



Shilo Shiv Suleman

ART MUSINGS

Mumbai, India

## *Reincarnate: We meet here in the Afterlife*

Art Musings presents *Reincarnate: We meet here in the Afterlife*, a solo exhibition showcasing works by multi-disciplinary artist Shilo Shiv Suleman. Suleman's art combines magical realism, technology and social justice. In this latest body of work featuring painting, sculpture as well as a series of poetic love letters, Shilo believes we are not just reincarnating souls, but reincarnating stories.

In the painting series, the artist explores seeds that can germinate after thousands of years of hibernation, emotional compost and the alchemical ever-living earth. Shilo takes us through a journey of eternal life, death, floods, (re)incarnations and end of the world stories. She says "Our first encounter with the afterlife is with earth. Bone, body we turn back into nature at the end of a lifetime. We return to soil and live forever."

In a series of love letters illuminated in real gold, 'I've known you before/I'll know you forever', she immortalizes her own secret love stories, and embosses the traces of her beloved's fingers into paper and eternal monument. Shilo explores the idea that lovers leap from lifetime to lifetime seeking fulfilment in each other's embrace.

In her sculpture series 'Picking up the pieces of myself', Shilo embodies myth, casting pieces of herself in brass inspired by temple sculptures, and places them back onto herself as a metaphor for how we break and bring our selves back together.

Says Suleman, "2020 was a death and resurrection, but our worlds have ended so many times and begun again. Our myths and monuments are testament to the ever living- bodies that turn into gardens, civilizations that live beneath the shifting sands of empires, lovers' tombs overgrown with ivy, flood myths and end of the world stories. Every incarnation is meant to serve a cosmic purpose. The purpose of an incarnation is said to be reestablishment of dharma, righteousness, destruction of evil and protection of the good and so Krishna says in the Gita,

*Sambhavami Yuge Yuge"*

*("I will appear again and again to help humanity redeem itself.")*

As we meet (here) in the afterlife, what fulfilment will our reincarnating stories find?"



