

VILAS TONAPE

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EDUCATION

- 1996 M.F.A. in Painting, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas
- 1992 B.F.A. in Painting, Sir J.J. School of Art, University of Bombay, Mumbai, India

EMPLOYMENT

- 7/15-Present Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Art, Methodist University, Fayetteville, North Carolina
- 13-15 Professor, Trinidad State Junior College, Trinidad, Colorado
- 12-13 Associate Director, Center for Arts and History, Lewis-Clark State College, Lewiston, Idaho
- 08-12 Professor/Drawing and Painting Program Coordinator, Polk State College, Winter Haven, Florida
- 05-06 Professor, Savannah College of Art and Design, Savannah, Georgia
- 03-04 Visiting Artist, Ringling College of Art and Design, Sarasota, Florida
- 99-02 Program Director, Painting and Drawing, School of Art, Armory Art Center, West Palm Beach, Florida
- 94-96 Teaching Assistant, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas

SELECTED INVITATIONAL CURATED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2020 *Inspired Cognitions*, Mount Dora Center for the Arts, Mount Dora, Florida
- 2019 *Gazing Moments*, Colquitt County Arts Center, Moultrie, Georgia
- 2017 *Murta-Kruti*, Sechrest Gallery, High Point University, High Point, North Carolina
Rasa-Kruti, Hyman Fine Arts Center Gallery, Francis Marion University, Florence, South Carolina
Masterworks, Shiva Mandir Art Festival, Ambarnath, India
- 2016 *Masterworks*, Times Sanskruti Arts Festival, Thane, India
- 2015 *Representational Textures*, Fayetteville Tech Community College, Fayetteville, North Carolina
Contemporary Realism, Gallery 208, Fayetteville, North Carolina
Distinct Impressions, Gunnison Art Center, Gunnison, Colorado
- 2010 *Kruti*, Melvin Art Gallery, Florida Southern College, Lakeland, Florida
- 2007 *Varna*, Krempp Gallery, Jasper Arts Center, Jasper, Indiana
- 2005 *Indic Roots*, Infusion Gallery, Los Angeles, California
- 2001 *Unfinished/Finished*, Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens Gallery, West Palm Beach, Florida
- 1998 *Local Artist Spotlight*, Greater Lafayette Museum of Art, Lafayette, Indiana
- 1996 *MFA Thesis Exhibition*, J.M. Moudy Art Gallery, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas

SELECTED NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CURATED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2019 *Take it for Granted: A Regional Artist Grantees Exhibition*, The Arts Council, Fayetteville, North Carolina
- 2018 *Standpoint: A Group Exhibition*, Gallery 208, Fayetteville, North Carolina
Higher Ed Fayetteville Art Faculty Exhibition, Ellington-White Contemporary Art Gallery, Fayetteville, North Carolina
- 2017 *PSA Exhibition*, Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown, Ohio
Contemporary Drawing Exhibition, Ellington-White Contemporary Art Gallery, Fayetteville, North Carolina
- 2016 *Pictorial Space*, The Arts Council, Fayetteville, North Carolina
The Portrait Show, Bombay Art Society, Mumbai, India
- 2014 *Half Drop*, 14 artists featured (7 from Colorado and 7 from Brooklyn, NY), Gallery 81435 Telluride Arts, Telluride, Colorado
- 2013 *Creative Endeavors*, Elm Street Gallery, Trinidad, Colorado
- 2012 Group Art Exhibition, Rainbow Art Gallery, Mumbai, India
Group Art Exhibition, Tay-Cho Art Gallery, Bartow, Florida
- 2010 Group Art Exhibition, Museum of Science and Industry, Tampa, Florida
- 2009 *Colours of India: Exhibition of Paintings and Prints*, Common Ground Art Gallery, Windsor, Ontario, Canada
- 2008 Group Exhibition, West Main Art Gallery, Statesboro, Georgia
- 2005 Group Exhibition, Infusion Gallery, Los Angeles, California
- 2004 *Nudes*, two-person show, The Gallery, Sarasota, Florida
- 2003 *Guru-Shishya*, two-person show, Shagun Art Gallery, Mumbai, India
- 2002 *Palms and Portraits*, two-person show, Martin County Arts Council, Cultural Center Gallery, Stuart, Florida
- 2001 Group Exhibition, Art Space at City Place: Visual Arts & New Urbanism, West Palm Beach, Florida
- 1998 *Spirit that is India*, Indianapolis Art Center, Indianapolis, Indiana
- 1996 Four-Person Exhibition, Gallery Ten, Fort Worth, Texas
Group Exhibition, Gallery Ten, Fort Worth, Texas
- 1995 *In One Room*, Haggar Gallery, University of Dallas, Dallas, Texas
- 1992 *Monsoon Art Show*, Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai, India
- 1991 Group Exhibition, Plaza Art Gallery, Mumbai, India

