

‘The Unruly Syntax’

a solo show of paintings

by Ravikumar Kashi

Ravi Kashi’s work process and methodologies inspire one to picture him in the garb of an artist-archaeologist: he metaphorically digs through layers, deciphering contexts; he persistently builds anthropological relationships with material culture as his guide; and refers to language and lexicons of meaning as a tool to map everyday culture. The City, in all its beauty and ugliness, its plainness and complexity, is his site of research. It is an entity in constant flux, shifting its skins and morphing its inhabitants - it is a site that has yielded many stories to him, and continues to be his playground for experimentation.

For Kashi, a driving factor is his deep interest in the social history of place, and its constant evolution. Interaction with traces of the past and a metamorphosing present, through the medium of architectural surfaces and material residues, provides him with subtle entry points into the underlying narratives of city life. The works are filled with visual and textual clues, with sometimes tongue-in-cheek remarks, puns and witty mixes of bilingual terms – covering a considerable variety of subject matter pertaining to human existence within a social structure. Connotations of religion, politics, feminism, gender disparity, social hierarchies, local myths, nationalism and popular cultural beliefs, all appear and disappear in a stream of visually-articulated discourse. The imagery touches upon the diverse anxieties and aspirations birthed in a modern urban space. Kashi employs the cues and images as symbols for deeper and often hard-hitting commentaries on contemporary times; the paintings abound with innuendos and implications that may not be apparent at first glance.

Extract from the essay written about the show by Lina Vincent , Art critic and curator.



'Traces 8'

Oil, Acrylic, pen, pastels and carbon on Canvas, 48" x 72", 2020



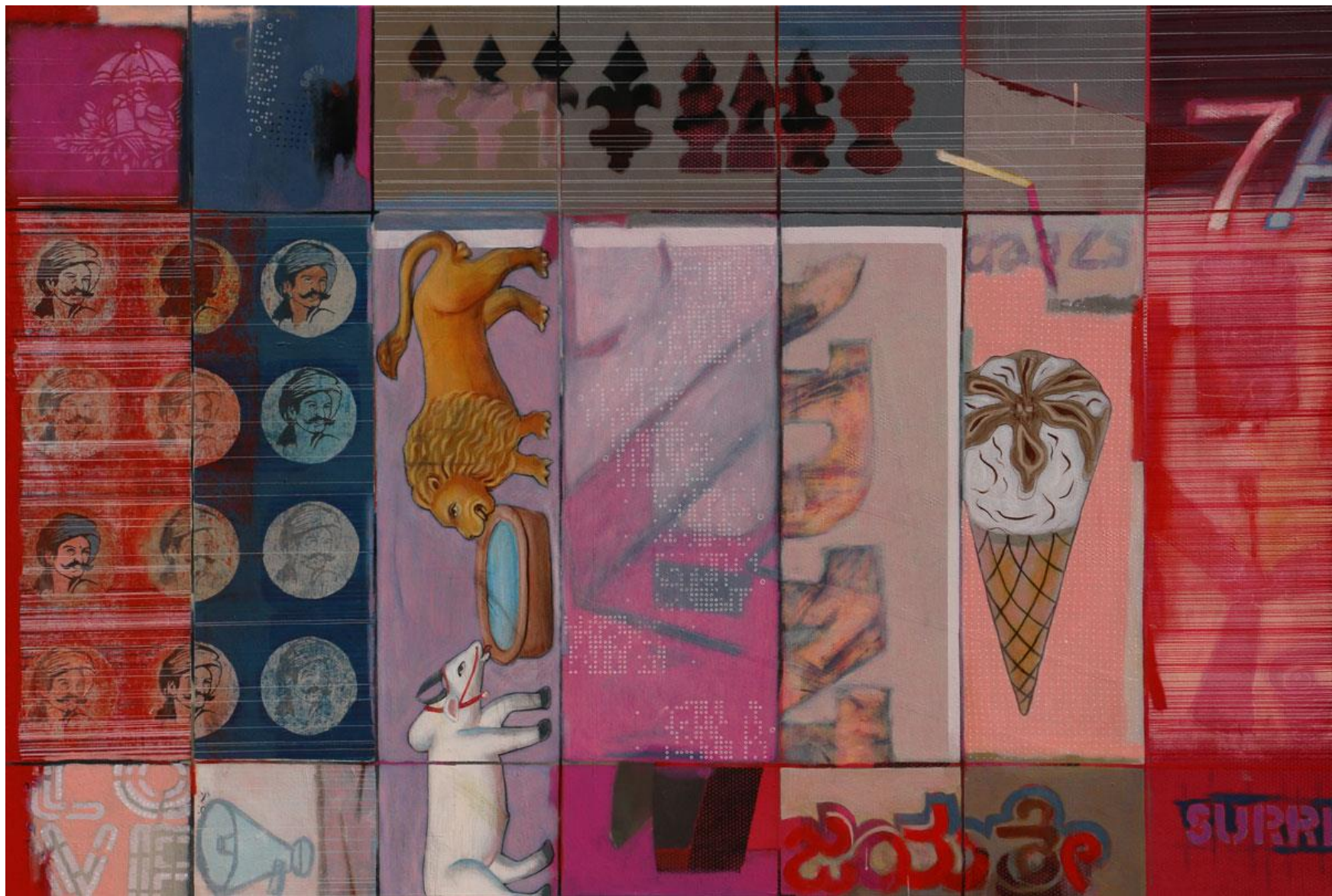
'Traces 15'

