

WOUNDED LANDSCAPES
PAKKIYARAJAH PUSHPAKANTHAN

11.10.19 - 31.10.19

Pakkiyarajah Pushpakanthan was born in Batticaloa, Sri Lanka and holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka and is a lecturer in the Department of Visual and Technological Arts at the Swami Vipulananda Institute for Aesthetic Studies, Eastern University, Sri Lanka. Pushpakanthan's practice predominantly consists of detailed ink and watercolour drawings on paper. The mood of the artist's work draws from his first-hand experiences in the conflict and trauma of the war in the North. By exploring unforgettable memories of death, disappearance, torture and wounds, the artist uses his work as a space to lay bare the painful realities of the past so that people can grieve and heal. Rather than searching for answers to solutions, he moves through refined shifts of perception, hoping that the spectator is able to empathise with the trauma and its meaning. He has exhibited in Sri Lanka, India and the UK, and is represented by Saskia Fernando Gallery. His work is in private collections in Sri Lanka, Europe and North America. He is a recipient of a South Asia Studies Fellowship at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York.

The 'Wounded Landscape' portrays the reality of disappearances, unforgettable memories and events inextricably intertwined with the land. I continue to confront the chilling immediacy of disappeared people in the lands we live in whether it is Sri Lanka, Kashmir, Myanmar, Iraq, Palestine and so many other places.

As a silent witness of stories past and present, the land holds evidence of every single experience: of joy and suffering, of life and death. The beautiful sights of stretching beaches, lush jungles, and waterfalls of the island might also be terrifying, since they mask what could be, and often is, actually hidden. So, rather than the sensuous scenery that can be easily perceived, the landscape unseen— or forced to disappear— interests me more.

Violence and suffering may elicit different responses. For instance, while the pain is devastating in both cases, the Easter attack victims' families were allowed to bury their dead, whereas the relatives of the war time disappeared are prevented from seeing their dead. For the latter, there is no closure, no opportunity to begin healing, and hope itself becomes torture. Through this series I attempt to express the fear and imaginings of the relatives of the missing. They grapple with the uncertainty that those who disappeared might still be suffering somewhere, and they need to share this trauma with others to come to terms with it.

- Pakkiyarajah Pushpakanthan, 2019.



PAKKIYARAJAH PUSHPAKANTHAN, *Wounded Landscape I*,
2019, Pigment Ink and Acrylic on Paper, 170cm x 106cm



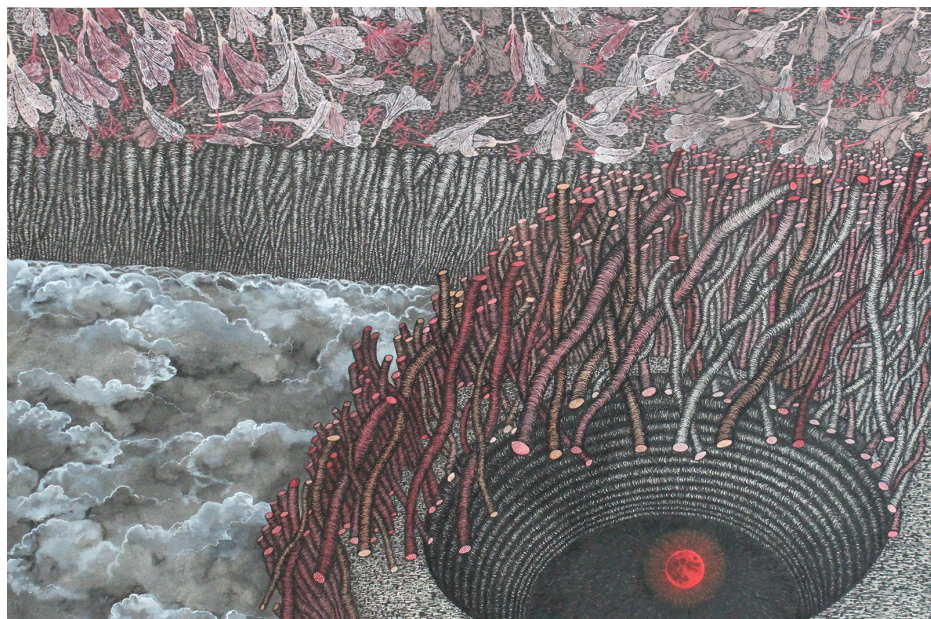
PAKKIYARAJAH PUSHPAKANTHAN, *Belt, Wounded Landscape & Land For Sale I*,
2019, Digital Print, 53cm x 75cm