SELECTED AWARDS, HONORS, AND GRANTS

- 2019 Honorary Induction: The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi
Acquisition: Two works acquired by Colquitt County Art Center, Georgia (in collection with John Singer Sargent)
- 2018 Lifetime Achievement Award, First Friday Forum, Government Museum and Art Gallery, Chandigarh, India
Regional Artist Project Grant Award, The Arts Council of Fayetteville/Cumberland County, Fayetteville, North Carolina
Award, AcrylicWorks 6: Creative Energy (USA Published International Magazine)
- 2017 Honorable Mention, 19th Annual Pastel 100, The Pastel Journal
- 2010 Honorable Mention, Watermedia Showcase International
- 2008 Grand Prize and Honorable Mention, 10th Annual Pastel 100, The Pastel Journal
- 2006 Canson Award & Purchase Award, 34th National, Pastel Society of America, National Arts Club Grand Gallery, New York
Honorable Mention, 3rd National Exhibition, Art League of Northern California, Novato Arts Center, Novato, California
- 2005 Martin and Sanford Award, 37th Annual National Visual Arts Exhibition, Visual Arts Society of Texas, Denton, Texas
- 2004 Finalist Winner, 21st Annual Art Competition, Artist's Magazine
Honorable Mention, International Multi-Media Biennial Exhibition, Nathan D. Rosen Museum Gallery, Boca Raton, Florida
Third Place, Fourth Biennial National Art Exhibit, Charlotte County Arts Guild, Visual Arts Center, Punta Gorda, Florida
Faculty Professional Development Grant Award, Ringling School of Art and Design, Sarasota, Florida
- 2003 Honorable Mention, The Face of Alabama, The Rosa Parks Museum, Montgomery, Alabama
- 2000 First Place, Juried Competition, Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens, West Palm Beach, Florida
- 1999 Best Titled Interpretation, Wabash Artists Alliance Art Competition, Lafayette, Indiana
- 1996 Third Place, *Cross Talk*, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas
- 1995 First Place, *Cross Talk*, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas
- 1992 Teaching Fellowship (Foundation), Sir JJ. School of Art, University of Bombay, India
Gold Award, Best of the Show, Sir JJ. School of Art, Mumbai, India
Award for Figurative Painting, Annual Art Competition, The Art Society of India, India
- 1990 Best Portrait Painting of the Show, Sir JJ. School of Art, Mumbai, India
Award for Drawing, Sketch-Club, Sir JJ. School of Art, Mumbai, India
Second Place, Dolly Cursetjee Mural Drawing Competition, Sir JJ. School of Art, Mumbai, India
- 1989 Award for Portrait Painting, State Art Competition, India
Second Place, "On the Spot" portrait painting, Nasik Kala Niketan, Nasik, India
Award for Portrait Painting, Sir JJ. School of Art, Mumbai, India
- 1988 First Place, "On the Spot" portrait painting, Nasik Kala Niketan, Nasik, India
Award for Head-Study Painting, Sir JJ. School of Art, Mumbai, India

