

SRISHTI 25
www.srishti.art YEARS

BLOODY DARK BODY

A solo

by MAHALAKSHMI KANNAPPAN



Bloody Dark Body

Mahalakshmi Kannappan's practice unfolds in layers at once; sculptural, abstract, and deeply process-oriented. Originally from Tamil Nadu and now based in Singapore, she creates works that are grounded in the materiality of graphite and wood, while evoking the delicacy of torn or assembled paper.

What first appeared to me as fragile sheets, stacked and layered, revealed themselves upon closer knowledge to be sculpted wooden surfaces coated with specially prepared graphite paste. 'Bloody Dark Body'-this transformation of matter is at the heart of her sculptures. It is that body resists the pedestal, standing on its own as sculpted form; falling, folding, and asserting itself as both object and layered process.

Black, the mother of all colours, is central to Mahalakshmi's work. In her hands, its many shades become a language of marks- covered memory, time, and transformation. The darker tones / tints suggest depth and permanence, while lighter gradations hint at movement and flux. This gradation allows her to balance permanence with impermanence or change, solidity with fragility, presence with absence.

Her inspiration flows from nature, from everyday forms, and from the textures of life itself. Yet in her work, these forms are not imitated but transformed; transcending their ordinariness into new vocabularies of abstraction. Each layer is a record of process, a celebration of touch, and a meditation on the relationship between stability and instability.

As a woman sculptor, Mahalakshmi brings a rare sensitivity to material wings and body. Her works are tactile poems, where graphite and wood cease to be mere media and instead become carriers of memory, pulps, and time. She produces a new body, language of abstraction; layered, sculpted, and profoundly human-that speaks to both the depth of the past and the urgency of the present.

Bose Krishnamachari



MAHALAKSHMI KANNAPPAN

Born 1981, Tamil Nadu | Lives and works in Singapore

Mahalakshmi Kannappan, originally from Tamil Nadu and now based in Singapore, is an emerging sculptor whose practice bridges material experimentation and abstraction. Working primarily with graphite and wood, she creates layered, process-driven works that question permanence, fragility, and transformation. Bloody Dark Body marks her first solo presentation in India, showcasing sculptures that transform ordinary materials into tactile, layered forms. The works resist conventional display, standing independently while folding, falling, and asserting themselves as both object and narrative. Through subtle gradations of black, Mahalakshmi explores memory, time, and the interplay between permanence and impermanence, inviting viewers to experience the poetic and transformative possibilities of materiality