Oil, Acrylic, pen, pastels and carbon on Canvas, 48" x 72", 2020



'Traces 16'

Oil, Acrylic, pen, pastels and carbon on Canvas, 48" x 60", 2020



'Traces 17'

Oil, Acrylic, pen, pastels and carbon on Canvas, 48" x 72", 2021



'Traces 20'

Oil, Acrylic, pen, pastels and carbon on Canvas, 48" x 72", 2021



'Traces 1'

Oil, Acrylic, pen, pastels and carbon on Canvas, 36" x 48", 2020



'Traces 10'

Oil, Acrylic, pen, pastels and carbon on Canvas, 36" x 48", 2020



'Traces 2'

Oil, Acrylic, pen, pastels and carbon on Canvas, 30" x 60", 2020



'Traces 6'

Oil, Acrylic, pen, pastels and carbon on Canvas, 36" x 48", 2020



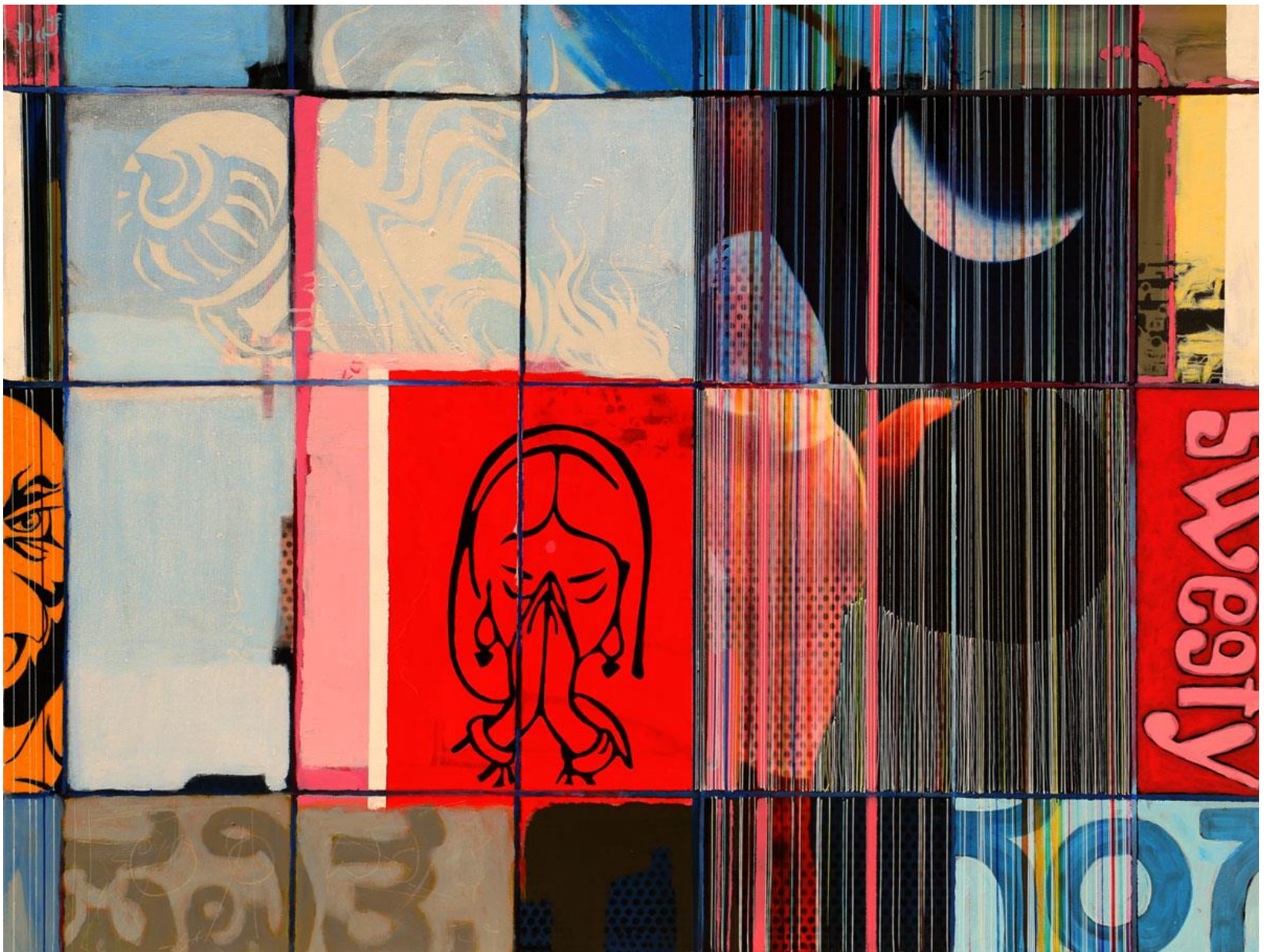
'Traces 3'

