





GALERIE
MIRCHANDANI+
STEINRUECKE

13 January – 26 February, 2022

SOSA JOSEPH
WHERE DO WE
COME FROM?

A river of remembrance

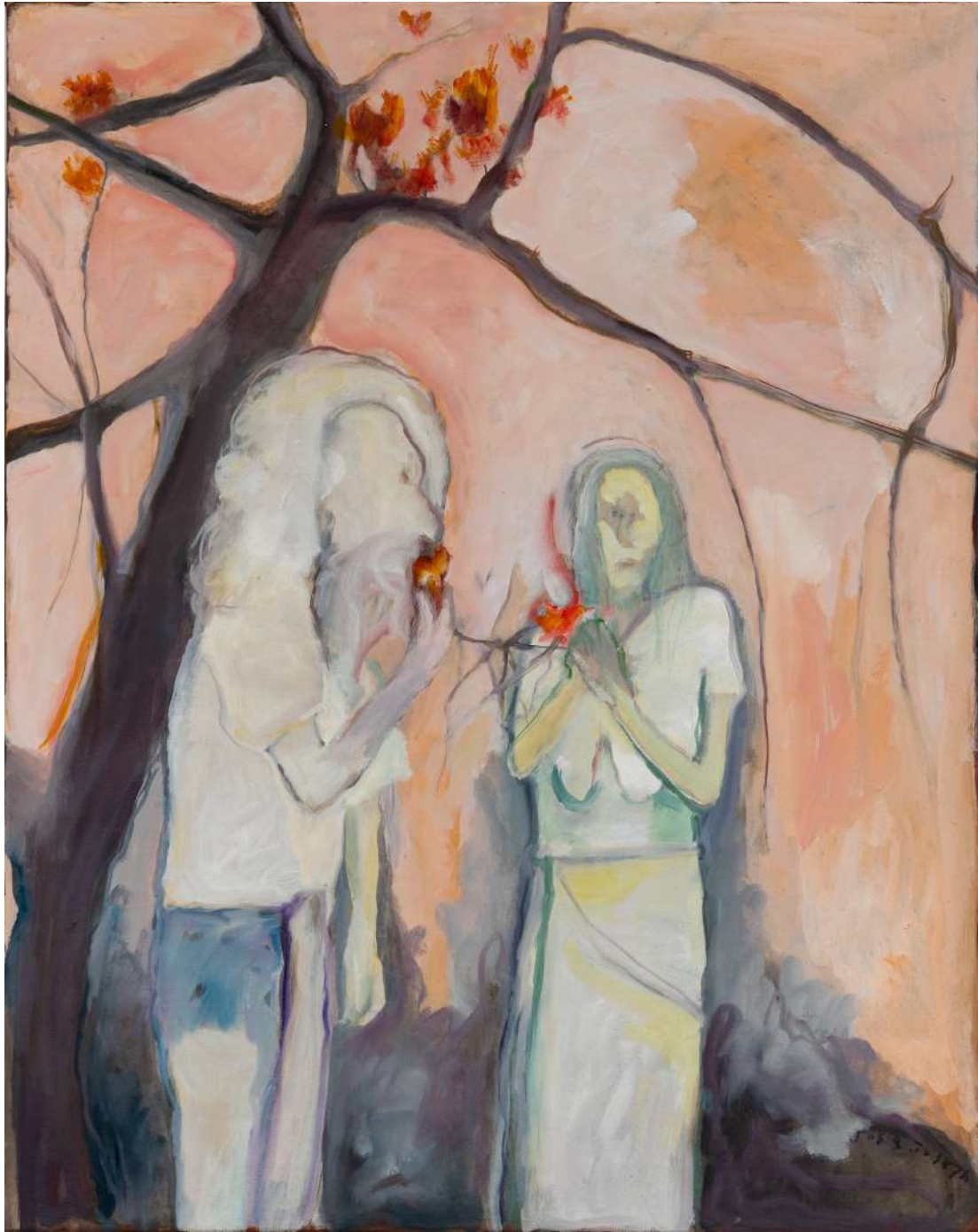
I tend to think where people come from makes them who they are. In my case, it's a riverine village in southern Kerala. I was born and raised in a house right by the river. For us, it all began with the river. It flowed through us every day, every moment.

The present body of work called *Where do we come from?* is my visual exploration of this riverine world, where my memory began. By being the geography of the genesis of my visual journey, it greatly influenced my visual vocabulary, set its grammar, and enriched its lexicon. Apart from the geography, the motifs herein seem to recall people and events I knew of, and therefore seem narrative in some sense. However, portraiture or storytelling is not my motivation here. It's a remembrance of the riverine aesthetic that swathed and swamped my early existence. In that sense, these canvases are largely landscapes, though of reminiscence.

