The Weight of Small Things

A solo by **Alpana Vij**

SRISHTI
www.srishti.art



Anchors, invisible on the surface, sink deep to steady large vessels from drifting. Roots crawl delicately and then gnarl with time, reaching in directions away from the trees they keep alive. This tension, fragile yet strong, allows a weightlessness of being in what Alpana Vij calls ***The Weight of Small Things*.**

On first encountering Vij's work, one sees abstraction activated through movement, depth, texture and intimacy. However, with sustained reflection, the marks twigs make, the patterns layered stones repeat and the surfaces that defy their mediums begin to emerge as a language. At first indecipherable, it begins to reveal the outline of a grid.

The grid has been a recurring form in Vij's artistic journey. It allows for the weight of a measure to enter as an undercurrent to her practice. Invisible in its scaffolding-like support, it provides structure while also allowing a rhythm to exist within the fragility of fragments floating on a wall. Language enters through this unspoken linearity, emerging and dissolving into the form of an image, here collections of leaves, twigs, driftwood, concrete and stones.

The materials Vij explores travel between repair and manipulation. She questions the peripheries of nature in the conception of the human mind. Worn leaves are mended carefully with fine stitching, while fractured twigs float whole again, held upright by a thin new bronze spine. By mending nature while also concretising it, she plays with the dichotomy of fragility. During these interventions, Vij narrativises each object's journey, building associations of memory into each work. Discarded life forms are given a renewed chance in Vij's work through her instincts for care. Moments of imperfection and outward mending become, for her, internal acts of healing. The depth she ascribes to beauty is not separate from the acts of care through which she brings about change.

Drawn to the mundane, Vij creates movement where there is stillness, and pause where there is none. She is drawn to the Buddhist concept of Śūnyatā, in which, emptying the self leads her to an understanding of her relationships with humanity, materiality and non-linear time. Her eyes and mind wander through parks, as she picks up to drying leaves and twigs. A reiki practitioner, Vij often stops in passing to heal a fallen tree, or to stitch a torn leaf with gold thread before returning it to the earth. These are some of her many acts of mending. She approaches the vastness of nature with a desire to ascribe a reality to human conditioning and to trace paths that move in interconnected ways. Her practice, rooted in tension, is equally focused on the idea of repair and on introducing the possibility of growth.

Growth in its essence suggests a weighted retardation of time that stretches suffering across milliseconds and years. Vij arrives at resolutions in her practice not through stillness but through a discovery of measure that works within the slow time that exists in nature. It is here, in the weight of small things, that life emerges back onto the grid, towards a lightness that balances on tensions rooted in The Weight of Small Things.

