

# Margin Call: Mental Health, Bipolar Management & LGBTQIA+



## Margin Call

Proposal by Artist Mr Veru Narula  
Museum/Gallery Exhibition

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# Exhibition Concept & Curatorial Statement

Confronting the great mental health challenges of today, managing Bipolar Disorder, and articulating a voice in the spaces and challenges of queer identity, the exhibition "**Margin Call**" serves as a visceral exploration of the "outsider" experience.

The central concept navigates the profound feeling of being marginalized, of standing on the periphery and looking in at a society that often ostracizes difference. The series broadens the definition of the "underdog" to include intersecting identities; it addresses the isolation felt due to **ethnicity**, the non-acceptance of **diverse sexual identity**, and the internal reality of living with a **disability (Bipolar)**. The artwork visualizes not just the struggle of these marginalized states, but the necessary journey of developing the emotional tools to manage them and find equilibrium.



Confronting the great mental health challenges of today, managing Bipolar Disorder, and articulating a voice in the spaces and challenges of queer identity, this exhibition presents a courageous inquiry into the condition of otherness.

The opening theme anchors the viewer in the perspective of the outsider, looking in and feeling the tangible weight of marginalization. The title "**Margin Call**" evokes a critical tipping point, a demand for account that mirrors the relentless internal and external pressures placed on those who exist outside societal norms. The artist fearlessly dissects the layers of this existence, addressing the specific ostracization faced due to **ethnicity** and the often silent, invisible battle with a mental health **disability (Bipolar)**.

Furthermore, the work confronts the friction of navigating a world that frequently rejects **diverse sexual identity**, exposing the psychological toll of queerness in spaces that offer little acceptance. Ultimately, these paintings are not merely depictions of struggle; they are a testament to the resilience required to survive. They chart the path from the pain of exclusion to the development of the vital tools needed to manage one's mental health and claim space in a world that seeks to push you to the margins.

# Selected Artworks



"Laptop Boy Searching" explores the phenomenon known as the **"Online Disinhibition Effect,"** where the **LCD display** allows individuals to feel more uninhibited and express themselves openly. The piece captures the figure of the **Lap-Top Boy** engaged in this digital pursuit, symbolizing the modern search for answers and identity through technology.

# Selected Artworks



"Joan of Arc Gets Her Pantsuit" is a provocative piece created during a manic episode, which explores how to equip a modern-day heroine to rise up against a contemporary age defined by **populism, extremism, and political pugilism**. The title symbolizes the necessity of giving this historical figure a functional, modern "**pantsuit**" (a metaphor for political and social readiness) to confront today's multifaceted challenges.

# Selected Artworks



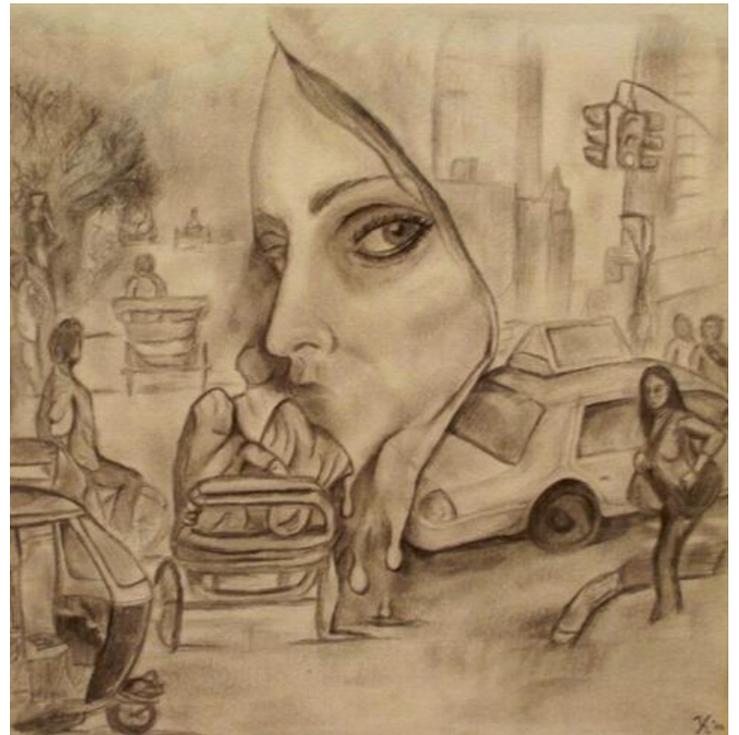
The artwork "**Masculine Affirmation**" powerfully explores the themes of **paternal love** and **ancestral bond** through the central depiction of a **tribal father hug**, symbolizing the transmission of strength and heritage across generations. This depiction implicitly raises a core sociological question: **Who gets to decide what masculinity is**, challenging traditional definitions by rooting affirmation in emotional connection and inherited lineage rather than societal norms.