Accumulated
Charcoal on wood
54.3" X 98.4" x 2.7"
2025



Accumulated
Charcoal on wood
54.3" X 98.4" x 2.7"
2025



Fractured II
Charcoal on wood
40.1" x 12.9" x 9.0"
2025



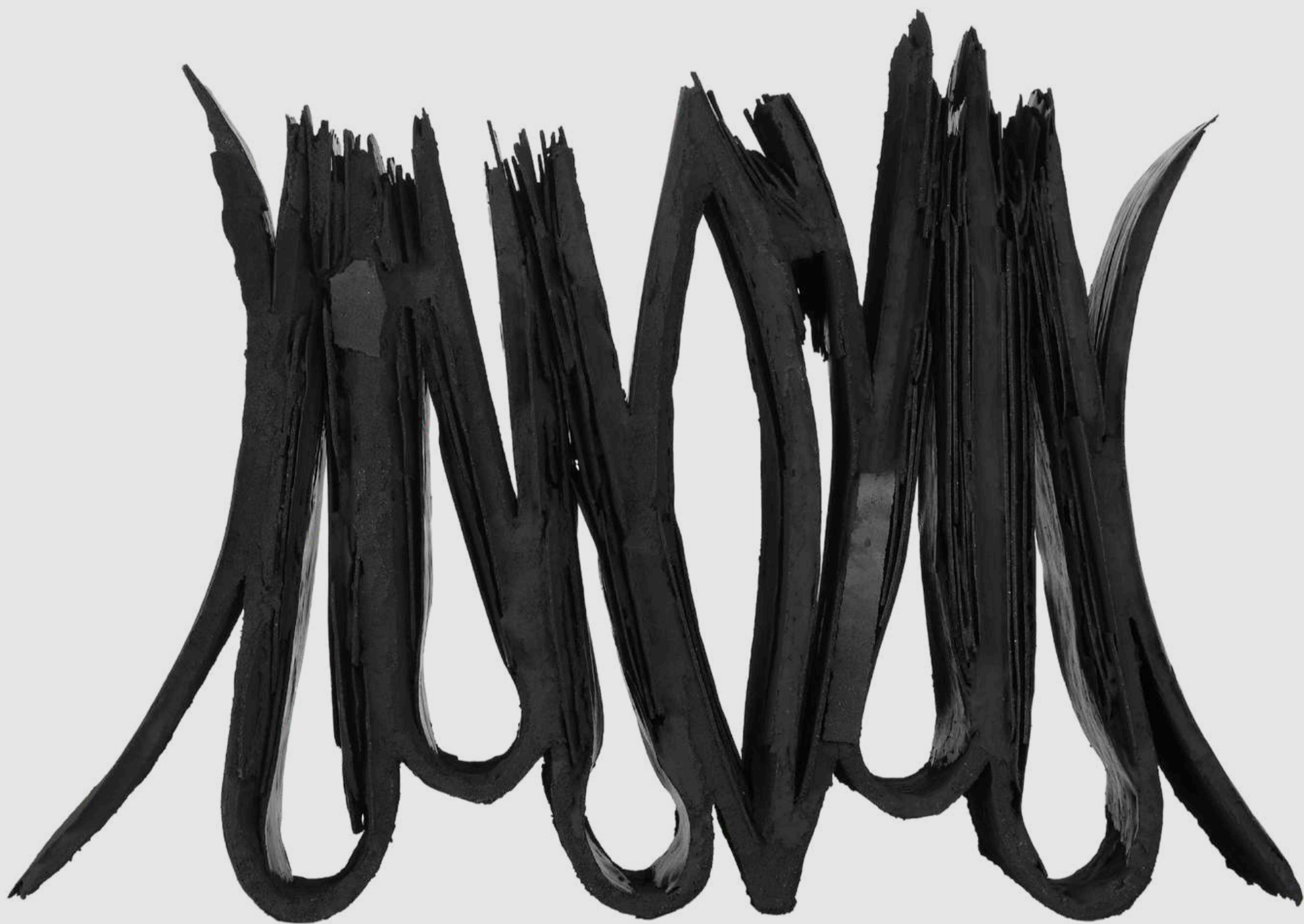
Unknown
Charcoal on wood
50.7" x 50.7" x 2.7"
2025