*Installation View*



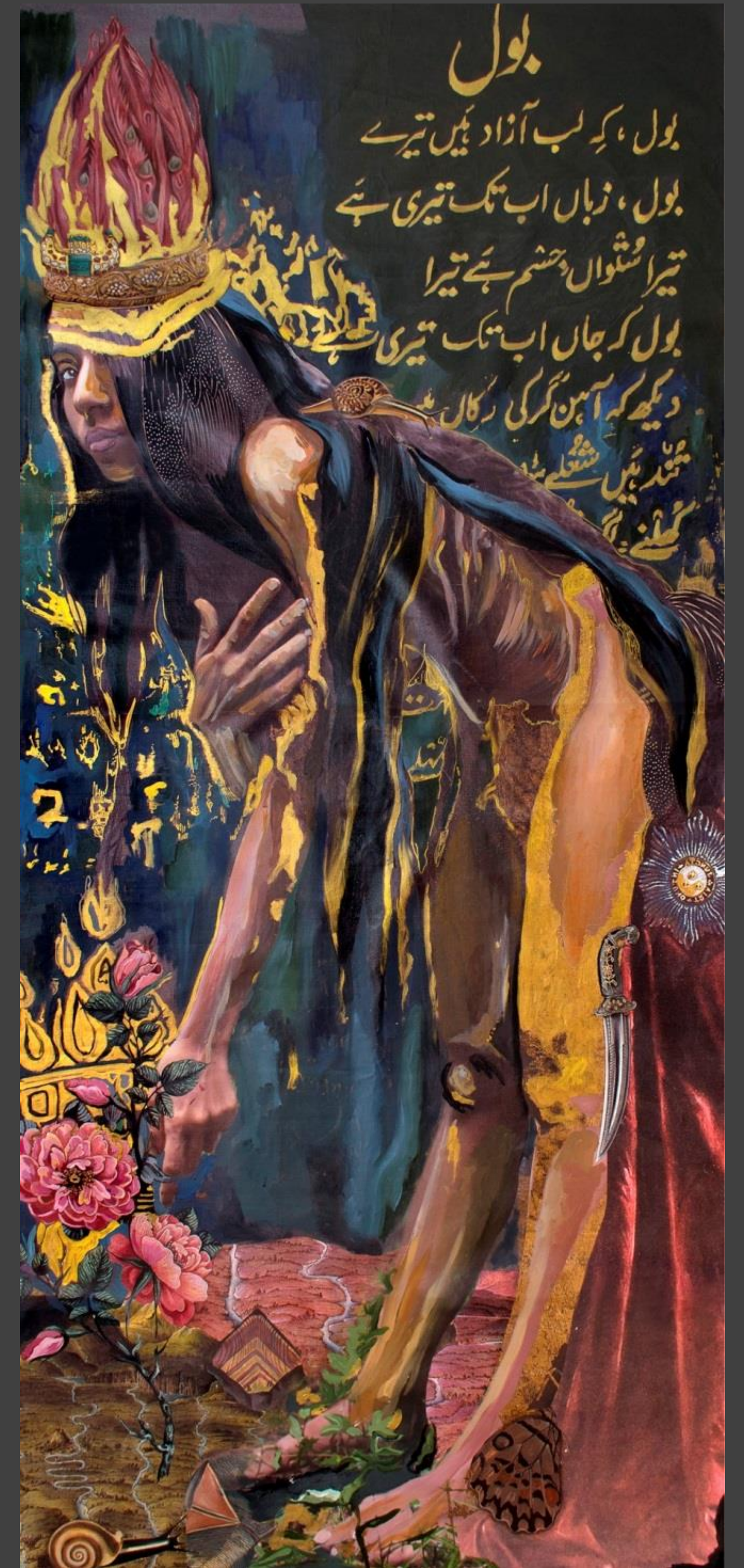
*Installation View*





*Reincarnate, We Meet Here in the Afterlife*  
Acrylic on canvas  
32" x 72", 2021