# Selected Artworks

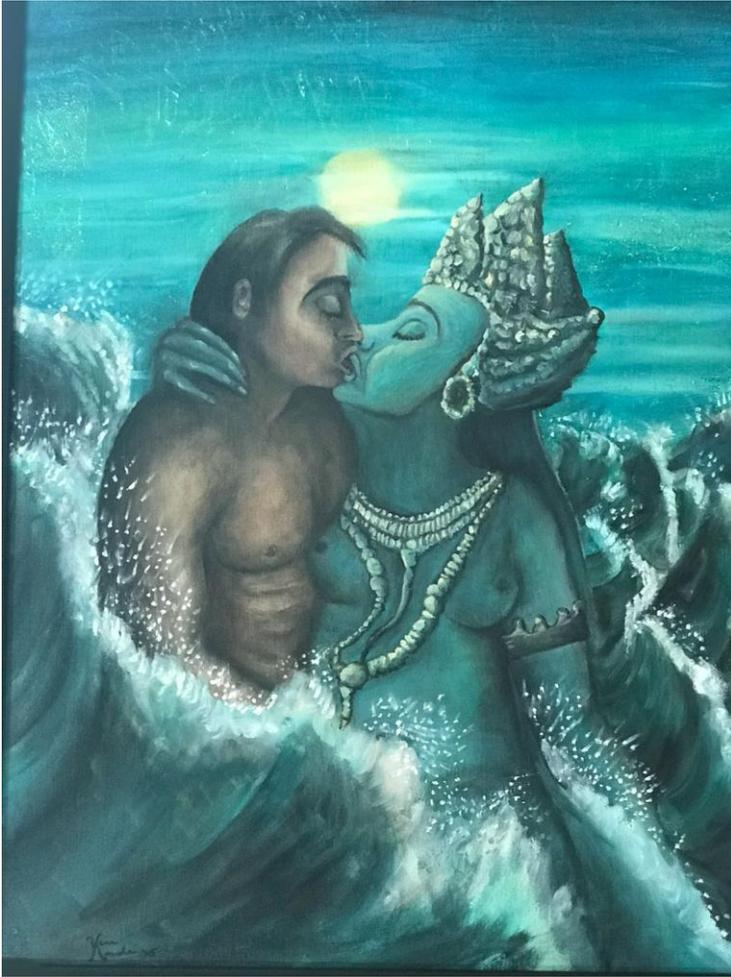


"Kathak Dancers". The painting tells a story of **endurance**, depicting **Kathak dancers** performing their narrative dance before an ancient holy site even as a destructive terrorist or gas explosion occurs in the background. Choosing not to flee, the dancers instead don their gas masks and continue to perform, a courageous act symbolizing their release of inner strength, or **inner elephants**, by facing adversity head-on.

"Split World" explores the compelling juxtaposition of the South Asian experience as lived across two dramatically different environments, **India and New York**, framing the artwork around the struggle with an **ambivalent identity**. The piece captures the essence and evolving nature of the modern-day South Asian woman as she navigates this significant cultural, social and geographical divide.