Veeranganakumari Solanki



ALPANA VIJ

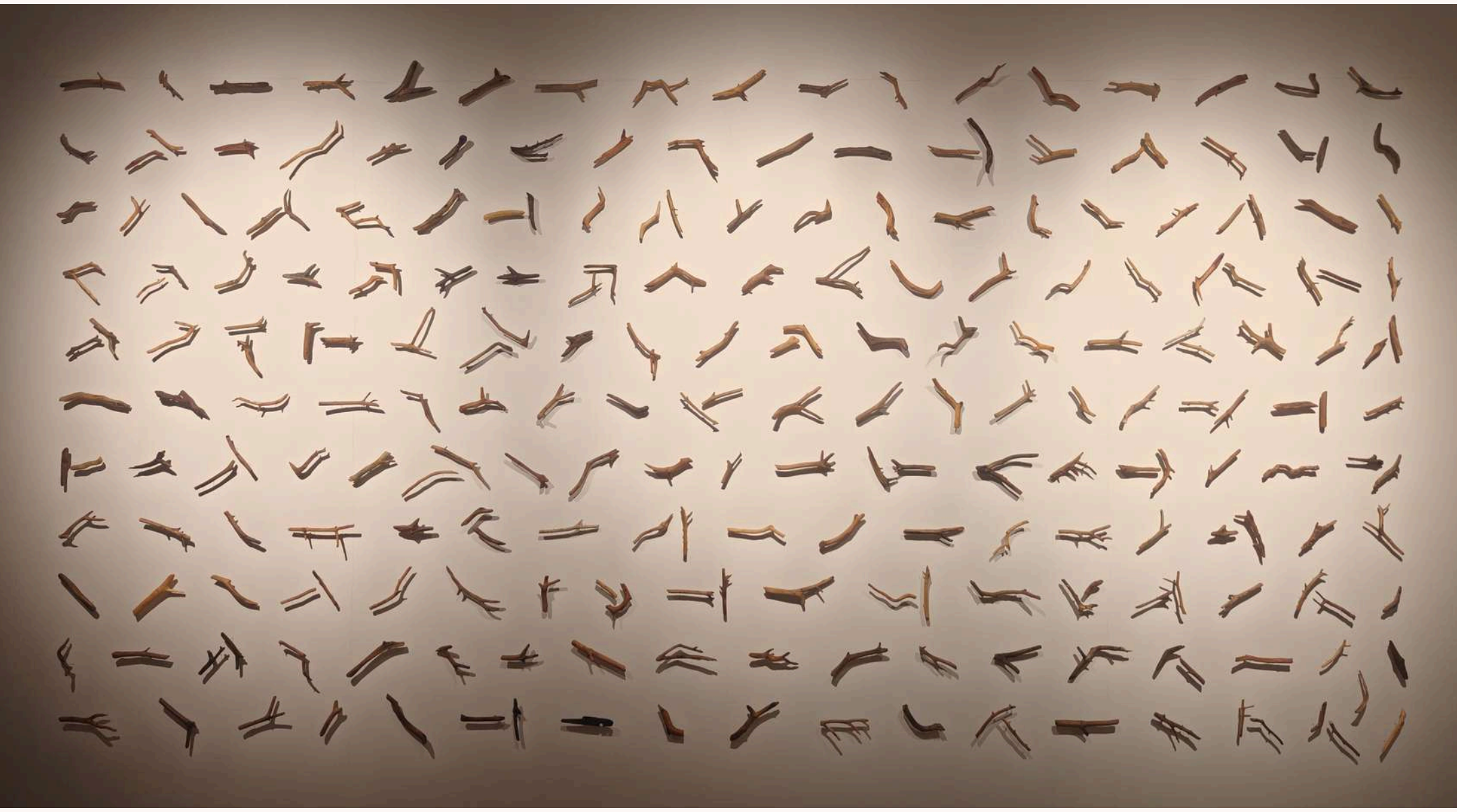
Born 1969, Haryana | Lives and works in Singapore

Alpana Vij is a Singapore-based contemporary artist. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the College of Art, New Delhi (1991), and a Master of Arts in Fine Arts from LASALLE College of the Arts, Singapore, in collaboration with Goldsmiths, University of London (2017).

Her solo exhibitions include *Of Leaves, Rocks, and the Marks of Time* at Art Outreach, Singapore (2024); *Wood Metal Stone* at UltraSuperNew Gallery, Singapore (2019); *All the World's a Stage* at John Erdos Art, Singapore (2013); *Where the Sidewalk Ends* at Gallery of Gnani Arts, Singapore (2010); and *Notes to Myself* at Artrium, Singapore (2008).

Her selected group exhibitions include *Takshanam* at the National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi (2026); *Triloka* at SRISHTI ART, Hyderabad (2024); *Chimera of Proximity* at The Upside Space, Singapore (2023); *Between the Covers of Our Daydreams* at the Institute of Contemporary Arts, Singapore (2022); and *The Future is Female* at Taksu Gallery, Singapore and Kuala Lumpur (2019). She has also participated in *India Art Fair* and *Art Mumbai* with SRISHTI ART.