And yet, they are more than that. Looking back at the land of my visual coming of age, I realise I was really raised by the river and the village by it. Indeed, I have been lucky. The river's ecosystem inspired my imagination, intensified my experience of nature, informed my worldview, influenced my aesthetic, and even gave me my sense of colours and textures. I am deeply thankful. I am thankful for the jacanas, the coots, and the coucals; the turtles by the mudflats, the frogs in the puddles. I am thankful for the moon over the sugarcane fields and the moorhens in the swamps. I am thankful for the trees and the creepers. I am thankful for the people by the river, and their stories. And I am thankful for the rain over the river. When there is so much to be thankful for, tributes are in order. This, here, is an attempt at that, too.

My reuse of the title *Where do we come from?* isn't meant to echo the spiritual preoccupation evident in its original use by Gauguin. Since I have already borrowed other parts of the same title before (in *What are we?* and *Where are we going?*), it simply seemed apt to use the remaining part. It must be therefore apparent that when I say "Where do we come from?", I only mean to say "Where I come from".

Sosa Joseph
Cochin, December 2021

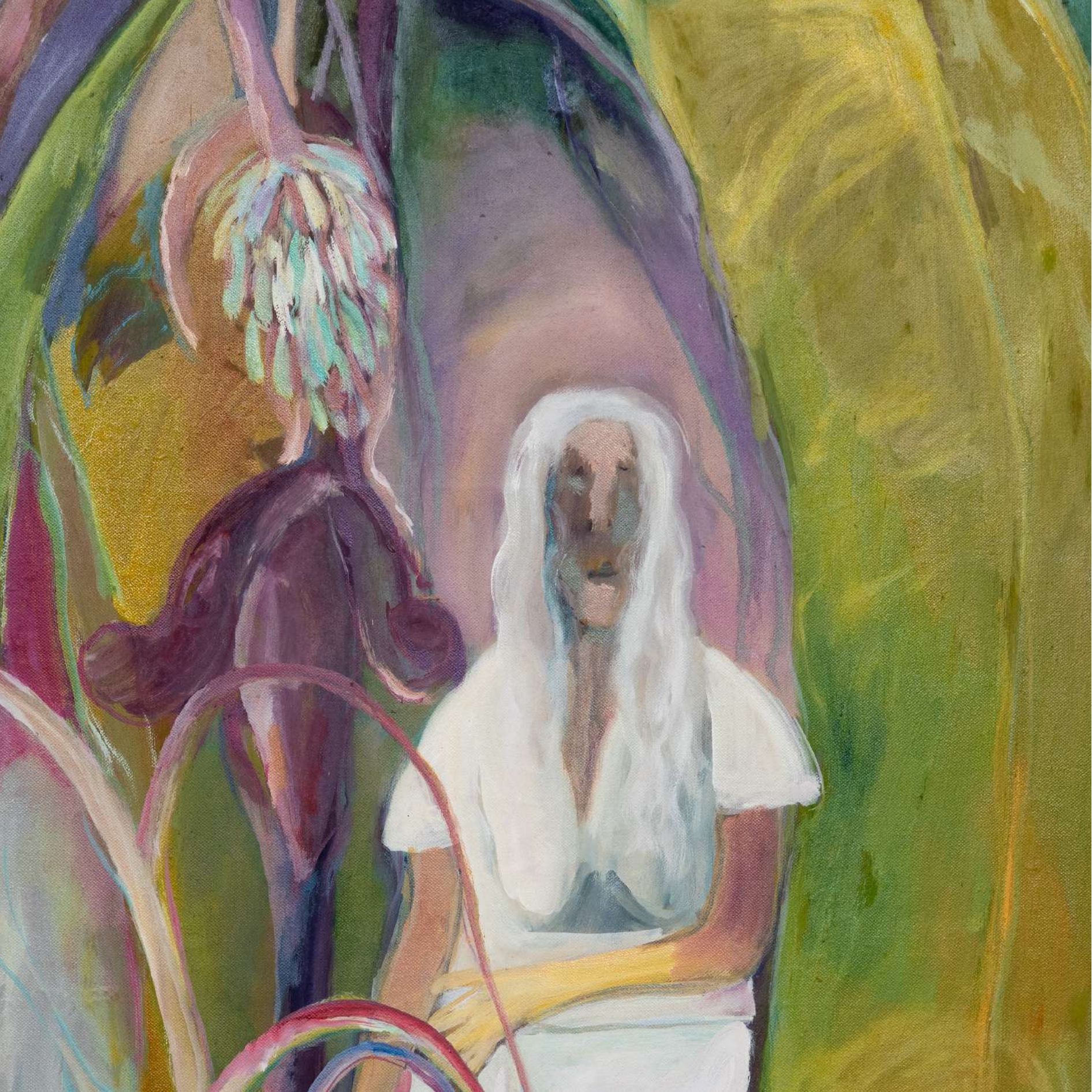


Coral Tree Lovers
2019
Oil on canvas
30 x 24 in / 76.2 x 60.9 cm





Grandmother and the Banana Flower
2019
Oil on canvas
30 x 24 in / 76.2 x 60.9 cm





Feasters
2021
Oil on canvas
24 x 30 in / 60.9 x 76.2 cm





Stable Visitors
2019-21
Oil on canvas
24 x 30 in / 60.9 x 76.2 cm





Street Boxers
2019
Oil on canvas
24 x 30 in / 60.9 x 76.2 cm







Luffa Gatherers
2021
Oil on canvas
36 x 48 in / 91.4 cm x 122 cm





A Viper in the Sugar Cane Field
2021
Oil on canvas
36 x 48 in / 91.4 cm x 122 cm





Frog Hunters
2021
Oil on canvas
60 x 48 in / 152.4 x 121.9 cm





Duck Farmers
2019-21
Oil on canvas
108 x 118 in / 274.3 x 299.7 cm







Turtle Watcher
2021
Oil on canvas
36 x 48 in / 91.4 cm x 122 cm





Tramps
2019-21
Oil on canvas
36 x 60 in / 91.4 cm x 152.4 cm







Gift From the River I

2021

Oil on canvas

42 x 96 in / 106.7 x 243.8 cm







Gift From the River II

2021

Oil on canvas

42 x 96 in / 106.7 x 243.8 cm







The Ferryman and his Jaundiced Child
2019