# Selected Artworks

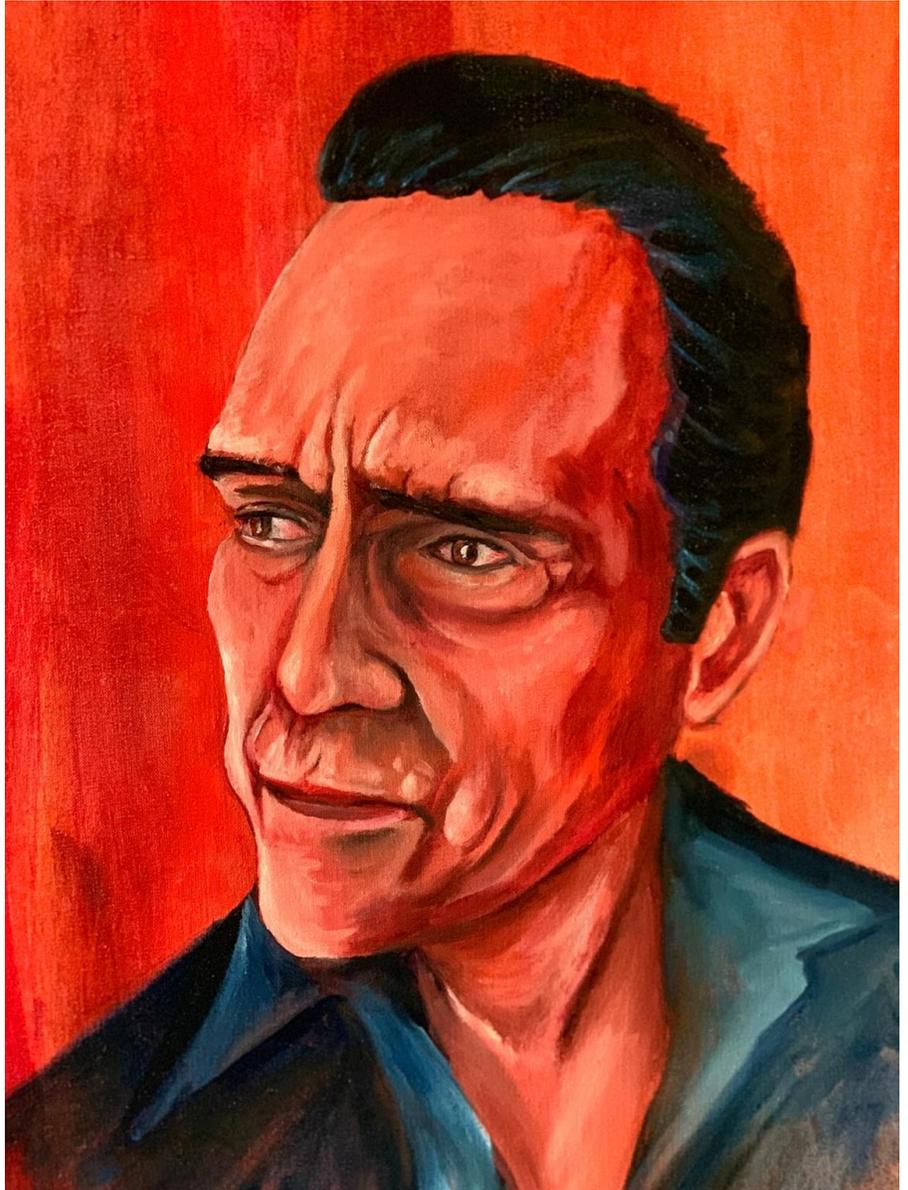


"Midnight Moon" depicts an **Indian Apsara**, a celestial sea goddess, engaged in an intimate moment with a man, where her **voluptuous figure** challenges societal beauty standards by celebrating the realistic and the naturally beautiful body of a **real person**. Drawing from Hindu mythology, the painting serves as both a personal homage to the artist's uncle's watercolor piece and a modern interpretation of **divine connection** and beauty. The artist had a lesbian woman and a gay man model for this piece.

"**The Intifada of Desdemona**"The painting provocatively compares the desperate, violent rage of **Othello** smothering his wife Desdemona to the extremist attacks and conflicts surrounding the **Second Intifada** and the **Israeli invasion of Gaza**. The work questions which land is truly "smothered," featuring a burning **Desdemona** as the outline of **Israel**, whose disputed territorial borders remain a focus since the **1967 Six Day War**.



# Selected Artworks



The piece is a compelling **Portrait of acclaimed *General Hospital* Actor, Maurice Benard**, created to honor his significant role both in television and as a vocal **bipolar advocate**. The artwork captures the likeness and intensity of the subject, aligning with the exhibition's themes of mental health management and articulation of voice.

# Selected Artworks

In “**Emergence**”, the character emerges from a 1000-year slumber brought on by intense introspection. This profound internal journey is inspired by the physics property of **Total Internal Reflection**: just as a light ray hitting a critical angle must reflect back on itself, the character must look entirely inward to achieve transformation and finally Emerge anew.



“**Corn Husker**” imagines a type of genetically modified corn designed to grow in large **underwater fields**, serving as a reaction to the 2008 ethanol investment frenzy that dangerously inflated corn prices and hurt local affordability in regions like Brazil. The painting simultaneously acts as a literal interpretation of a passage from **The Upanishads**, illustrating how nourishment and man alike ripen and spring up again, even in seemingly **inhospitable and impossible environments**.