In 2025, Vij received a fellowship from the Vermont Studio Center, USA, and was nominated for the Sovereign Asian Art Prize in 2019. Her works are held in private collections across Singapore, the United States, Canada, Europe, Australia and India.

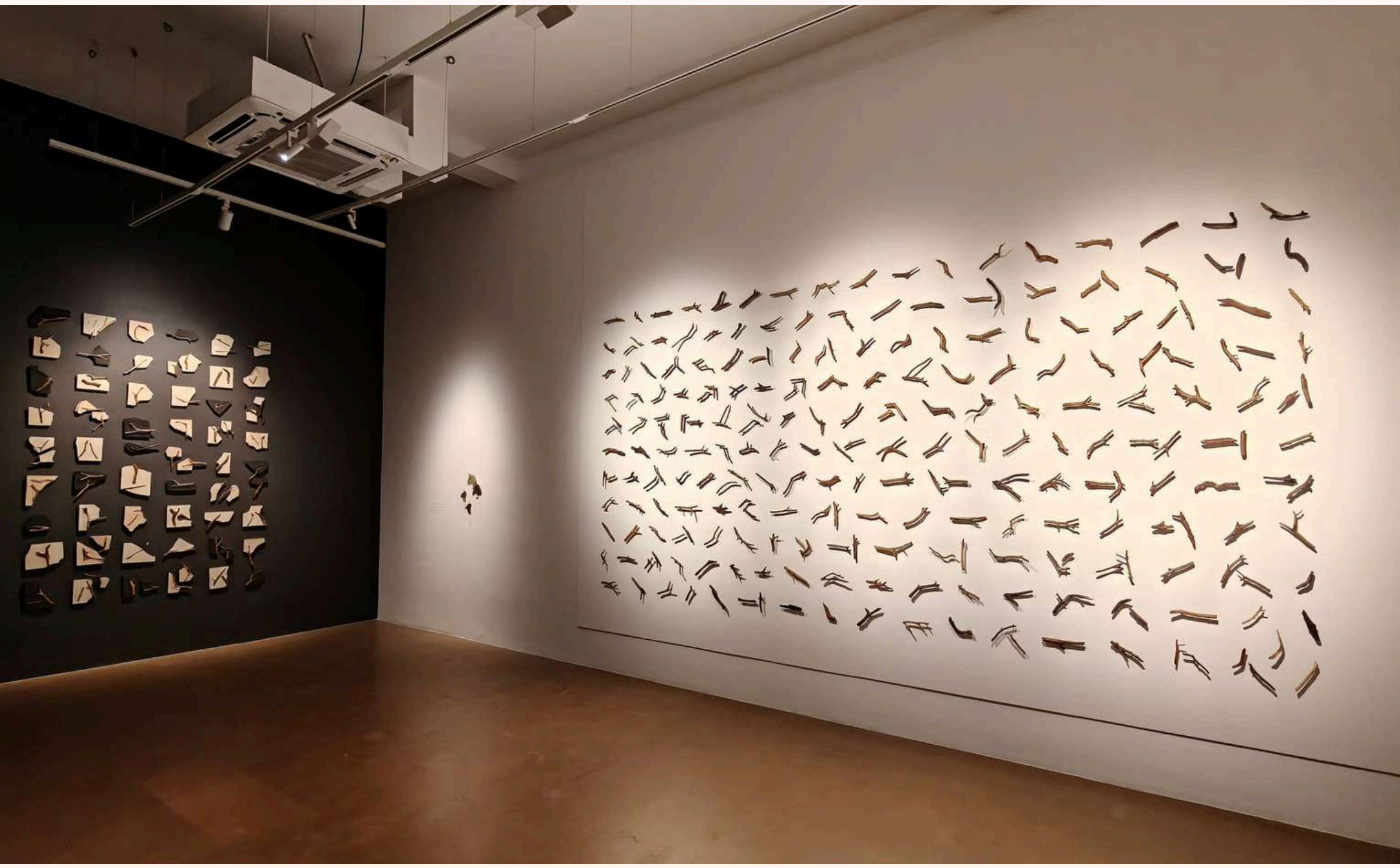


Whispered notations

Found twigs and metal pins | 90.0″ x 167.0” | 2026



Detail of - Whispered notations