PAKKIYARAJAH PUSHPAKANTHAN, *Belt, Wounded Landscape & Land For Sale II*,
2019, Digital Print, 53cm x 75cm



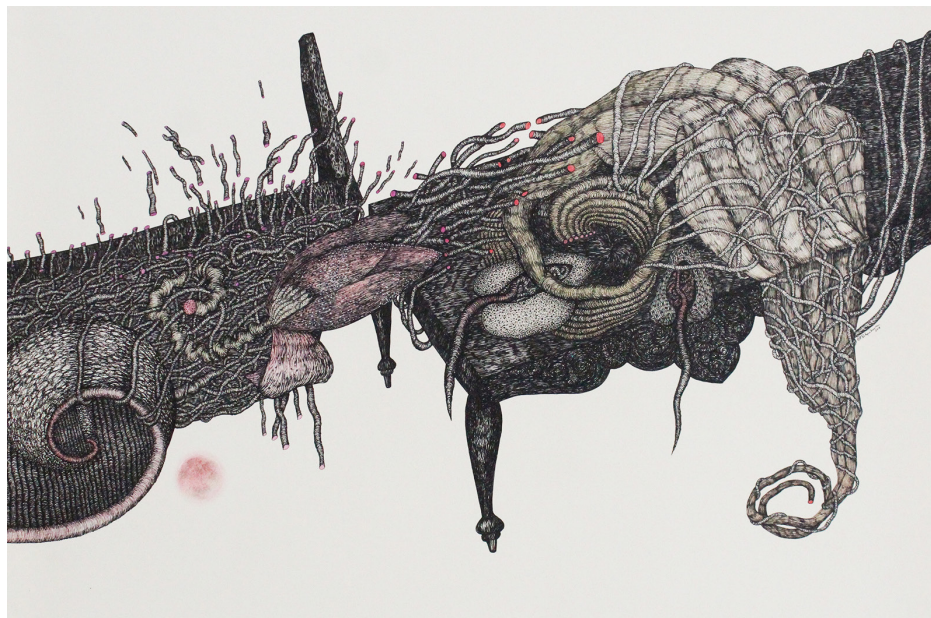
PAKKIYARAJAH PUSHPAKANTHAN, *The Disappearance of Disappearances V*,
2018, Pigment Ink and Acrylic on Paper, 71cm x 101cm



PAKKIYARAJAH PUSHPAKANTHAN, *Wounded Landscape II*,
2019, Pigment Ink and Acrylic on Paper, 71cm x 101cm



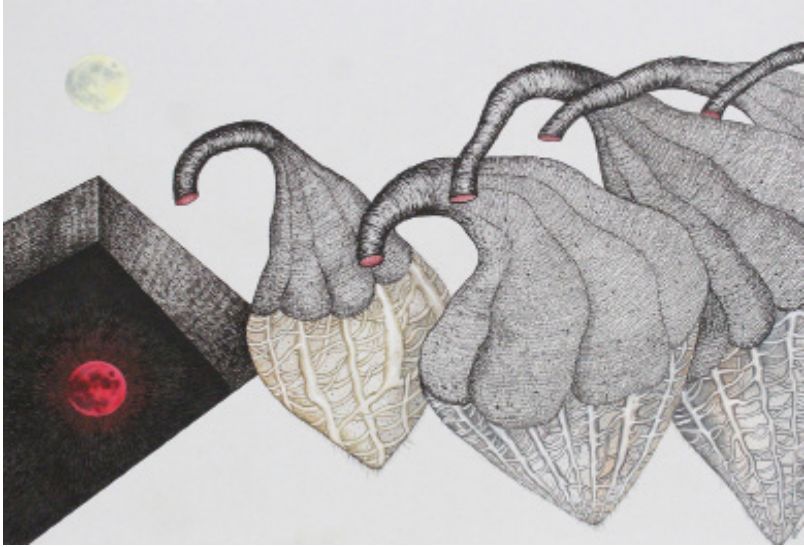
PAKKIYARAJAH PUSHPAKANTHAN, *The Disappearance of Disappearances IV*,
2018, Pigment Ink and Color Pencil on Paper, 71cm x 101cm