*Sovereign*  
Acrylic on canvas  
69" x 31", 2021



*I return to Soil and Live Forever*  
Acrylic & oil on canvas  
62" x 35", 2021



*Tenacious Seeds*  
Acrylic & oil on canvas  
61" x 34", 2021



*Fertility Belt (Every time I worship you my Mouth is Filled)*

Brass & semi precious stones

39" x 26", 2021





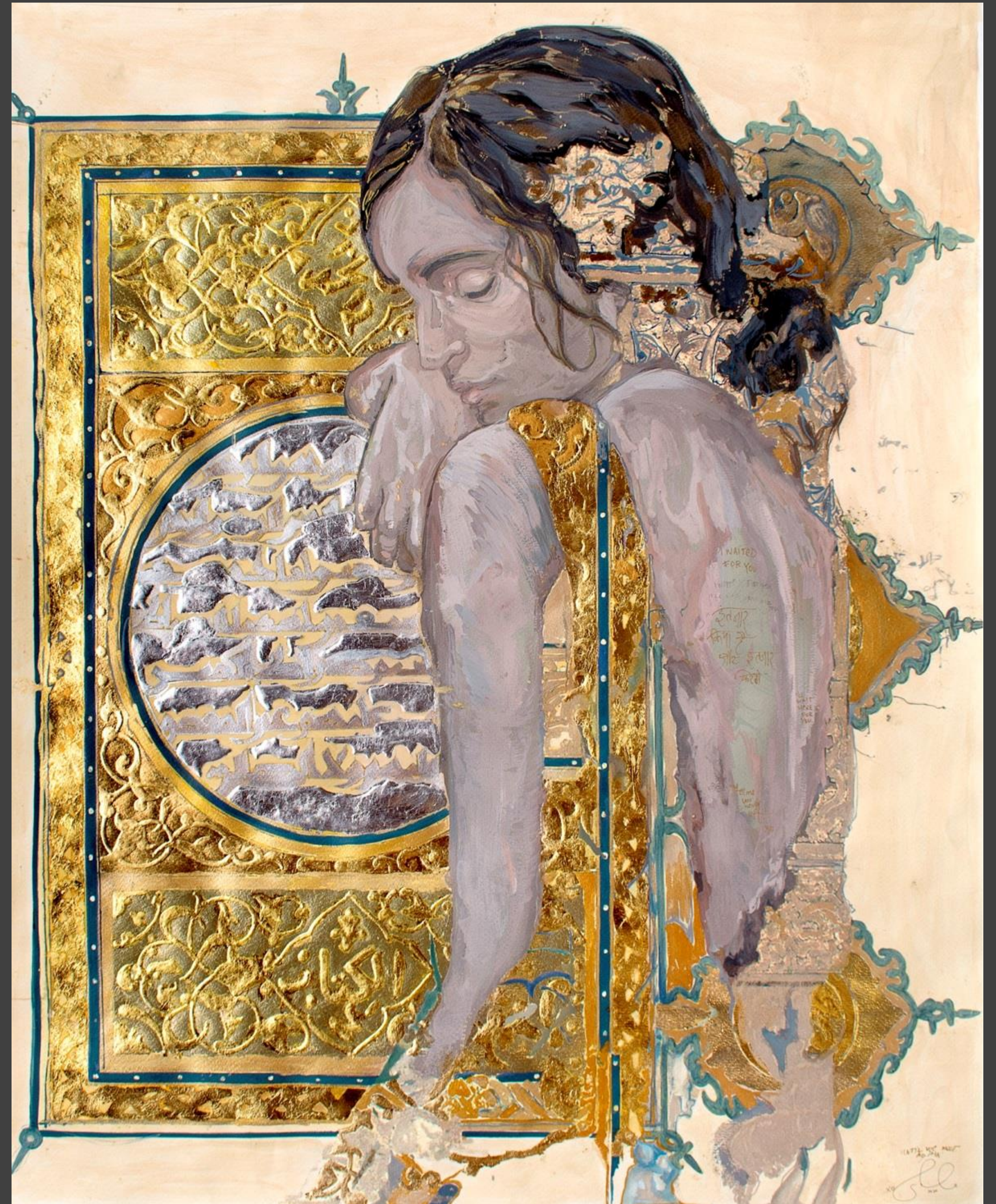
*Installation View*





*Tishnagi - All Thirst ends in our Embrace*

Natural mineral colors, acrylic, gold leafing on archival paper, 48" x 34", 2020



*Intezaar - Until We Meet Again*

Natural mineral colors, acrylic, gold leafing on archival paper, 34" x 28", 2020



*Raazdar*

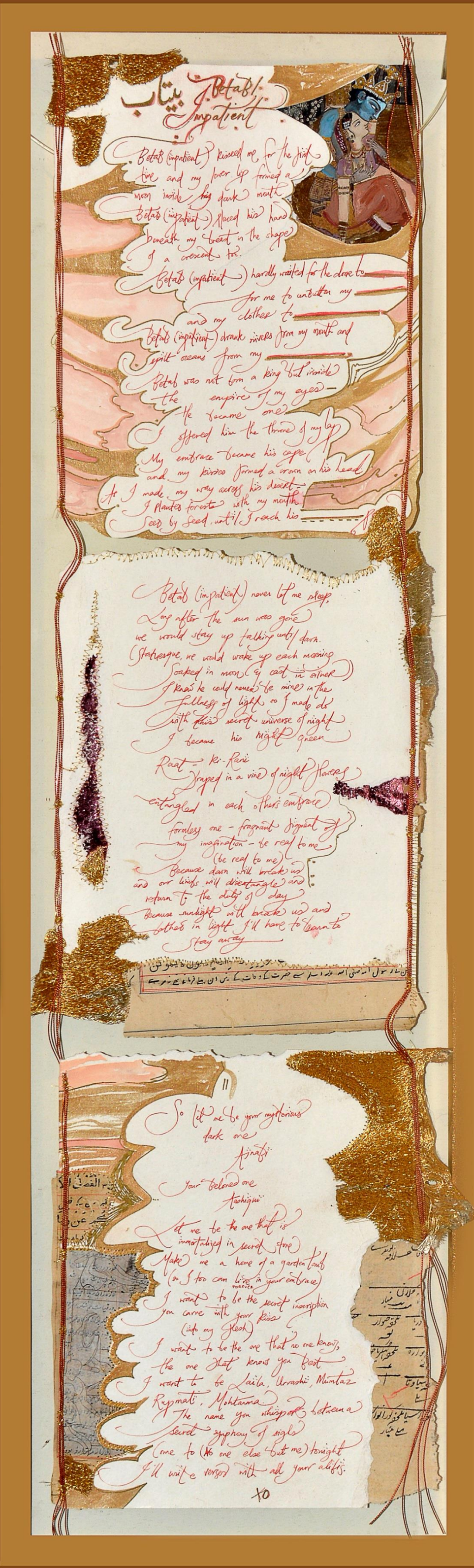
Mixed Media on paper  
10" x 7" each", 2020



Embrace

Mixed Media on paper

15" x 29", 2020



Betab (Impatient)

Mixed Media on paper  
38" x 12", 2020



*My Lover's Heart*

Brass & semi precious stones

10" x 8", 2020



*Udaan - Fly away with me*  
Brass & semi precious stones  
34" x 28", 2020



*Fish*

Brass & semi precious stones  
10" x 30" | 10" x 26", 2020



*Installation View*





*Picking up the Pieces of Myself*  
*Installation & Preformation Piece*  
*Size variable*





*Picking up the Pieces of Myself*  
*Installation & Preformation Piece*  
*Size variable*

## Shilo Shiv Suleman (1989, Bengaluru)

Shilo Shiv Suleman is an artist whose work is sustained by commitments to poetry, technology and social justice. She articulates her work across several platforms, including exhibitions, festivals and conferences. Shilo is the founder-director of the Fearless Collective, a movement that aims to replace fear with love in public space. She has worked with communities across the world by facilitating and leading public art interventions, for instance, with indigenous communities in