JURIED EXHIBITIONS

Over 40 National and International Exhibitions

SELECTED PRESS AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2021 Phi Kappa Phi Forum, USA, Page 22—Summer 2021, *Teaching the Painter-in-Chief*, by Danny Heitman
Acrylic Works 6, USA, *The Best of Acrylic Painting* – Creative Energy, North Light Books
- 2018 Chandigarh Tribune, Chandigarh, India—June 19, *Portrait of a True Artist*, by Amarjot Kaur
Private University Products and News Magazine, Pelham, Alabama—May, *Professor Spotlight*, by Rachel James Clevenger
India Express, Chandigarh, India—June 24, *Anatomy of Art*, by Parul
The Fayetteville Observer, NC, Front Page—August 9, *Methodist art professor teaches former President George W. Bush*, by Michael Futch
Mid-Day, City, Mumbai, India, Page 2—May 20, *Mumbai man teaches George Bush how to do live portrait*, by Rupsa Chakraborty
Little India Magazine, USA—April 7, *An Artist's Day Out*, by Treena Mukherjee
- 2015 Up and Coming Weekly, Fayetteville, NC, Page 14—November 4-10, *Contemporary Realism of Vilas Tonape*, by Soni Martin
- 2014 The Pueblo Chieftain, Pueblo, CO, Page 4C—September 17, *He's a long way from Mumbai*, by Anthony A. Mestas
The Chronicle News, Trinidad, CO, Page 3—September 11, *Colorful professor makes splash on Trinidad arts scene*
The Chronicle News, Trinidad, CO, Page 3—March 19, *Art professor wows crowd with painting demonstration*, by Scott Mastro
- 2013 The Chronicle News, Trinidad, CO, Front Page—August 28, *Noted Artist Joins TSJC Faculty*, by Pankaj Khadka
- 2010 Khaasbaat, FL, Page 17—September, *Lakeland Artist/Teacher Vilas Tonape takes Center Stage*, by Nitish S. Rele
Today and Tonight, Polk County, FL, Page 13—September, *A Teacher that Remains a Student of Life*, by Mary Joye
- 2009 Pastel Journal, USA—April, by Jessica Canterbury
- 2008 The Ledger, Winter Haven, FL, March 20, *PCC Professor: Art, Teaching Are Natural*, by Donna Kelly
- 2004 100 Ways to Paint People and Figures, *L-Shapes and Diagonals are Crucial in my Self-Portrait*, International Artist Publishing, Inc.
- 2003 The Indian Express, Mumbai Newsline, Mumbai, India—December 17, *Art Beat* (Culture Club), by Georgina L. Maddox
SAHARA Metro TV Channel, Mumbai, India—December 3, Telecast: *Exhibition and Interview*
Mahanagar Daily, Mumbai, India—November 25, *Guru Shishya*, by Mahendra Damle
- 2002 Palm Beach Post, FL, November 17, *Cultural Collage on Display for Viewing, Collecting Pleasure*, by Katie Deits
- 2002 The Palm Beach Post, TGIF, West Palm Beach, FL, Page 46—December 7, *Art*, by Larry Aydlette
- 1991 The Observer of Business & Politics, Mumbai, India—March 11, *High Order Art Again*, by Dnyaneshwar Nadkarni

SELECTED ART JUDGING/JURYING

- 2020 Artists Who Teach 2020, National Exhibition, Ellington-White Contemporary Arts, Fayetteville, North Carolina
International Online Watercolor Competition, Bindaas Artist Group, India
- 2019 Annual Juried Show, Sampson Arts Council, Clinton, North Carolina

- 2017 Fuel for the Fire, National Juried Exhibition, Arts Council of Fayetteville, Fayetteville, North Carolina
Park Art, International Folk Festival, Arts Council of Fayetteville, Fayetteville, North Carolina
- 2016 Park Art, International Folk Festival, Arts Council of Fayetteville, Fayetteville, North Carolina
The Second Art and Flowers National Juried Exhibition, Ellington-White Contemporary Art, Fayetteville, North Carolina
- 2015 Park Art, International Folk Festival, Arts Council of Fayetteville, Fayetteville, North Carolina
Colorado Show, Spanish Peaks Arts Council, La Veta, Colorado
- 2014 TALAS (Trinidad Area Local Artists Show), Annual Juried Exhibition, Trinidad Art League, Trinidad, Colorado
- 2012 Strawberry Festival Art Exhibition, Plant City, Florida
- 2011 Figuratively Speaking, Art League of Daytona Beach, Daytona Beach, Florida
Winthrop Art Festival, Riverview, Florida
Annual Fine Art Exhibition, Arts on the Park, Lakeland, Florida
- 2010 Visual Arts Alliance, Annual Juried Exhibition, Carrollwood Cultural Center, Tampa, Florida
Fifty-Ninth Annual, Under the Oaks, National Juried Fine Art Exhibition, Vero Beach, Florida
Fourth Annual Plein-Air, Bartow Art Guild, Bartow, Florida
Platform Art 15 - Art in Motion, Lakeland, Florida
Tenth Annual Florida Outdoor Sculpture Competition, Winter Haven, Florida
- 2009 Mayfaire by-the-Lake, 38th Annual, Lakeland, Florida
Municipal Fine Art Show, Lake Wales, Florida
Ninth Annual Florida Outdoor Sculpture Competition, Winter Haven, Florida
Central Park Arts Festival, Ridge Art Association, Winter Haven, Florida
Polk County High School Invitational Art Exhibition, Arts on the Park Gallery, Lakeland, Florida
Race for the Arts, Polk Arts Alliance, Lakeland, Florida
- 2008 Annual Student Art Exhibition, Florida Southern College, Lakeland, Florida
Art From the Found Objects, Ridge Art Association, Winter Haven, Florida
- 2007 Wildlife Exhibition, Averitt Center for the Arts, Statesboro, Georgia
- 2001 Members' Annual Juried Art Show, Lake Worth Art League, Lake Worth, Florida
9th Annual Juried Art Exhibition, Women in the Visual Arts, Boca Raton, Florida
- 1998 Annual High School Art Competition, Fatima High School, Mumbai, India