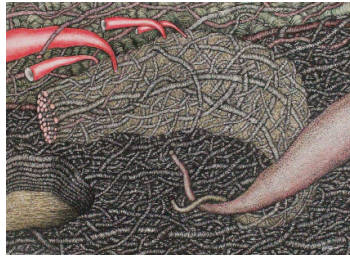
PAKKIYARAJAH PUSHPAKANTHAN, *The Disappearance of Disappearances III*,
2018, Pigment Ink and Color Pencil on Paper, 71cm x 101cm



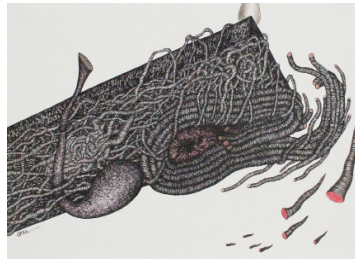
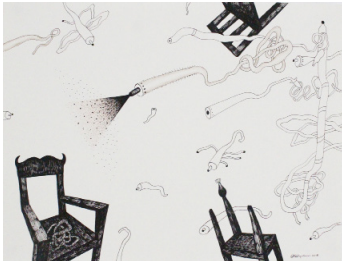
PAKKIYARAJAH PUSHPAKANTHAN, *Hurt Landscape I*,
Pigment Ink and Color Pencil on Paper, 50cm x 71cm



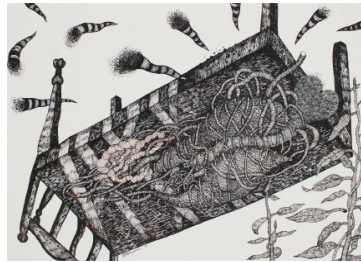
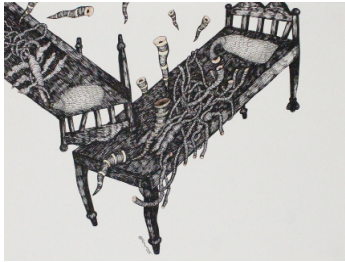
PAKKIYARAJAH PUSHPAKANTHAN, *Hurt Landscape II*,
Pigment Ink and Color Pencil on Paper, 50cm x 71cm



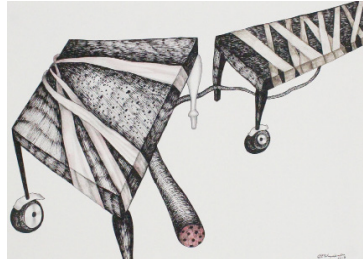
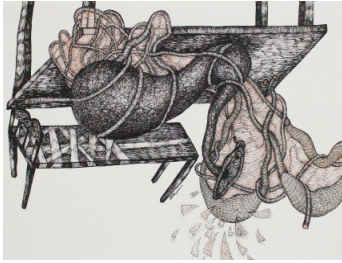
PAKKIYARAJAH PUSHPAKANTHAN, *The Disappearance of Disappearances VIII*,
Pigment Ink and Color Pencil on Paper, 28cm x 38cm x (3)



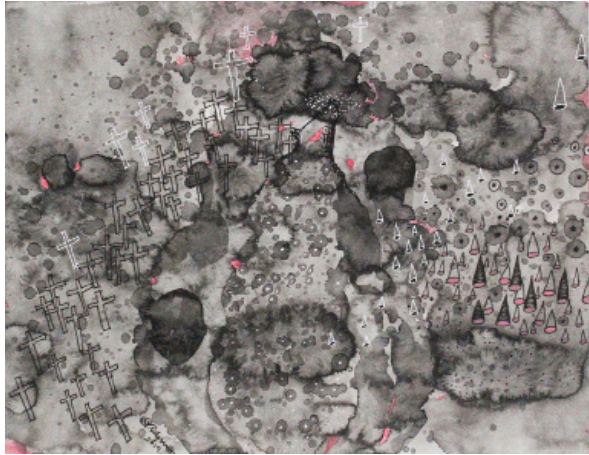
PAKKIYARAJAH PUSHPAKANTHAN, *The Disappearance of Disapearances IX*,
Pigment Ink and Color Pencil on Paper, 28cm x 38cm x (3)