Unsettled
Charcoal on wood
44.0" x 73.2" x 2.7"
2025



Fractured
Charcoal on wood
61.0" x 27.1"
2025



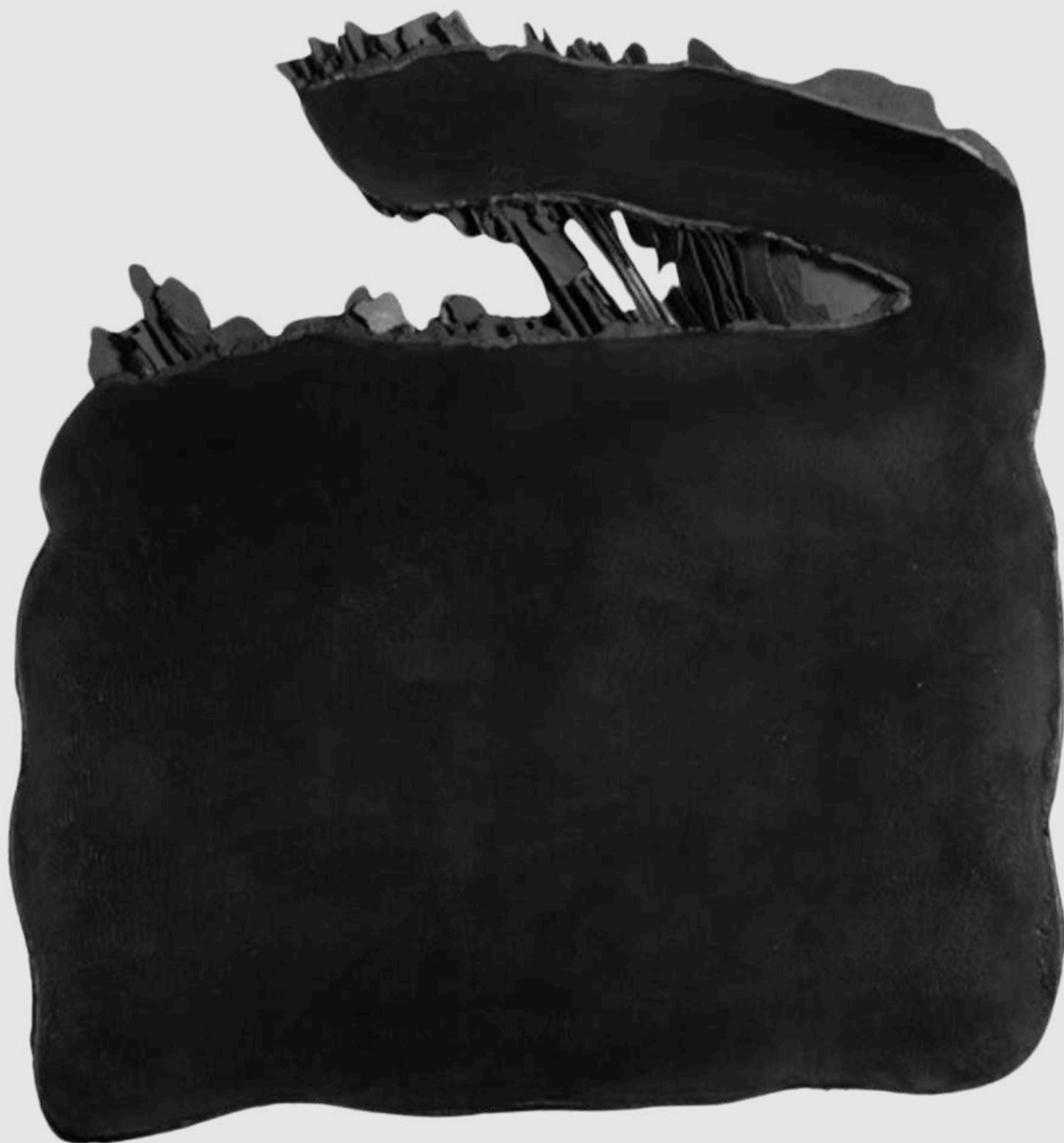
Bound
Charcoal on wood
25.1" x 33.8" x 9.0"
2025



Different angles of - Bound



Held I
Charcoal on wood
60.2" x 34.2"
2025



Held I
Charcoal on wood
31.8" x 33.0"
2025



Remains I, II, III, IV
Charcoal on wood
10.0" x 7.4" x 2.9" each
2025



Remaining I, II, III & IV
Charcoal on wood
7.5" x 6.1" x 2.9" each
2025



Fractured I
Charcoal on wood
51.1" x 41.3" x 2.7"
2025



Echoed
Charcoal on wood
74.4" x 54.3" x 3.5"
2025



Held
Charcoal on wood
51.9" x 11.0" x 9.0"
2025



Different angles of - Held



Imprints
Print on paper
11.6" x 8.2" each
2025



Traces
Charcoal on wood
6.2" x 50.0" x 3.1"
2025

ABOUT

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Located in the heart of Hyderabad, Srishti Art Gallery has been a vibrant force in shaping India's contemporary and modern art landscape. Known for showcasing both emerging voices and established masters, we present diverse artistic expressions that range from evocative paintings and sculptures to experimental digital works. Each exhibition offers a curated experience, sparking meaningful dialogue and connection between art and its viewers.

As we celebrate our 25th anniversary in 2025, we remain rooted in our Sanskrit namesake, Srishti, meaning 'creation', with a mission to create spaces where art is not just admired but integrated into life. Our tailored services include bespoke art advisory and consultations for private collectors, architects, interior designers, and corporations, helping them curate collections that transform living and working spaces. Through artist talks, workshops, and collaborative events, we foster creative engagement, making art an immersive part of everyday experience.

SRISHTI

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