



**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.

## Chandrika Marla, CASP

### 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 Gutfreund, 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

*Dialogue Chicago - Full Force*, curated by Sarah Krepp - Bridgeport Art Center, Chicago, Illinois / 2016

*Second Time Around: The Hubcap as Art* - Museum of the Shenandoah Valley, Virginia / 2014 – 15

*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.

*Dialogue Chicago: Taking Chances*, curated by Sarah Krepp - Noyes Cultural Center, Evanston, Illinois / 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 Confusions, 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