January 20, 2022

RE: Agenda Item 6

Recommendation:
Staff recommends that the Public Art Commission accept the donation of artwork by Cubberley artist Chandrika Marla into the City collection.

Discussion:
This generous gift is being offered by CASP artist Chandrika Marla as part of the Cubberley Artist Studio Program (CASP) agreement. According to the CASP Guidelines, all CASP artists are expected to donate one of his/her artworks in their first (4-year) residency term to the City’s Public Art Program. The donation is subject to the approval of the Public Art Commission and, upon acceptance, will be deemed a gift made under terms and conditions established by City.

Chandrika Marla
Born in New Delhi, Chandrika Marla worked as a fashion designer for several years before she began her career in art. Her work has been exhibited at The de Young Museum (California), Queens Museum of Art (New York), Museum of the Shenandoah Valley (Virginia), and the Rockford Art Museum (Illinois). At a performance in Chicago in 2011, her paintings were interpreted by Rama Vaidyanathan – a leading exponent of Bharatanatyam dance.

Marla is best known for her use of saturated color to create paintings of simplistic forms that straddle the line between realism and abstraction. Her work explores female identity and is inspired by women, their relationships with others, and with their own selves.

The artwork offered for donation is titled Meet Me Halfway, 2020. To describe her work, Marla provided the following statement: “As I paint, I use my memories of events, conversations, and feelings and what I call “accidental color”, to compare relationships between people, the outer and inner self, the individual and society. Do the colors live peacefully together? Are they agitated? How do they make me feel? The soft, blurry line where multiple layers of paint meet is the place where these thoughts come together. But it is neither clear nor defined”.

Attachment A: Image of Proposed Artwork

Chandrika Marla

Meet Me Halfway, 2020 by Chandrika Marla
40" x 36", Acrylic on canvas.
EXHIBITIONS

Solo Shows:

Women in High Chroma - Art Ventures Gallery, Menlo Park, California / 2020

She is Everything - 6 U, Los Gatos, California / 2020

Parts of Her Puzzle - Re-Invent Gallery, Lake Forest, Illinois / 2015

Alter Ego - Beverly Arts Center, Chicago, Illinois / 2013

Social Skin - Mars Gallery, Chicago, Illinois / 2012

Moving Towards Meaning - A dance performance by famed bharatanatyam dancer Rama Vaidyanathan, who interpreted paintings through Indian classical dance. Skokie Public Library, Illinois / 2011

Revelations - Boocoo Cultural Center, Evanston, Illinois / 2010

Group Shows:

Excuse Me, Highlights - The Alice Collective, Oakland, California / 2021

Excuse Me Can I See Your ID - Two - Virtual Exhibition, Vessel Gallery, Oakland, California / 2021

Composing the Future - Northern California Women's Caucus for Art, Bankhead Theater, Livermore, California / 2021

Once Together - A global-curated project, Virtual / 2020

The de Young Open - The de Young Museum, San Francisco, California / 2020

Art + Movement - Juried by Maria Porges, Gearbox Gallery, Oakland, California / 2019

BOLD - Juried by Robert Green, O’Hanlon Center for the Arts, Mill Valley, California / 2019

RISE: Empower, Change and Action! - Whitney Modern Gallery, Los Gatos, California / 2018 Curators: Karen Gutfriend, Sherri Cornett, Marianne McGrath and Suzanne Whitney-Smedt

Nasty Women Art Chicago - Moonlight Studios, Chicago, Illinois / 2017

Unpresidented - Art in Common Cause - Space 900, Evanston, Illinois / 2017

Voices and Visions - The Art Center, Highland Park, Illinois / 2016
The Rockford Midwestern Biennial - Rockford, Illinois / 2016

The Art of Influence: Breaking Criminal Traditions - Traveling exhibit curated by Chuck Gniech:
- The Human Rights Institute Gallery of Kean University, Union, New Jersey / 2016
- Schoenherr Gallery of North Central College, Naperville, Illinois / 2015
- The Art Center, Highland Park, Illinois / 2014


Erasing Borders 2014 - Exhibition of Contemporary Indian Art of the Diaspora / Traveling exhibit:
- The Arthur M. Berger Art Gallery, Manhattanville College, Purchase, New York
- Crossing Art Gallery, Flushing, New York
- Queens Museum of Art, Flushing Meadows, Flushing, New York

Voices and Visions IV - The Art Center, Highland Park, Illinois / 2014

I AM American - Traveling exhibit curated by Sergio Gomez:
- Schoenherr Gallery of North Central College, Naperville, Illinois / 2016
- Dordt College, Iowa / 2015
- Zhou B Art Center, Chicago, Illinois / 2015
- Governors State University, Chicago, Illinois / 2014
- White Ripple Gallery, Hammond, Indiana / 2014
- Water Street Studios, Batavia, Illinois / 2014

Equilibrium - Woman Made Gallery, Chicago, Illinois / 2014

United Art Fair - Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, India / 2013.


Voices and Visions III: Standing on the Bridge between Health and Disease - The Art Center, Highland Park, Illinois / 2012

From Chicago To Lahore: A Cultural Nexus - Chicago Cultural Center, Chicago, Illinois / 2012

She - Black Cloud Gallery, Chicago, Illinois / 2011

PUBLICATIONS

Deadlocked and Loaded: Disarming America - Catalogue Published by Karen M. Gutfreund, 2021

Under the Radar - Profile by Ann Landi / Vasari 21, 2021

Metro Silicon Valley - Article by Gary Singh, 2020

MFA Never 2020 - Root Division Publication, 2020
Los Gatos Living - April 2020
Saratoga Spotlight - April 2020
RISE: Empower, Change, Action - Catalog, 2018
Studio Visit Magazine - Volume 32, 2016
Neoteric Art - Review by Diane Thodos, August 2015
Once Upon a Tea Time - September 2015
Northbrook Star / Lake Forest Leader - September 2015
Sergio Gomez Art Blog - July 2015
Chicago Tribune - July 2015
Sheridan Road Magazine - June 2014
Her Blueprint: The International Museum of Women blog - January 2014
Urban Confustions, Volume 2 - Summer 2012
Art & Deal Magazine - Review by Valerie Rangel - February 2012
Courageous Creativity - February 2012
India Tribune - December 2011

EDUCATION

B.A. (Honors) English Literature, Delhi University, 1988
Fashion Design Diploma, National Institute of Fashion Technology, New Delhi, 1991

AFFILIATIONS

Northern California Women's Caucus for Art
Vasari21
Landfillart - An Artist Reclamation Project
Woman Made Gallery, Chicago