

RAKESH PATEL

"God is in my courtyard"

Contemporary Istanbul 16-22 Sept 2022



This body of work began as a way of finding my own relationship with divinity. My father owned a hardware business, my childhood was spent in his shop, playing with the various tools and mechanisms housed on shelves. My work has always incorporated mechanisms, and cast away objects, things that remind me of my childhood. These objects have helped me create my own visual language.

God In My Courtyard is an allegorical portrayal of my own relationship with God. In spiritual context, God is perceived as a universal energy, whereas in religious context God represents faith and contextual belief. India is thought of as a God-fearing country, one which encompasses narratives of faith and diversity through various religions.

God In My Courtyard is a new way of interpreting my visual language, and one that I'm very excited about. The work of Louise Nevelson has played a large role in this body of work, her work influenced my way of understanding the found objects I've been working with throughout my career, and I'm concentrating now on articulating my own language in a new, revised way.

Here I have used wooden scraps, organic in nature but the forms are now sculpted into geometry after man's manipulation. I used these objects in forms that are symmetrical, or balanced, some of them refer to altars and places of worship. The form of an eye depicts the act of seeing. There is a point of focus where the bindi that adorns the forehead of an Indian woman; the energy point speaks of the feminine vivacity and spirit, some call it the third eye. I feel an omnipresent energy of God, and here I am allowing elements of my culture to guide me.



Rakesh Patel

God is in my courtyard - 01, 2022

Mixed media on wood

264 x 165 x 15 cm



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God is in my courtyard - 02, 2022

Mixed media on wood

205 x 300 x 15 cm



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God is in my courtyard - 03, 2022

Mixed media on wood

76 x 162 x 10 cm