# About the Artist: Mr. Veru Narula

Mr. Veru Narula is a visual artist renowned for his captivating underwater paintings, which seamlessly blend traditional and digital media. His artwork aims to attract abundance, rekindle the need for self-actualisation and offer viewers a meditative escape from the daily grind.

Born on April 7, 1981, in Edison, NJ, Narula is a third-generation oil painter and engineer whose life and art uniquely synthesise technology, spirituality, and cultural heritage. As a first-generation American raised in the Hindu tradition, Veru cultivated a deep appreciation for both science and the sacred from a young age. This fusion has guided his artistic practice since he was seventeen.

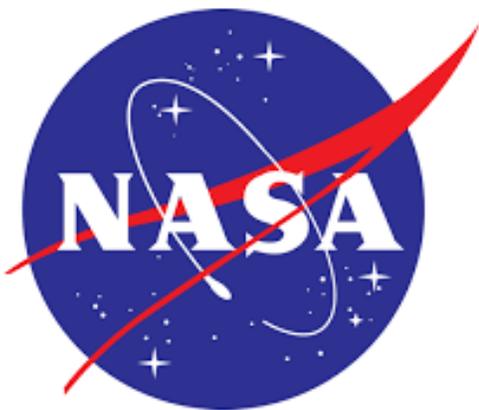


Narula's impressive academic background includes degrees from Columbia University and the School of Visual Arts, with additional studies at the Museum of Modern Art. He also holds an Executive MBA from Columbia. His work has been exhibited in prestigious institutions such as the Smithsonian Museum of Art, Miami Art Basel, and the Queens Museum of Art.

His formative years were profoundly shaped by pivotal experiences, including witnessing the events of 9/11 while an engineering student at Columbia. This experience led to the publication of his first novel, "The Vital Breath", a yoga-political romance, and ignited a lifelong devotion to hatha yoga. The mantra he embraced, "The longer the breath, the calmer the mind", became a guiding principle in both his personal and creative life.

# About (Cont.)

*Four of Mr. Veru Narula's art pieces were embossed on a disk and sent aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 spacecraft as part of the NASA Odysseus Mission, which landed on the South Side of the Moon on February 22nd, 2024, alongside works from 222 other talented artists, including Jeff Koons!*



# About (Cont.)

Veru's ascent in the New York art scene during the 2000s and 2010s was marked by significant milestones. His oil painting Kathak Dancers garnered a New York Times review and was subsequently acquired by the Rubin Museum after Donald Rubin visited Tabla Rasa Gallery. This painting later became part of a historic moment: its inclusion in the Lunarprise Mission, where art was etched onto quartz disks and launched on a Falcon 9 rocket to the Moon's south pole. Curated by Michael Nash for his Sundance award-winning film project, this made Veru one of the rare contemporary artists with work literally on the Moon.

In addition to Kathak Dancers, Veru contributed three more pieces to the Lunarprise: Pupil of Cosmic Discipline from his feminine divine series, Super Moon from his Strip of Life Art™ collection, and Mars Meditation from his Mars Imagination series. Mars Meditation, inspired by the Martian-like terrain of the Australian outback, represents the pinnacle of his spiritual and artistic expression. During its creation, he donned a 3D-printed space helmet and chanted Madonna's "Shanti/Ashtangi"—the same Sanskrit verse he quoted in his high school yearbook in 1998, symbolising a full-circle moment of purpose and passion.



Throughout his journey, Veru has confronted and embraced personal challenges, including coming to terms with his identity, managing bipolar disorder, and fully stepping into his Aries-driven, Mars-ruled nature. In October 2019, he declared his soul's purpose: "To Uplift Truth through Art and Help People."

In December 2022, Veru's career reached another peak when he debuted Ocean of Abundance at the Versace Mansion during Miami Art Basel. This work, combining hand-painted techniques with generative art, heralded a new era in his practice. There, he met influential figures such as Nova Spivack, Dallas Santana, and Lori Taylor. After Spivack's talk about his childhood dream of preserving civilisation, Veru gifted him "Mars Meditation". Spivack affirmed its rightful place on the Moon. Soon after, it was. From Edison, NJ, to Earth's only satellite, Veru Narula's life demonstrates how the intersection of breath, brush, and belief can elevate art beyond the limits of gravity.