Installation view of - Whispered notations

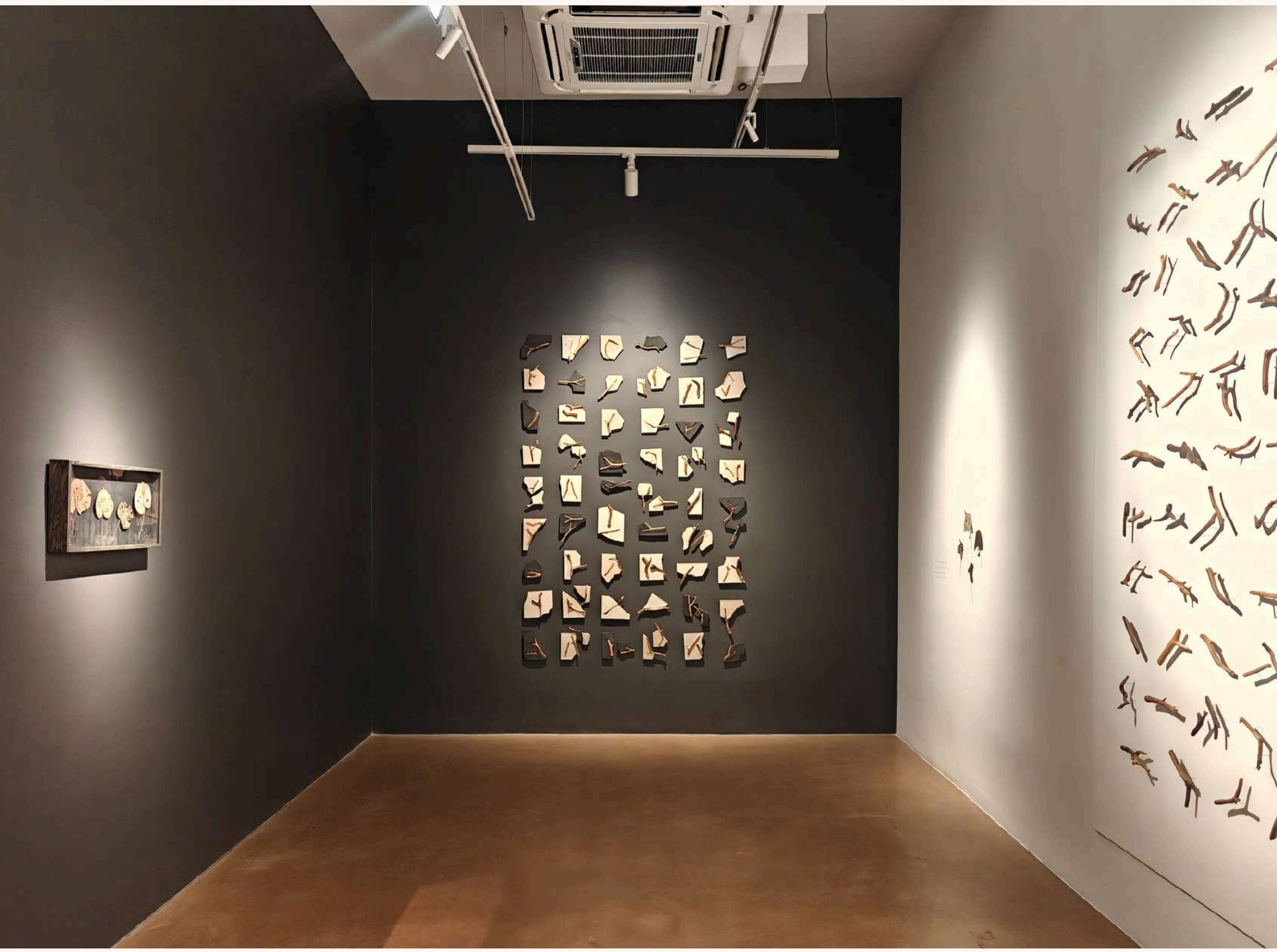


Fragment notations - 3

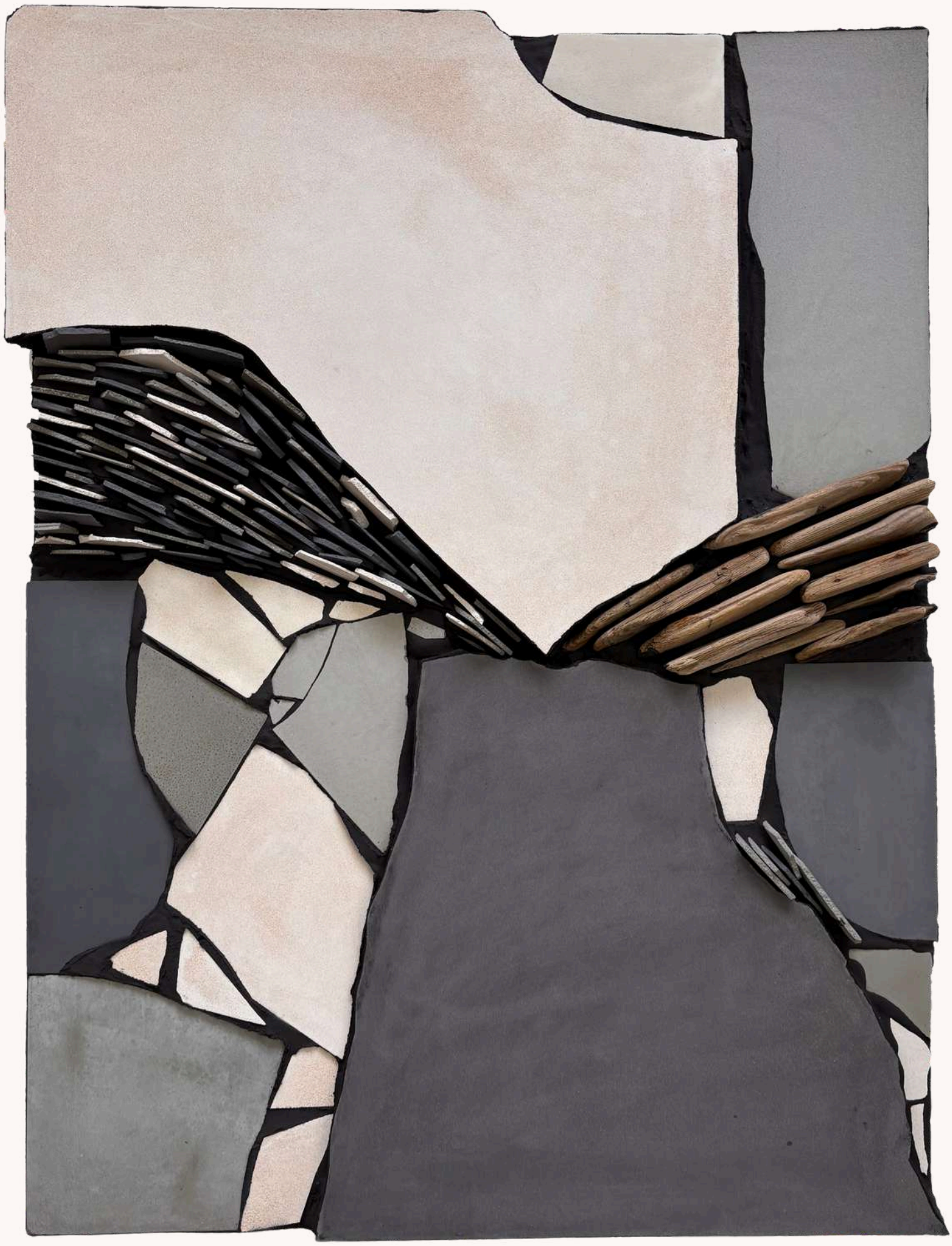
Found wood and concrete | 86.6″ × 59.8″ | 2026



