

object of art

WORKS OF  
ADIL WRITER







GALLERY  
art



soul

presents

# SECRETS & LIES

ceramics, sculpture & paintings

by

## adil writer

also featuring ceramic works made by him at a recent residency in Shigaraki, Japan

preview on sunday, 8th december 2013, 5 to 8 pm

show continues till 18th december 2013





‘... the things we make have one supreme quality — they live longer than us. We perish, they survive; we have one life, they have many lives, and in each life they can mean different things.’

— NEIL MACGREGOR, DIRECTOR OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM, TALKING ABOUT THE CYRUS CYLINDER AT TED TALKS

## object of art

Writer makes objects not meaning.  
His material is the only substance  
between us and him; his form, only  
a pause; his colour, the remains of  
change; his size, only contrast, and we  
have only ourselves to find proportion.

Like the patina of raindrops that stain  
Rodin’s bronze, we find time vitrified in  
Writer’s objects — having acted upon  
clay, presenting proof than pretty.  
They look old. Their gnarled bodies are  
heavily marked; having secret places  
of clotted residue — as if carrying  
some stolen legacy, bleeding away  
ceaselessly before our eyes.

WRITER’S EXPERIMENTS WITH DIFFERENT MINERAL-RICH CLAYS AVAILABLE TO HIM AT A RESIDENCY IN SHIGARAKI, ONE OF JAPAN’S SIX ANCIENT KILN SITES.

2. [LEFT] HIKIDASHI CUPS, ANAGAMA-FIRED STONEWARE, 4” HT, JAPAN

3. [RIGHT] SHIGA PLATTER, ANAGAMA-FIRED STONEWARE, 12” DIA, JAPAN





... I wanted to write about it all. Everything that happens in a moment. The way the flowers looked when you carried them in your arms. This towel, how it smells, how it feels, this thread. All our feelings, yours and mine. The history of it, who we once were. Everything in the world. Everything all mixed up, like it's all mixed up now. We want everything, don't we?

— RICHARD BROWN IN 'THE HOURS'  
BY MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM

I might have found Adil Writer's hidden subject, this 'time'. Like a harlequin trickster, he treats time as if it were a sprinkle of ground sugar on crème Brûlée. As it settles, time acts for Writer through memory, an aftertaste — memory that makes up the identity of his architecture. He presents us with one odd creature after another — old souls, at once playful and profound; incidental and infuriating in their silence. He steals a moment and holds it captive in physical form. Sometimes, I feel like letting one drop to the floor, if only to see what might be released from it breaking.

THICK PLATTERS MADE BY CHUCKING THE REMAINS OF THE DAY, ALL INTO A MIX OF IMPURE CLAY — QUARTZ, FELDSPAR, SILICA CRACKLING AWAY TILL DAWN IN AN 'ANAGAMA' OR CAVE KILN, TRADITIONALLY CONSTRUCTED AS A SLOPING TUNNEL OF FIRE INTO THE HILL-SIDE.

4. [LEFT] "SAID & DONE" SHARD 1 OF 6, WOOD-FIRED STONWARE, 11" W, JAPAN

5. [RIGHT] "SAID & DONE" PLATTER, WOOD-FIRED STONWARE, 12" DIA, JAPAN







Among his creatures, is one that he calls 'treasure box'. He makes them everywhere. They are two halves of a whole, holding a sphere within.

Some are born together in shapes of the other's presence. The gesture of Writer's repetition is not unlike his use of scale in a single object. The singular hollow of a treasure box exists in relation to the colossal association of our collective 'precious', as we open each box and match them shut, wondering what we might have found.

TREASURE BOXES IN UNIDENTICAL REPEATS OF NINE — WRITER'S NAVAGRAHA SERIES BASED ON THE INDIAN COSMOLOGY OF PLANETARY POSITIONS. THIS ONE, A BIT OF A TRANS-CONTINENTAL EXPRESSION, IS MADE IN TWO CLAYS FROM AUSTRALIA AND CHINA; HIS 'FAROHAR IMPRESSION, REMEMBERING PERSIAN PASTLIVES.

6. [RIGHT] FAROHAR NAVAGRAHA, WOOD-FIRED STONEWARE & PORCELAIN, 15" W, AUROVILLE

7. [LEFT] IKEBANA VASES, ANAGAMA-FIRED STONEWARE, 8" HT, PONDICHERRY







As if to confound us further, Writer is constantly scratching his surfaces with what might appear to be clues in our chase for meaning. You soon develop a suspicion though, that it's likely to lead you nowhere; that it's some momentary response to the object shifting states in its elemental business.

He is always strongly stated and seldom intelligible, with his incisions on clay or his smears on canvas. What reaches us is the emotional energy of when he was upon them. As in his Shodo paintings, the strokes and formations on canvas appear to be only one of the multiple, splintered directions they could have taken.