# Mr Veru's Exhibition History



In 2024, four of his Art pieces were embossed on a disk that were aboard a falcon 9 SpaceX rocket as part of the NASA Odyssey Mission to the Moon. Some of his most recent and noteworthy exhibitions include "Urban Expression", Orange Contemporary Center of Arts, Santa Ana, CA 2024; "Chaos Theory," Orange Contemporary Center of Arts, Santa Ana, CA 2024; "Lunar Art Museum," Kennedy Space Center, Cape Canaveral, FL 2023; "Generative AI Revolution", Artificial Intelligence Los Angeles Society, CA 2023; "Green Accelerator," Swiss Room, World Economic Forum, Davos, Switzerland 2023; "VIP Exhibition," Bit Basel, Miami Art Basel, FL 2022; "Ocean of Abundance NFTPrototypes," Versace Mansion, Miami Art Basel, FL 2022; "Summer of Connection," Beverly Hills, CA 2022; "LA NFT Art Privacy," Marina Del Rey, CA 2022; "Queer Theory," LA Gate House, Los Angeles, CA 2021 Veru Narula (b. 1981) is a contemporary mixed media artist known for his vibrant palette and thought-provoking works concerning the intersection of spirituality, the universe's rhythm, nature, and the expression of the ever-changing human identity. The artist skillfully intertwines oil painting, video embedded art, and augmented reality to deliver a unique perspective on the human experience. Education Exhibition History His Art been exhibited & acquired by prestigious national & international museums & collections. 2



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# Mr Veru's Exhibition History



San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, San Luis Obispo, CA 2018; San Diego Art Fair, San Diego, CA 2016; "Chaos Theory," Orange County Contemporary Center of Art, CA 2015; "Thank you for applying", Kazen Art Center, Washington, DC 2015; "Erasing Borders", Williamsburg Art Center, Brooklyn, NY 2015; "H1B, Beyond Bollywood," Curated by Smithsonian Institute of Art, Twelve Gates Gallery, Philadelphia, PA 2014; "Erasing Borders," Hammond Museum, NY 2013; "Art of Conflict", Noyes Museum, Oceanville, NJ 2013; "Veru Narula", International Art Expo, New York, NY 2013; "100,000 LAK", India Habitat Center, Delhi, India 2012; "Kinsey Institute Juried Show," Grunwald Gallery, Bloomington, IN 2012; "2011 Annual Benefit", Chelsea Art Museum, New York, NY 2011; "A Strip of Life", Georgia's Art Gallery, New York, NY 2011; "Digital Night", Los Angeles Digital Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA 2011; "Arabian Nights",

Exhibited at New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, City Without Walls and The New Jersey Performing Arts Center, Newark, NJ 201; Solo Show: "All The World's A Stage", Michael Schimmel Art Center, Pace University, New York, NY 2011

