



Curatorial Statement

വേരുകൾ | VERUKAL

9 march - 21 march, 2024

From root grows life, an intricate maze of mysteries experienced through phases of natural change. Our existence, over generations, has been a continuous effort to understand the vastness of the cosmos, the depths of its abstractness and to become our complete self in it.

The exhibition *Verukal* (the roots) explores the foundational aspects of one's existence and extends to symbolise the vocation an individual is destined for. The journey of life is grounded in the soil of birth and unfurls in the spaces of the world & corners of the mind. An incident, a displacement, a loss, a conflict, an opportunity can become a point of change and reflection for an individual. At this moment, a return to the roots is suggested as a means of understanding and connecting with oneself devoid of any inhibitions.

Fostered through the realms of transitions, awareness, and re-discovery, the exhibition invites the spectators to follow the connecting thread from our present to the roots.

- TRANSITIONS -

From the genesis, the transition from a "noble savage" to the present state is a development result of human consciousness through different stages of life, at an individual and collective level. As Hegel states, the evolution of the human consciousness is developed by the dialectical process where contradictions and conflicts lead to a higher form of understanding. Thus when a human is subjected to continuous evolution, the changes that occur in one's life become inseparable from the surrounding nature.

How do we become acquainted with our transitions in life? A question that leads us to a moment of total awareness and a limitless space for re-discovery.

- AWARENESS -

In silence we create, in stillness we evolve. In a state of peace, subconscious leads to awareness and epiphanies. In such a state, when cognition is strongly connected to your subconscious, the precision of the information received becomes crucial for generating responses which can be catalysts in the journey of rediscovery. Surrounded by forces of nature and access to the subconscious mind, the transitions of life can be acknowledged, thereby reinforcing and redirecting our journey towards the roots.

- RE-DISCOVERY -

"Man's search for meaning is the primary motivation in his life and not a 'secondary rationalisation' of instinctual drives."

Viktor E. Frankl

As conformism and totalitarianism have conditionally ruled over one's choices in life, somewhere the human's ability to navigate life to search for its meaning has been ignored. Whereas, the quest of purpose can be a foundational belief system to surpass the hardest conditions of life. The driving force for re-discovery can be triggered by grief, separation, truth, beauty or love; and the concept of "existential vacuum" remains a core reason in setting an offset to this journey.

When re-discovery is identified as the search for meaning of life, one is called to acknowledge the vocation or the mission by learning ways to live around the unavoidable suffering where ironically the search for meaning can never be "homeostasis."