SELECTED LECTURES AND WORKSHOPS

- 2020 Presentation, E-Wellness: Emotional Intelligence – An Artistic Passion, Big FM Radio, India
Guest Professor, conducted 5 one-day Webinars, Sandip University, Nasik, India
- 2019 Guest Professor, Lecture on Figure Drawing, Sir JJ. School of Art, Mumbai, India
Guest Artist, Pastel Portraiture Workshop, Mount Dora Center for the Arts, Mount Dora, Florida
Guest Professor, Knightdale High School, Knightdale, North Carolina
Guest Artist, Watercolor Portraiture Workshop, Colquitt County Arts Center, Moultrie, Georgia
- 2018 Guest Artist, invited by President George W. Bush to his studio, Dallas, Texas
Guest Artist, Pastel Portraiture Workshop, Art League of Hilton Head Academy, Hilton Head Island, South Carolina
Guest Professor, Portraiture Demonstration/Lecture, Open Hand Art Studios, Chandigarh Lalit Kala Academy, Chandigarh, India
Guest Professor, Portraiture Demonstration/Lecture, Vasai Vikasini College of Visual Arts, Vasai, India
Guest Professor, Portraiture Demonstration/Lecture, Nasik Kala Niketan, Nasik, India
Guest Professor, Lecture on Figure-Cast Drawing, Sir JJ. School of Art, Mumbai, India
- 2017 Presentation, North Carolina Art Education Association (NCAEA) Professional Development Conference, Wilmington, North Carolina
Guest Professor, South View High School, Hope Mills, North Carolina
Guest Artist, Lecture, Sir JJ. School of Art, Mumbai, India
Guest Professor, Portraiture Demonstration/Lecture, Sai Art College, Pune, India
- 2016 Guest Artist, Portraiture Demonstration/Lecture, Chitnavis Art Centre, Nagpur, India
Guest Professor, Painting Demonstration/Lecture, Fayetteville Tech Community College, Fayetteville, North Carolina
Guest Professor, Portraiture Demonstration/Lecture, Sanjoy Kurhe College of Modern Art, Amravati, India
Guest Professor, Portraiture Demonstration/Lecture, Kalasagar Kala Mahavidyalaya, Pune, India
Guest Professor, Portraiture Demonstration/Lecture, Kalavishwa Kala Mahavidyalaya, Sangli, India
Guest Professor, Portraiture Demonstration/Lecture, Sankalp School of Art, Vashind, India
- 2015 Visiting Professor, Portraiture Workshop, Nasik Kala Niketan, Nasik, India
Visiting Professor, Workshops on Various Topics, Visual Art Academy, Thane, India
Guest Professor, Portraiture Demonstration/Lecture, Raheja School of Art, Mumbai, India
Guest Artist, Portraiture Demonstration/Lecture, National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), Mumbai, India
Guest Professor, Portraiture Demonstration/Lecture, K.K. Wagh College of Fine Arts, Nasik, India
Guest Professor, Portraiture Demonstration/Lecture, Bharati Vidyapeeth College of Fine Arts, Pune, India
Guest Artist, Portraiture Workshop, Spanish Peaks Art Center, La Veta, Colorado
Guest Artist, Portraiture Demonstration/Lecture, Nasik Kala Niketan, Nasik, India
Guest Artist, Portraiture Demonstration/Lecture, Vasai Vikasini College of Visual Arts, Vasai, India
Guest Artist, Portraiture Demonstration/Lecture, Yashwant Kala Mahavidyalaya, Aurangabad, India
Guest Artist, Portraiture Demonstration/Lecture, Bodhi College of Fine Arts, Bangalore, India
- 2014 Visiting Artist/Professor, Portraiture Workshop, Visual Art Academy, Thane, India
Guest Artist, Portraiture Demonstration, Pastel Society of Colorado, Denver, Colorado
Guest Artist, Portraiture Demonstration/Lecture, Abhinav Art College, Pune, India

