

Longing and Belonging

16 August – 12 October 2024

Artist Statement

Kirandeep (Kiran) Grewal

Nomadic Graces

The Gadia Lohar woman's inner power is beautifully expressed through the vibrant hues that adorn her, and she has found solace and belonging in the charming town of Malerkotla, nestled in the heart of Punjab, India. Behind her, her humble travel cart has been ingeniously transformed into a makeshift abode, a testament to her resourcefulness and resilience.

As an artist, I was deeply honoured to receive an invitation to share a cup of tea with her, an opportunity to connect with her spirit and gain insight into her world. The Gadia Lohars, unfortunately, continue to face marginalisation in our society today, their lives fraught with challenges. However, amidst the hardships, I discovered that their spirit keeps the flame of creativity alive, manifesting itself in the kaleidoscope of colours that adorn their garments.

During the harsh winter months, she channels her creativity into designing and embroidering, a testament to her unwavering determination and unwavering commitment to her craft. It is a true testament to the courage and fearlessness that reside within her, enabling her to embody strength and dignity as a woman.

In the presence of this remarkable individual, I was reminded of the power that lies within each of us, waiting to be unleashed. The Gadia Lohar woman's story serves as a poignant reminder that even in the face of adversity, creativity can be a beacon of hope, illuminating the path towards a brighter future.