvas, 147 x 236 cm



Aluyama III, Acrylic on Canvas, 123 x 123 cm



Alyama XII, Acrylic on Canvas, 92 x 122 cm



Aluyama X, Acrylic on Canvas, 71 x 71 cm



Aluyama XVIII, Acrylic on Canvas, 71 x 71 cm



Aluyama XVIII, Acrylic on Canvas, 71 x 71 cm



Aluyama XVI, Acrylic on Canvas, 71 x 71 cm

RUWAN PRASANNA b.1980

Education

2010-2013 Studied at Vibhavi Academy of Fine Arts

Solo Exhibition

- 2019 Twilight | Paradise Road Galleries, Colombo, Sri Lanka
- 2017 Komorebi | Saskia Fernando Gallery, Colombo, Sri Lanka
- 2015 Landscapes | Paradise Road Galleries, Colombo, Sri Lanka
- 2013 Landscapes | Saskia Fernando Gallery, Colombo, Sri Lanka
- 2011 Paradise Road Galleries | Colombo, Sri Lanka
- 2010 Paradise Road Galleries | Colombo, Sri Lanka

Group Exhibitions

- 2013 Contemporary Landscapes | Saskia Fernando Gallery, Colombo, Sri Lanka
- 2011 Kala Pola | organized by the George Keyt Foundation
- 2011 Group Exhibition | Art way Gallery, Colombo, Sri Lanka
- 2010 Group Exhibition | Art way Gallery, Colombo, Sri Lanka
- 2010 Group Exhibition | Park Street Hotel, Colombo, Sri Lanka
- 2009 Group Exhibition | Artway Gallery, Colombo, Sri Lanka
- 2008 State Festival Exhibition of Painting & Sculpture | National Art Gallery, Colombo, Sri Lanka
- 2007 Ogilvy 'Other side' exhibition | Barefoot Gallery, Colombo, Sri Lanka
- 2007 State Festival Exhibition of Painting & Sculpture | National Art Gallery, Colombo, Sri Lanka
- 2007 Group Exhibition | Sharika Gallery, Cinnamon Grand Hotel, Colombo, Sri Lanka
- 2007 Kala Pola | organised by the George Keyt Foundation, Colombo, Sri Lanka
- 2007 Exhibition of Young Contemporaries | Harold Peiris Gallery, Colombo, Sri Lanka
- 2007 World Tourism Day | Bentota Beach Hotel, Bentota, Sri Lanka
- 2006 Kala Pola | organised by the George Keyt Foundation, Colombo, Sri Lanka
- 2006 Exhibition of Young Contemporaries | Harold Peiris Gallery, Colombo, Sri Lanka
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- 2005 Exhibition of Young Contemporaries | Harold Peiris Gallery, Colombo, Sri Lanka
- 2004 Tsunami Exhibition | organized by Bates, Slave Island Railway Station, Colombo, Sri Lanka
- 2004 Exhibition of Young Contemporaries | Harold Peiris Gallery, Colombo, Sri Lanka
- 2004 Kala Pola | organized by the George Keyt Foundation, Colombo, Sri Lanka

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