PAKKIYARAJAH PUSHPAKANTHAN, *The Disappearance of Disapearances XI*,
Pigment Ink and Color Pencil on Paper, 28cm x 38cm x (3)



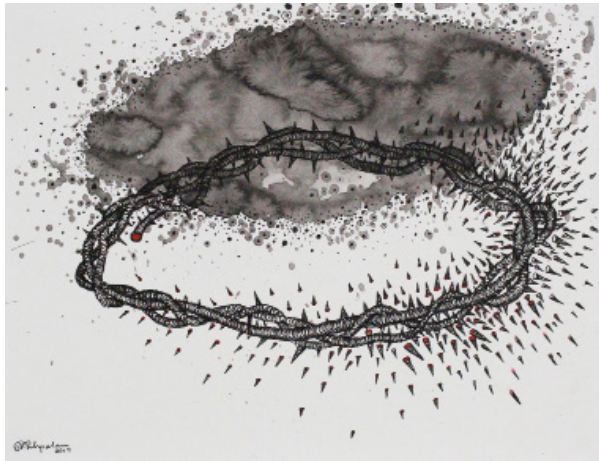
PAKKIYARAJAH PUSHPAKANTHAN, *The Disappearance of Disapearances X*,
Pigment Ink and Color Pencil on Paper, 28cm x 38cm x (3)



PAKKIYARAJAH PUSHPAKANTHAN, *Terrorism Has No Religion VII*,
2019, Mixed Media on Paper, 23cm x 31cm



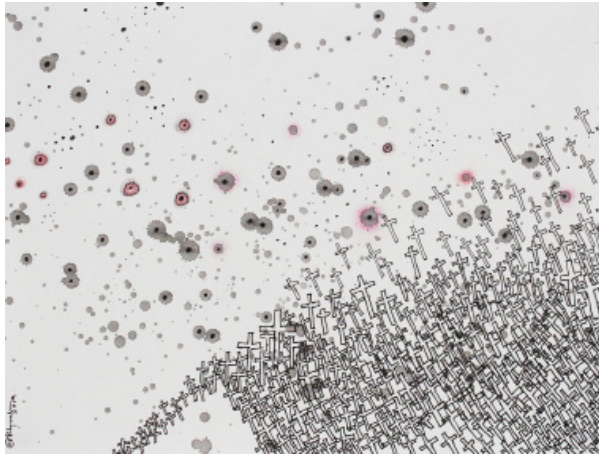
PAKKIYARAJAH PUSHPAKANTHAN, *Terrorism Has No Religion VIII*,
2019, Mixed Media on Paper, 23cm x 31cm



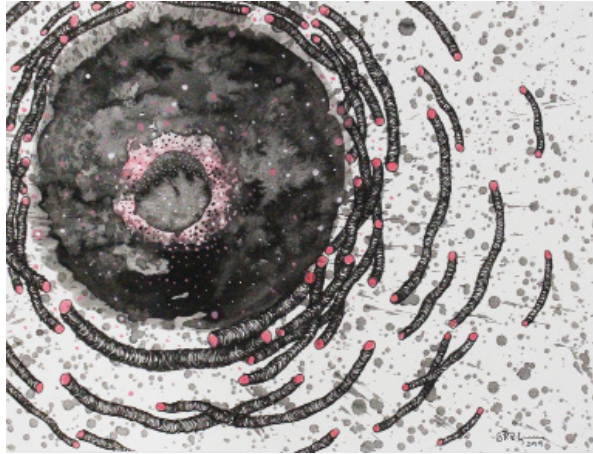
PAKKIYARAJAH PUSHPAKANTHAN, *Terrorism Has No Religion II*,
2019, Mixed Media on Paper, 23cm x 31cm



