

## ***Insomnia Series***

As a collective of works, the *Insomnia Series* (2015) express my feelings of an elusive state of mind that drives me to imagine unusual imagery. In the insomniac space all realistic forms appear in desirable, yet unfamiliar and surreal forms. Insomnia (for me) is not merely a disease of sleeplessness, rather, it is a state between levels of consciousness where deep thoughts arise from my subconscious and take on new metaphoric form. The works continue to express a poetic stance where realism and abstraction exchange appearances as I translate the experience of *rasas* into lines and drawing.

The connections between the lines in the drawing form a larger network that takes on a visual form similar to the neural pathways and synapses of the brain. The multifarious and interconnected network of memories also expresses the *rasa Adbhuta* or wonder. I was amazed at the similarity between the organic armature of the shrub or bush to that of the architectural infrastructure used to build houses. The branch from the shrub, like the building process, connects to another branch through a natural joint that is wider and can carry the weight of the botanical network. The work captures a transition between biological forms, the study of botanical matter through the process of *Rasa Rehka*, becomes a rhizomic display of neural forms. The transparent and translucent surfaces of the drawing's armature and white material reinforce a feeling of intangibility that the work attempts to portray, like memories, the embodiment of *rasas*, however fleeting, is subtle.

The *Insomnia Series* (2015) is also influenced by the natural form of coconut tree. Tree has strong linear forms that are able to occupy space, but move within that space. The movement of the natural linear forms through space is an ideal subject for the *Rasa Rehka* drawing method. The coconut tree represent elongated, unknown forms that occupy the void space, creating an environment reflecting the *rasa* of *Adbhuta* (wonder).

By observing the tree and embodying the *rasas* in a sleepless state, I imagine all manner of unusual form, scale and juxtaposition. It is one of the emotional pleasures of the insomniac state. My experience of insomnia is like being in a liminal space, in-between sleep and wakefulness.

*Piyali Ghosh*