# Mr Veru's Exhibition History



Queens  
Museum of Art



Rubin Museum  
of Art

sundaram tagore

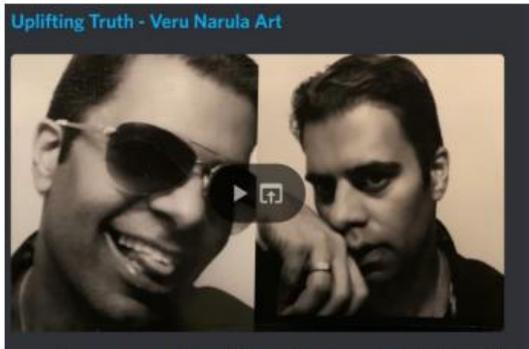


arts> World  
Financial  
Center

“The Art of Conflict”, Tarnish and Gold Gallery, Minneapolis, MN 2010, “Indo American Art Survey (Benefit),” Sundaram Tagore Gallery, NY 2010; “Snap to Grid”, L.A. Center for Digital Art, Los Angeles, CA 2010;; “BABEL” Space 37, Queens, NY 2010; EcoArtspace’s “What Matters Most,” Exit Art, New York, NY 2010; “Spring Salon Show”, Greenpoint Gallery, Brooklyn, NY 2010; “Scarlet Fever: The Red Show”, Postcrypt Art Gallery, New York, NY 2010; “Haiti Art Fund”, MonkDogz, New York, NY 2010; “From the Edge”, ZieherSmith, New York, NY 2010; “Erasing Borers: Explorations in Contemporary Indian Art”, PennGallery, Penn College, PA 2009; Queens Museum of Art, Queens, NY 2009; Elizabeth Arts Foundation, New York, NY 2009; “Global Cooling” World Financial Center, NY 2009; Dowd Fine Art Gallery, Cortland, NY 2009; “Dialogue in Art” Santa Monica Studios 2009; “Election 2008”, Art Gotham, New York, NY 2008; “Erasing Borders Exhibition”, Queens Museum of Art, Queens, NY 2008; “Global Fusion Art”, Spark Art Center, NY, NY 2008; Hammond Museum, Salem, NY 2008; The Guild Gallery, NY, NY 2008; Tabla Rasa Gallery, Brooklyn, NY 2008; “South Asian/American Arts Festival”, Santa Monica Studios, Santa Monica, CA 2008; “Postcards from the Edge.”, James Cohan Gallery, New York, NY 2007 Apex Art, New York, NY 2007; “Beyond Borders Event”, ifood TV, New York, NY 2007; “A Holi Trance” (*Permanent installation*)

*Solo Show*: “The Experience of Hands,” Columbia University, New York, NY 2003.

# Media Coverage



Documentary Short "Veru Narula: Uplifting Truth"

The New York Times

Los Angeles Times



Time Square, New York, NY

Veru has been a guest artist speaker at the Guggenheim Museum (NY, NY 2011), and Bal Nikatan Orphanage (Delhi, India 2019). His art has had wide press coverage that includes reviews in New York Times by former Art Forum editor Benjamin Genocchio, LA Times, 'India Times', and has been featured in articles such as "Body Oddy Oddly," Queer Quarterly, 2021; "Interview with Veru Narula", Mantel.com 2011; "Social issues on the palette, Diaspora artists erase borders", India Abroad 2009; "A Collection Born of Cultural Dislocation", New York Times 2008; Orientation Online Asian Events 2008; "Review of South Asian/American Festival", Los Angeles Times 2008, and "Independence Beyond Borders," Indian Era.com 2007.

## The art of Mr. Veru is even on the Moon!

**Art on the Moon selection: "Mars Meditation"**

**ARTIST ID**  
Lunarprize Mission Participation

**Veru Narula**

SpaceBlue, the official curator for the Lunarprize Mission, hereby confirms and verifies the following:  
The artist(s) and/or entity/entities specified above have been officially chosen and incorporated into the program. Lunarprize Mission is one of the 222 exclusive participants.  
These artifacts (name of entity) are included to be part of the Lunar Museum's digital archive, a first-of-its-kind art vault destined for the Earth's Moon.

Mission Launch Details:  
NASA Mission: Artemis I  
Rocket Company: SpaceX  
Lunar Landing Date: 15-22-2024

Upon the successful touchdown of Lunarprize on Earth's Moon, the artist(s) and/or entity/entities will be able to apply online at: [www.spaceblue.com](http://www.spaceblue.com) to receive an official Certificate for their art artifacts or entity. The final Certificate will verify the assigned Lunar Artifact ID, correct name(s), the Lunar Landing date and time, the Lunar location, and the Smart Contract ID associated with the mission certificate.  
Date: 3/15/2024

Uplifting Truth - Mars Meditation, Poem of Cosmic Inspiration, Super Moon, Kathak Dance

For further details, refer to the Artist Terms and Conditions available at [spaceblue.com](http://spaceblue.com)  
For more information about the mission, visit <http://www.lunarprize.com>

**SPACE BLUE**  
Assigned Artist ID  
**55**

**SPACE BLUE**

"Mars Meditation" (72" x 48") Oil on Canvas,, 3D Printed helmet

Official Lunarprize Certificate

# The Making of an Artist

## **3<sup>rd</sup> Generation Oil Painter & Engineer**

“Oil Painting is a rite of passage in my family, from my mother, father, uncles, aunts, grand-family, and cousins.

Each painting tells a story, combining ideas across emotional experiences, sciences, spiritual iconography, sexuality, literature, technology and ultimately, the pursuit of Freedom”

**Age 11: Model Homes & Fashion**



Passion for  
Creation



# The Curatorial Dossier

Discover our curated exhibition proposals

- Spirit of Water
- Female empowerment
- Technology and Engineering in Art
- Christian Culture
- South Asian, Arab and African Culture
- Strip of Life: Ready to Hang

# Contact Information

## Mr. Veru Narula

Contemporary Oil Painter

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FaceBook Fan Page & Youtube: VeruNarulaArt

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