- 2014 Guest Artist, Portraiture Demonstration/Lecture, Shiny Colors Academy, Bangalore, India
 Guest Artist, Portraiture Demonstration/Lecture, National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), Mumbai, India
 Guest Artist, Portrait Painting Demonstration, Visual Art Academy, Thane Kala Bhuvan, Thane, India
- 2012 Guest Artist, Lecture, S.N.D.T. Women's University, Mumbai, India
 Instructor, one-week Art Educator Summer Institute, Polk County School Board/Polk Museum of Art, Lakeland, Florida
 Guest Critic, Bartow Art Guild, Bartow, Florida
 Guest Artist, Oil Portraiture Workshop, Tampa Regional Artists, Hyde Park Art Center, Tampa, Florida
- 2011 Guest Artist, Professional Development Workshop, Fort Worth Independent School District, Fort Worth, Texas
 Guest Artist, Watercolor Workshop, Tampa Regional Artists, Hyde Park Art Center, Tampa, Florida
 Visiting Artist, Art Educator Summer Institute, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas
- 2010 Guest Artist, Lecture, Sir JJ. School of Art, Mumbai, India
 Guest Artist, Demonstration, New Era School, Panchgani, India
- 2009 Visiting Artist, Watercolor Workshop, Tampa Regional Artists, Hyde Park Art Center, Tampa, Florida
 Guest Artist, Demonstration, Bartow Art Guild, Bartow, Florida
 Visiting Artist, Art Educator Summer Institute (NAEA co-sponsored academy), Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas
- 2009 Visiting Artist, one-week Art Educator Summer Institute, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas
 Guest Artist, Portrait Painting Demonstration, Bartow Art Guild Annual Plein Air Festival, Bartow, Florida
 Guest Artist, Pastel Portraiture Demonstration, Lakeland Art Guild, Lakeland, Florida
- 2008 Guest Critic, View & Review: Critiquing Emerging Artists, Polk Museum of Art, Lakeland, Florida
 Guest Speaker, A Discourse on Human Ego and Plein Air Painting, Bartow Annual Plein Air Festival, Bartow, Florida
 Visiting Artist, one-week Art Educator Summer Institute, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas
- 2007 Visiting Artist, one-week Art Educator Summer Institute, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas
- 2003 Guest Artist, Slide Presentation and Critique, S.N.D.T. Women's College of Fine Arts, Mumbai, India
 Visiting Artist, Graduate Critique, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas
- 2002 Guest Artist, Portrait Painting Demonstration, Lake Worth Art League, Florida
 Guest Artist, Lecture and Demonstration, Martin County Arts Council, Court House Cultural Center, Stuart, Florida
- 2001 Guest Artist, Lecture and Demonstration, Portrait Painting, Stella Maris College of Fine Arts, Madras, India
 Guest Artist, Portrait Painting Demonstration, The Riverbridge Art League, Greenacres, Florida
 Guest Artist, Portrait Painting Demonstration, The Friends of the Lake Worth Library, Lake Worth, Florida
 Guest Speaker, A Discourse on Art Appreciation, The Riverbridge Art League, Greenacres, Florida
- 2000 Guest Artist, Portrait Painting Demonstration, The Friends of the Lake Worth Library, Lake Worth, Florida
- 1999 Guest Speaker, A Discourse on Art Appreciation, The Riverbridge Art League, Greenacres, Florida
- 1998 One-week workshop, Life Drawing, High School students, Greater Lafayette Museum of Art, Lafayette, Indiana
 Artist Talk, Greater Lafayette Museum of Art, Lafayette, Indiana
 Guest Artist, Watercolor Landscape Demonstration, Jefferson High School, West Lafayette, Indiana
- 1997 Two one-day workshops, Life Drawing, High School students, Greater Lafayette Museum of Art, Lafayette, Indiana
- 1993 Guest Lecturer Associate, one-month Painting Workshop, Stella Maris College of Fine Arts, Madras, India