The complex map of gritty colour and texture, its dips and deposits, is only worth the imagination of the many parallel states in which they might exist. These surfaces, their kinetic arrangements are the picture of possibility, rather akin to Writer's own road from architecture to ceramics.

Out of the paths of the morning star they came -  
The sun-eyed children of a marvellous dawn -  
The messengers of the Incommunicable,  
The architects of immortality.

— FROM SAVITRI BY SRI AUROBINDO.

8. [LEFT] BLOCKS IN EVER-CHANGING VERTICAL ARRANGEMENTS  
"ARCHITECTS OF IMMORTALITY" SERIES, WOOD-FIRED STONWARE, 72" HT, AUROVILLE
9. [RIGHT] WRITER'S "SHODO" SERIES THAT HE PAINTED SOON AFTER HIS RETURN FROM JAPAN  
"SHODO 1/2/3", ACRYLIC ON CANVAS, 24" HT, AUROVILLE





Writer's training as an architect is well-exposed. He refuses to hang his clay-painted canvases on the wall in frames. Instead, he devises formations to wrap his canvases on. He wants us to feel their concrete presence.

For most of its history, architecture sought to resist time, to tell stories that transcend its gravity, using materials that would hold up against the ravages of history. Writer, now leaves time be, in his objects. In the touch of its contour and crevice, resides it's voice — epic tales held within little details.

NOT HUNG YET AND STILL STANDING

10. [LEFT] "PREMONITION" SERIES: ACRYLIC AND CERAMIC INGREDIENTS ON CANVAS, 60" HT, AUROVILLE

11. [RIGHT] "BARCODE" SERIES: ACRYLIC LOADED WITH CERAMIC INGREDIENTS ON CANVAS, 80" L, AUROVILLE





When invited alongside an impressive list of artists to contribute to the 'bucket show' Writer is the only one to make multiple buckets. Why duplicate an orange? Are there not enough to go around? But in asking the question, in confronting its prosaicness, he makes us make meaning. How does sculpture relate to its origin in nature? How do multiples in turn relate to the original in sculpture? In Writer's world even the common balti has poetic possibility.

It is the juxtaposition that is both familiar and strange and therein lies his mischief in nudging us to read by the object — big and small, grand and mundane — as a narrative for sculpture, imagination, and the tenuous fragility of our own momentary and momentous existence.

**Oroon Das**

Berlin, November 2013

12. [LEFT] "BUCKET" SERIES: STONEWARE, VARIOUS FIRINGS, 16" HT, AUROVILLE



## ADIL WRITER

Bachelor of Architecture, Sir J.J. College of Architecture, Bombay.  
Master of Architecture, University of Houston, Texas, USA.  
Architect at Gensler & Associates, San Francisco, California, USA.  
Associate Architect at Talati & Panthaky Pvt. Ltd., Bombay.  
Golden Bridge Pottery, Pondicherry, India, with Ray Meeker and Deborah Smith.  
Since 2001, partner at Mandala Pottery, Auroville, India. (Production and studio pottery)

### Selected Exhibitions

- 2013 "Secrets & Lies", Gallery Art & Soul, Bombay. (Solo, ceramics & painted media)
- 2013 "Indian Pavilion", Fule International Ceramic Art Museum, Fuping, China
- 2013 "Traditions Evolving", NCECA conference, Houston, USA. (group show)
- 2013 "The Bucket Show", Forum Gallery, Chennai. (International group show)
- 2012 "4 Continents Ceramic Exhibition", The Studio Gallery, Yallingup, W Australia.
- 2012 "Collection from Sasama", Museum of Modern Ceramic Art, Mino, Gifu, Japan (group show)
- 2012 "Qalam-Atma International Calligraphy Exhibition, Jaipur. (ceramic participation)
- 2012 "Art On Sunday", Petite Ferme, Auroville (solo show, paintings & ceramics)
- 2012 "International Group Show", Gallery Hu, Nagoya, Japan.
- 2012 "Jeff Shapiro & Friends", Kala Kendra, Auroville, India. (ceramic group show)
- 2011 "Delegate's Master Show", Verkehr Shimizu Museum, Shizoka, Japan.
- 2011 "秘密と嘘", (Secrets and Lies), SCCP, Shigaraki, Japan. (solo ceramic show)
- 2011 "Continental Drift", Deloraine Gallery, Tasmania, Australia. (anagama/ woodfired ceramic group show)
- 2011 "Atmos-fire", Artifakt Gallery, Australia. (international invitational group show)
- 2011 "International Tea Pot Show", Shanghai, China. (also in 2010, 2009 & 2008)
- 2011 "Firebox", anagama ceramics, group show, #1 Shanthiroad Gallery, Bangalore.
- 2010 "Treasures", Gallery Time & Space, Bangalore. (Solo show, ceramics & painted media)
- 2010 "ICMEA Emerging Ceramic Artist Competition", Fuping, Shaanxi, China. (selected entry)
- 2010 "10 Years of Wood-fire", Knighthood's Assembly, Tallinn, Estonia.
- 2009 "The White Rabbit", Visual Arts Gallery, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. (Solo show, sponsored by Delhi Blue Pottery Trust, ceramics & painted media)
- 2009 "2nd Shanghai-Shenyao International Wood-kiln Exhibition", Gallery Shenyao, Shanghai, China. (invitational show)
- 2009 "5th World Ceramic Biennale 2009", CEBIKO, Korea. (Selected entry)
- 2009 "Small Objects-Fete Picasso Auction", Vallauris, France.
- 2009 "Maati - Explorations in Terracotta", India Habitat Centre, New Delhi (Delhi Blue Pottery Trust's international show)
- 2008 "Mad Hatters Tea Party", ICIA Gallery, Bombay. (All India teapot show)
- 2008 "Sanbao Ceramics", Jingdezhen Sanbao Ceramic Studio, China.