Detail of - Fragment notations - 3



Installation view of - Fragment notations - 3



Gathering

Found wood and concrete | 36.0″ × 27.5″ × 3.9″ | 2026



Becoming

Found wood and concrete | 36.0″ × 27.5″ × 3.9″ | 2026



Installation view



What the leaves whispered 2

Dried leaf and 24k gold thread on stone | 11.8" x 23.6 | 2026



Installation view of - What the leaves whispered 2



What the leaves whispered 3

Dried leaf and 24k gold thread on stone | 11.8" x 23.6 | 2026



Untitled

Dried leaf and 24k gold thread | 8.5″ x 5.5″ / 8.0″ x 4.8″ | 2026





What do I see when I see a fallen leaf?

Dried leaf and 24k gold thread on stone | 12.2" x 9.0" x 2.0" each | 2022 - 2024



Fragments - 3

Found wood and concrete | 22.4″ × 19.6″ each | 2026





Fragments - 2

Found wood and concrete | 22.4″ × 19.6″ each | 2025



Time, embedded

Oil and mixed media on wood panel | ~44.0″ x 28.5″ | 2026



Detail of - Time, embedded - 4



Time, embedded

Oil and mixed media on wood panel | ~44.0″ x 28.5″ - set of 3 / 22.4″ × 10.2″ each | 2026



Terra - 1

Concrete and mixed media on linen | 60.0" x 40.0" | 2024



What do I see when I see a fallen leaf? - PRR 1207

Dried leaf and 24k gold thread on stone | 11.2" x 8.0" x 2.0" | 2026



What do I see when I see a fallen leaf? - Installation view











What do I see when I see a fallen leaf?

Dried leaf and 24k gold thread on stone | 11.2″ x 8.0″ x 2.0″ each | 2022 - 2026





What do I see when I see a fallen leaf?

Dried leaf and 24k gold thread on stone | 11.2″ x 8.0″ x 2.0″ each | 2022 - 2026



And still they rise

Dried leaves, brass pins and 24k gold thread | Size variable | To be commissioned



Echoes 4

Oil, wax and bitumen on wood | 26″ x 17″ each (Diptych work) | 2025



Echoes 4 - Installation view

ABOUT SRISHTI ART

Founded in 2000 by the late Remani Nambiar, Srishti Art is Hyderabad's oldest contemporary art gallery. With over 200 exhibitions, alongside artist talks, workshops and projects Srishti has expanded from a space for artists to exhibit and connect into a platform for modern and contemporary art in India.

Over the past 27 years, Srishti has played an important role in Hyderabad's art scene, taking art beyond the gallery through its exhibitions and initiatives. Following her mother's passing 12 years ago, Lakshmi Nambiar took over the gallery and has since continued to build on its legacy while shaping its next chapter. She has expanded Srishti's curatorial programme with projects such as Inbox at the historic Hill Fort Palace and exhibitions at museums such as the Salar Jung Museum, while championing emerging artists through Emerging Palettes. In 2024, she reopened Srishti in a larger, renewed space designed for more ambitious exhibitions and collaborations. Her vision is to build a gallery with an international outlook and a particular commitment to modern art from South India.

Srishti Art draws its name from its Sanskrit namesake, meaning 'creation', a value that continues to guide the gallery's vision. Srishti's 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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