Oil on canvas
107.2 x 57.8 in / 272.5 x 147 cm





Born 1971 in Parumala, Kerala
Diploma in Painting, Raja Ravi Varma College of Fine Arts, Kerala
Post-Graduate Diploma in Painting, Faculty of Fine Arts, M.S. University, Baroda
Lives and works in Cochin

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 *Where do we come from?*, Galerie Mirchandani + Steinruecke, Mumbai
- 2017 India Art Fair, New Delhi. Presented by Galerie Mirchandani + Steinruecke
- 2016 *What Are We?*, Setouchi Triennale, Shodoshima Island, Japan
- 2014 *Unspecified*, Galerie Mirchandani + Steinruecke, Mumbai
- 2009 *The Common*, Galerie Mirchandani + Steinruecke, Mumbai
- 2005 *Tenacity of the Moon*, Kashi Art Gallery, Cochin

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 *RED*, Galerie Mirchandani + Steinruecke, Mumbai
- 2019 *New Figurations: Matthew Krishanu and Sosa Joseph*, Jhaveri Contemporary, Mumbai
- 2019 *Art & Cinema*, curated by Riyas Komu, Papaya Art Gallery, Cochin
- 2018 *Nine Painters from Kerala*, Galerie Mirchandani + Steinruecke, Mumbai
- 2018 *SUPERPOSITION: Equilibrium & Engagement*, 21st Biennale of Sydney curated by Mami Kataoka, Museum of Contemporary Art Australia, Sydney
- 2017 *Mémoires des Futurs I Modernités Indiennes*, curated by Catherine David, Centre Pompidou, Paris
- 2017 *Mattancherry*, curated by Riyas Komu, URU Art Harbour, Cochin
- 2016 *DWELLING: 10th Anniversary Show (Part I)*, curated by Ranjit Hoskote, Galerie Mirchandani + Steinruecke, Mumbai
- 2015 *Kamarado*, curated by Zasha Colah, Sumesh Sharma, Jelle Bouwhuis and Kerstin Winking Stedelijk Museum Bureau Amsterdam and Clark House Initiative Bombay
- 2015 *Double Take*, curated by Diana Campbell Betancourt, Nature Morte, New Delhi
- 2012 First edition of the Kochi-Muziris Biennale, curated by Bose Krishnamachari and Riyas Komu, Cochin

RESIDENCIES

2016 Setouchi Triennale Residency, Shodoshima Island, Japan

2015 Collaborations Program, Stedelijk Museum Bureau Amsterdam, The Netherlands

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, Delhi

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

Clarinda Carnegie Art Museum, Iowa

GALERIE
MIRCHANDANI +
STEINRUECKE

101, 1st floor, Commerce House
SS Ram Gulam Marg
Ballard Estate
Fort, Mumbai 400001

info@galeriems.com
www.galeriems.com
+91 22 3509 8262