

**N.N.RIMZON**

*The Round Ocean and the Living Death*

Talwar Gallery is pleased to announce *The Round Ocean and the Living Death*, an exhibition of new works by N.N. Rimzon.

The works in *The Round Ocean and the Living Death* emerge from Rimzon's career-long effort to craft an artistic language that speaks with the still, timeless power of India's centuries-old belief systems and making traditions—and yet speaks to the complexities of Indian life today. In the direct, unadorned markings of his works on paper and canvas, or the quietly evocative forms of his sculptural works, Rimzon creates a deeply meditative space for contemplation—a space not removed from the world, but that offers a slower, more considered, and definitively less polemical take on it.

The sculpture *Blood Rain*, for example, draws on the suggestive, almost totemic form of the vessel, whose connotations of plenitude and fullness make poignant the delicate, blood-red rupture of the thread that spools out from its side. Without making explicit or narrative reference to violence in the north of Kerala, Rimzon's home state, *Blood Rain* strikes a deeply mournful tone, which is only underscored by the blurry photographic images that are woven into the sculpture—drawn from the identification cards of recent victims of such violence. A monumental sculpture, *The Round Ocean and the Living Death*, similarly deploys a recognizable form: a mother-goddess figure, seated and cross-legged at the center of a circle, still power. Like the gentle, belly-like swell of *Secret Body*, punctuated by the recess of the navel, the seven-breasted deity figure evokes a quiet yet commanding power—generative as well as protective. Her outstretched blood red palm and eyes seem to hold life, balanced, over a circular abyss. This deity figure appears also in the exhibition's painting, whose simplicity belies a complex interweaving of multiple perspectives and deeply mysterious iconography—set, like other cosmological drawings, within a circular frame. As in all of Rimzon's work, these works demand no particular creed or set of knowledge to engage with them. Open-ended and multivalent, they reference a moment before man-made divisions of color, religion, and nationality separated humankind.

Rimzon's many-decade career has been devoted to work across media, including installation, sculpture, painting, and drawing. His early artistic formation, in conversation with the tenets of minimalism and conceptualism, set him apart from a narrative tradition of painting in India, leading to a concern both with form and with art's relationship to lived experience. Evolving through his deep interest in and respect for materials, Rimzon's work balances recognizable representation with a profound sense of mystery. Disarmingly straightforward, even familiar, his forms reveal an inexhaustible potency—a deep and seemingly bottomless well of renewing symbolic power.

N.N. Rimzon's works have been exhibited at institutions worldwide including the National Museum of Modern & Contemporary Art, Seoul, Korea; Art Gallery of New South Wales (AGNSW), Sydney, Australia; 5<sup>th</sup> Beijing International Art Biennale, National Art Museum of China; Museum of Modern Art, (MuHKA), Antwerp, Belgium; 2nd Asia - Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art (APT), Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Australia; Kiran Nadar Museum of Art (KNMA), Delhi, India; Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Monterrey (MARCO), Mexico; Berkeley Art Museum (BAM), Berkeley, CA; Busan Biennale, South Korea; Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth; Asia Society, New York, NY; Queens Museum of Art, New York, NY; Singapore Art Museum; Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Taiwan; National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), Mumbai, India and The Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, Netherlands.

Rimzon earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) in sculpture from the College of Fine Arts, Trivandrum (1982), a Masters of Fine Arts in sculpture at Maharaja Sayajirao University, Baroda (1984) and a Masters of Arts from the Royal College of Art, London (1989). Nedumgottil Narayanan Rimzon was born in 1957 in Kakkoor, Kerala, India and now lives and works in Trivandrum, Kerala (India).