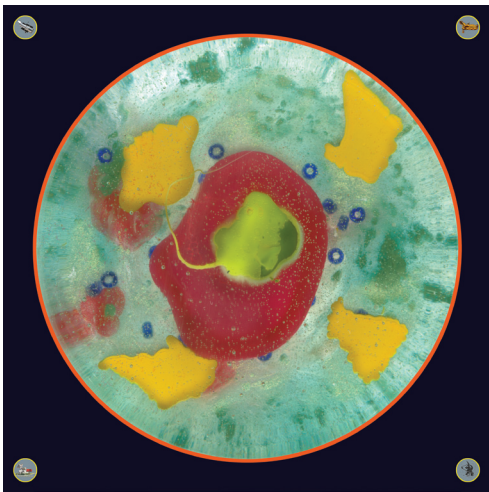
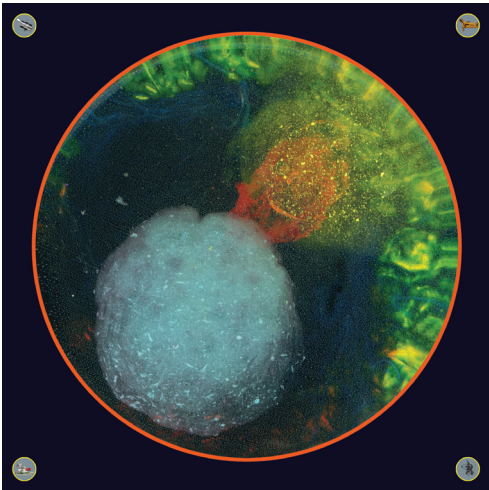


SRI PRABHA



Interpreting the Cosmos I, 2012. Mixed media, 40 x 60 in.



Interpreting the Cosmos 2, 2012. Mixed media, 40 x 60 in.

Sri Prabha's uncanny work is inspired by an interest in popular science and by an inherent attraction to the ways all things appear to be interconnected. The native of Hyderabad, India, employs scientific iconography and recent discoveries that combine to convey not only the furthest boundaries of the heavens but also interior realms and everything in between. One also immediately notes his bold use of color and the labor-intensive process the artist engages in while creating works that are exquisitely detailed and meticulously crafted. For example in a recent piece titled *Coalescing Galaxies, Varanasi*, created from epoxy resin and pigment on wood, Prabha covers his composition in a deep field of crimson and upon the pristine surface places a glowing blue orb. It refracts interior patterns of swirling light suggestive of a twinkling celestial sphere or a star cluster. In it the artist also pays tribute to his homeland by naming India's holy city on the banks of the Ganges in the work's title. In another work from the series, *Coalescing Galaxies, Bahamas*, rendered in the deep azure hue of the Caribbean waters, Prabha also places a shimmering orb on its surface but this time it transports viewers to the deepest depths of the ocean. In a cluster of smaller works from the series that appear more to allude to deep space rather than to the earthly bound, Prabha utilizes an almost twilight blue color across his compositions covered by iridescent yellow and orange globes that bring to mind far away galaxies while casting the illusion they are in a process of coalescing and dissolving at the same time.

To achieve his impeccable pieces the artist says he subtly manipulates air currents to wash media over their surfaces with a propane torch and some plain old gravity. Prabha also says he was drawn to utilize Resin in particular because of its malleable qualities and how it allows him to construct his multilayered surfaces. "I add or subtract elements like pigment, minerals and metal flakes painstakingly until the proper shapes and forms appear," Prabha informs. The artist's mixed media installations such as *Interpreting the Cosmos I* and *II* were inspired by pictures of faraway nebulas captured by the Hubble Space Telescope. But his memories of growing up in India are never far from his thoughts, and the bold colors and vibrant energy of his homeland also remain evident throughout his works. As an adult when he first experienced the paintings of Mark Rothko, they reminded him of the red and orange saris with their linear bands of richly hued stripes typically worn in his country. Experiencing Sri Prabha's striking, colorful works, insatiable imagination and observing his virtuosity over his media, all combine to transport viewers to both distant and familiar realms through a clarity of vision that is distinctly his own. "My works are conceptualized based on various scientific discoveries that inform and amaze me, and deeply impact my place in the world. Discoveries by instruments like the Hubble Telescope and deep sea exploration vehicles profoundly impact my sense of being. Resin in particular I use for its malleability. Pigments, minerals, and other materials are incorporated into this primordial soup to build positive and negative spatial planes, allowing multiple surfaces to coalesce into various ethereal forms. I build up multilayered surfaces, teasing out the final image one layer at a time, manipulating the intrinsic optical and viscous qualities of epoxy resin, with heat, pigments, and gravity."

(Detail) *Coalescing Galaxies, Varanasi*, 2012. Epoxy resin and pigment on wood, 25 x 25 in.

SriPrabha.com | [artmiami](#) | Dec 6 - 9th, 2012