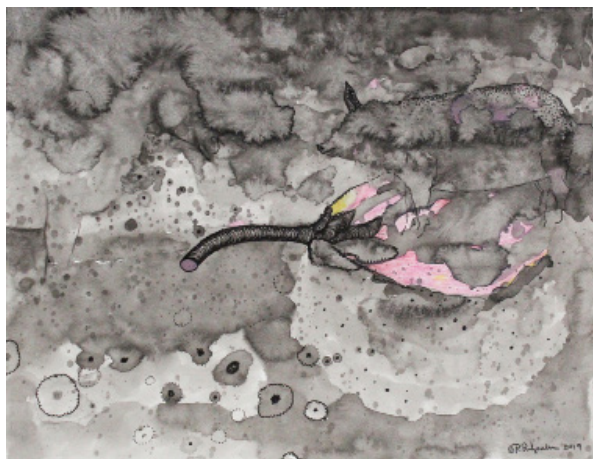
PAKKIYARAJAH PUSHPAKANTHAN, *Terrorism Has No Religion X*,
2019, Mixed Media on Paper, 23cm x 31cm



PAKKIYARAJAH PUSHPAKANTHAN, *Terrorism Has No Religion IV*,
2019, Mixed Media on Paper, 23cm x 31cm



PAKKIYARAJAH PUSHPAKANTHAN, *Terrorism Has No Religion IX*,
2019, Mixed Media on Paper, 23cm x 31cm



PAKKIYARAJAH PUSHPAKANTHAN, *Terrorism Has No Religion III*,
2019, Mixed Media on Paper, 23cm x 31cm



PAKKIYARAJAH PUSHPAKANTHAN, *Terrorism Has No Religion V*,
2019, Mixed Media on Paper, 23cm x 31cm



PAKKIYARAJAH PUSHPAKANTHAN, *Terrorism Has No Religion VI*,
2019, Mixed Media on Paper, 23cm x 31cm



PAKKIYARAJAH PUSHPAKANTHAN, *Terrorism Has No Religion I*,
2019, Mixed Media on Paper, 23cm x 31cm

PAKKIYARAJAH PUSHPAKANTHAN b.1989

Education

2014 Bachelor of Fine Arts (Art & Design), University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka

Solo Exhibitions

2018 *The Disappearance of Disappearances* | History of Art Gallery, New York, USA

2017 *Disappearance* | Saskia Fernando Gallery, Colombo, Sri Lanka

2016 *Inequality* | Paradise Road Galleries, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Group Exhibitions

2019 *Five* | Baik Art Gallery, Los Angeles, California

2019 *Shades of Black and White* | JDA Perera Gallery, Colombo, Sri Lanka

2019 *Crossing Place* | Baik Art Gallery, Los Angeles, California

2019 *Contemporary Sri Lankan Art* | Theertha International Artists Collective in collaboration with Iranian Cultural Centre, Colombo, Sri Lanka

2018 *When Memory Lives* | Artscape Youngplace, Asian Research Centre, York University, Toronto, Canada

2018 *Living on the Margins* | Brunei Gallery (UK), Park Gallery (Nepal), Sapumal Modern Art Museum (Sri Lanka), SOAS University of London, UK

2018 *Embodying Power* | Sapumal Foundation, Colombo, Sri Lanka

2017 *Human Rights Arts Festival* | JDA Perera Gallery, Colombo, Sri Lanka

2017 *Silent Auction of Modern & Contemporary Art* | Temple Trees Auditorium, Colombo, Sri Lanka

2016 *Young Subcontinent* | Curated by Riyas Komu, Serendipity Arts Festival, Goa, India

2016 *Conceiving Virtual Space* | Art Space Gallery, Colombo, Sri Lanka

2016 *Colombo Art Biennale: Conceiving Space* | Colombo, Sri Lanka

2016 *Liminal Space: Reconfiguring Identity and Space through Contemporary Art* | JDA Perera Gallery, Colombo, Sri Lanka

2016 *C/A/M/P – Contemporary Artists' Meeting Point* | Lionel Wendt Gallery, Colombo, Sri Lanka

2015 *Colomboscope: Shadow Scenes* | Rio Hotel and Cinema, Colombo, Sri Lanka

2015 *Seven Conversations* | Saskia Fernando Gallery, Colombo, Sri Lanka

2014 *Exhibition of Paintings* | JDA Perera Gallery, Colombo, Sri Lanka

2013 *Art Effects from Jaffna* | Park Street Mews, Colombo, Sri Lanka

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