- 2008 "Resonances", Provence, France. (Auroville artists' mixed media by Marie Claire Barsotti)
- 2008 "Threshold", Gallery Art & Soul, Bombay. (Solo, ceramics & painted media)
- 2008 "Miniatures", Artist Centre, Bombay. (Solo, ceramics & paintings)
- 2008 "Harmony 2008", Nehru Centre, Bombay. (Mixed media, All India Art shows hosted by Reliance Industries in 2005, 2006, 2007 & 2008)
- 2007 "Contemporary Ceramics", Lemongrasshopper Gallery, Ahmedabad.
- 2007 "Masters Show, Clay Edge 2007", Cudgegong Gallery, Australia. (Invitational ceramic show)
- 2005 "Stoneware", Hatworks Boulevard, Bangalore. (Solo show, ceramics)
- 2004 "Peace and Harmony", Visual Arts Gallery, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. (Delhi Blue Pottery Trust's international biennale)
- 2003 "Potters in Peril", National Gallery of Modern Art, Bombay. (Indo-US show)



### Selected Workshops Attended / Conducted

- Anagama / Chinnagama workshops at Golden Bridge Pottery, Pondicherry, with Jack Troy, Jeff Shapiro & Peter Thompson. Workshops at Golden Bridge Pottery, Pondicherry with Betty Woodman, Sandy Brown, Mike Dodd, Jane Perryman & Jim Danisch.
- 2013 Residency at the Fule International Ceramic Art Museum, Fuping, China
- 2012 "Not Only Elephants & Horses!!!", a presentation of contemporary Indian ceramics at "Subversive Clay", Australian Ceramics Triennale, Adelaide, Australia.
- 2012 "Fired Stacks", demonstrated the building & firing the fired - house technique, Perth, Australia.
- 2012 "The Road Less Taken", an installation of 500 treasure boxes at the Hyatt Regency, Chennai. A part of the ceramic sculpture garden envisioned and curated by Rajeev Sethi and Ray Meeker.
- 2011 Invited artist to International Ceramic Festival in Sasama, Japan.
- 2011 Selected Artist-in-residence at Shigaraki Cultural Park, Japan.
- 2010 International Wood-firing Ceramics Symposium, Kohila, Estonia.
- 2007 Clay – Edge 2007, invitational ceramic event. Demonstrated the building and firing of a fire-stabilised mud-brick dome at Janet Mansfield's residence in Gulgong, Australia.
- 2001 "Woodstoke 2001", Paul Soldner, Rudy Autio, Tom Collins, Rodney Mott at Penryn, CA, USA.



13. [LEFT] Inspired by Ray Meeker's fire-stabilised mud house technology, Writer builds these domes or stacks as he calls them, only to light them afire, to reach temperature as blue turns to twilight, leaving behind toasty remains by morning for habitation or memory's sake.

GALLERY  
art  
 soul

1, Madhuli, Shivsagar Estate  
Worli, Mumbai 400018  
Tel: +91-22-24965798, 24930522  
[www.galleryartnsoul.com](http://www.galleryartnsoul.com)

ADIL WRITER

Mandala Pottery

Dana, Auroville - 605101, Tamil Nadu, India

Tel: +91-413-2622685, 2622724

[adil@auroville.org.in](mailto:adil@auroville.org.in)

[www.adilwriter.com](http://www.adilwriter.com), [www.mandalapottery.com](http://www.mandalapottery.com)



Photo Credits:  
Cover: 1-8,10,11,12: RENO GUERCI, [ireno@auroville.org.in](mailto:ireno@auroville.org.in)  
9: GAL YAARI, [galyaari83@gmail.com](mailto:galyaari83@gmail.com)  
14: P. SHANTHURU, [shanthuru\\_p@hotmail.com](mailto:shanthuru_p@hotmail.com)  
Graphic Design: Oron Das & Prisma, [prisma@auroville.org.in](mailto:prisma@auroville.org.in)

[COVER] SHIGA BOWL, ANAGAMA-FIRED STONEWARE, 9" DIA, JAPAN