Brazil, displaced and migrant communities in Beirut, queer activists in South Africa, and transgender activists in Pakistan. She has created large-scale installations for The Burning Man Festival and apps that respond to human brainwaves, which have been featured on TED. As an INK fellow, her work became known when her talk made it to TED.com, and got over a million views in 2012. She was chosen as one of three pioneering Indian women at TED Global, and has spoken at conferences like WIRED, DLD in London and Munich. More recently, she founded a collective of over 400 artists in India using community art to protest gender violence for which she was featured in a host of documentaries including Rebel Music by MTV. Awards include the Femina 'Woman of Worth', the New India Express 'Devi Awards in 2015 and the Future books Digital Innovation in London. In 2014, Shilo received several grants and residencies – including two honorarium grants from Burning Man for the interactive art installations: Pulse & Bloom, and Grove – for her collaborations with a neuroscientist, aimed at creating art that interacts with human brainwaves and other biofeedback sensors. These biofeedback installations have brought together artists, architects, entrepreneurs, builders and neurotechnologists, and have been featured on international media including BBC, Rolling Stone, MSNBC, Tech Crunch, The Guardian and WIRED, and have been exhibited at the Southbank Centre, London. Shilo also showcased her work at the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Art Musings, where she showcased a body of work in various medium including wood cut, embroidery, painting and sculpture. Shilo's solo exhibitions include '*Reincarnate: We meet here in the Afterlife*' (2021) and '*Beloved*' (2015) with Art Musings.