EXHIBITION CURATION

- 2021 *Monarch Expressions 2*, an Exhibition of 10 Artists, Union-Zukowski Lobby and Gallery, Methodist University, Fayetteville, North Carolina
- 2020 *Reciprocal Ekphrasis: Images & Poems, Poems & Images*, a Group Exhibition of 8 Painters & 5 Poets, Union-Zukowski Lobby and Gallery, MU
- 2018 *Monarch Expressions*, an Exhibition of 10 Artists, Union-Zukowski Lobby and Gallery, Methodist University, Fayetteville, North Carolina
- 2015 *Abstraction: 7 Artists, 7 Dialogs*, Corazon Gallery, Trinidad, Colorado
- 2012 *Allegories with Sacred Canon*, Center for Arts and History, Lewis-Clark State College, Lewiston, Idaho
Prodromes, One-Person Exhibition, Center for Arts and History, Lewis-Clark State College, Lewiston, Idaho
- 2010 *Line Shape Color*, Two-Person Show, Arts on the Park, Lakeland, Florida
- 2009 *Plein Air Exhibition*, Sixteen Emerging Artists, Lake Wales Arts Center, Lake Wales, Florida

PUBLISHED EXHIBITION CATALOG REVIEWS

- Empyrean Revelations*, an Exhibition of Creative Works by Sanjay Sable, Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai, India
- Arcane Vista, Framing a View – Travel Diaries of Vijay Sakpal*, One-Person Show, Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai, India
- Satyam Shivam Sundaram*, One-Person Show – Nilesh Bharti, Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai, India
- Encounters: Vis-à-Vis*, One-Person Show – Pradip Raut, Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai, India

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL SERVICE TO COMMUNITY

- 7/21–Present Member of Board of Directors, The Arts Council of Fayetteville/Cumberland County, Fayetteville, North Carolina
- 4/18–Present Arts Council Member, City of Fayetteville Public Arts Commission, Fayetteville, North Carolina
 Member of Mural Artist Selection Committee, National Mural Artist Call for a public art mural project, Fayetteville, North Carolina
- 2019 Member, 2019-2020 Project Grants Panel for Youth Education, Arts Council of Fayetteville/Cumberland County, Fayetteville, North Carolina
- 2018 Member of Board of Directors, Cool Spring Downtown District, Fayetteville, North Carolina
- 95-19 Donated artworks for Auctions and Fundraisers to support various charities
- 13-15 Member of Board of Directors, A.R. Mitchell Museum of Western Art, Trinidad, Colorado
 Member of Board of Directors, Arts and Culture Commission, Trinidad, Colorado
- 09-12 Member of Board of Directors, Arts on the Park, Lakeland, Florida
 Member of Board of Directors, Ridge Art Association, Winter Haven, Florida

SAMPLE REVIEWS OF WORK

“Visitors to Contemporary Realism of Vilas Tonape will quickly acknowledge his skillfulness; but, with all good realism, it is important to take the time to look at each work carefully, to look beyond proficiency. Each work has meaning for the artist; it is the viewer’s undertaking and pleasure to pause for meaning to be revealed...After leaving the exhibit visitors will easily remember Tonape as an artist who views a world filled with grace, a sense of humor, beauty and dignity – a world of harmony”.

-Soni Martin, Curator/Contributing Writer, Up and Coming Weekly (Fayetteville, North Carolina, USA)

“Tonape’s use of realism and the abstract clarifies the American shock on his Indic roots.”

-Kate Petre, News Writer, Los Angeles City Beat (Los Angeles, California, USA)

“[Vilas Tonape’s] oil, Colors of Self, is a portrait of a man’s head, ringed by tiny, colorful brushstrokes, set against a brown-washed background. It’s one of those pictures where a simple scheme is immensely satisfying because of the artist’s eye for spatial composition and facial detail. (Why can’t we have more of these?)”

-Larry Aydlette, Art Critic, The Palm Beach Post (West Palm Beach, Florida, USA)

“Tonape has traveled from Florida, where he teaches at the Ringling School of Art and Design, for this show at the Shagun Art Gallery, Mumbai, India...Tonape’s canvases have the same methodical construction. A band of brilliant color is interrupted by bands of white or beige.”

-Georgina L Maddox, Art Critic, Mumbai Newsline (Mumbai, India)

“Vilas Tonape’s abstracts have a unique force.”

-Dnyaneshwar Nadkarni, Art Critic, The Observer of Business and Politics (Mumbai, India)

“Tonape’s painting can be described as classically inspired, contemporary-realism—interpretive images that enchant the eye.”

-Katie Deits, Palm Beach Post Writer, The Palm Beach Post (West Palm Beach, Florida, USA)