Oil, Acrylic, pen, pastels and carbon on Canvas, 30" x 60", 2020



'Traces 4'

Oil, Acrylic, pen, pastels and carbon on Canvas, 48" x 36", 2020



'Traces 5'

Oil, Acrylic, pen, pastels and carbon on Canvas, 36" x 48", 2020



'Traces 12'

Oil & Acrylic on Canvas, 36" x 48", 2020



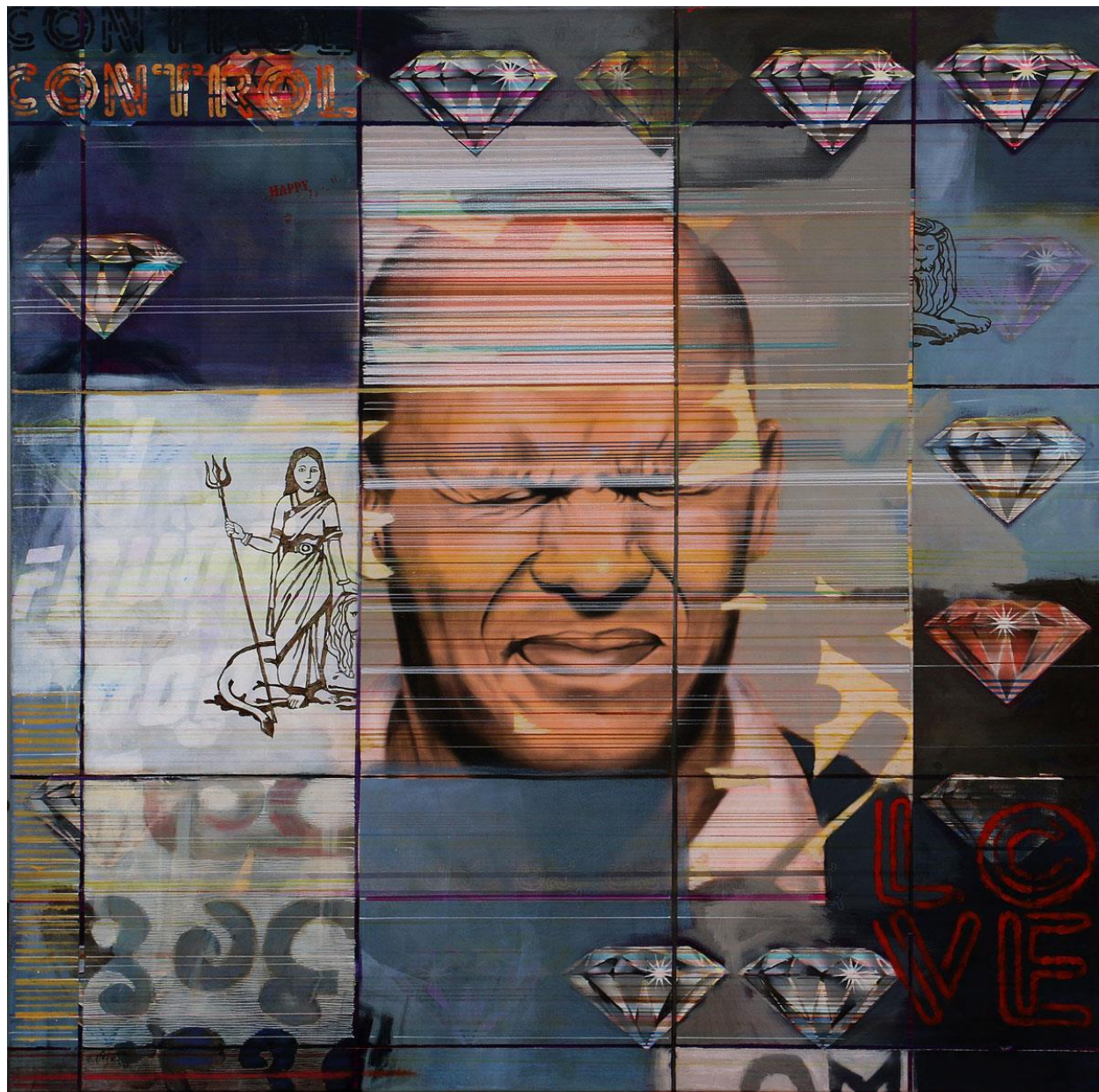
'Traces 11'

Oil, Acrylic, pen, pastels and carbon on Canvas, 36" x 48", 2020



'Traces 9'

Oil, Acrylic, pen, pastels and carbon on Canvas, 24" x 36", 2020



'Traces 13'

Oil, Acrylic, pen, pastels and carbon on Canvas, 48" x 48", 2020



'Traces 7'

Oil, Acrylic, pen, pastels and carbon on Canvas, 48" x 48", 2020



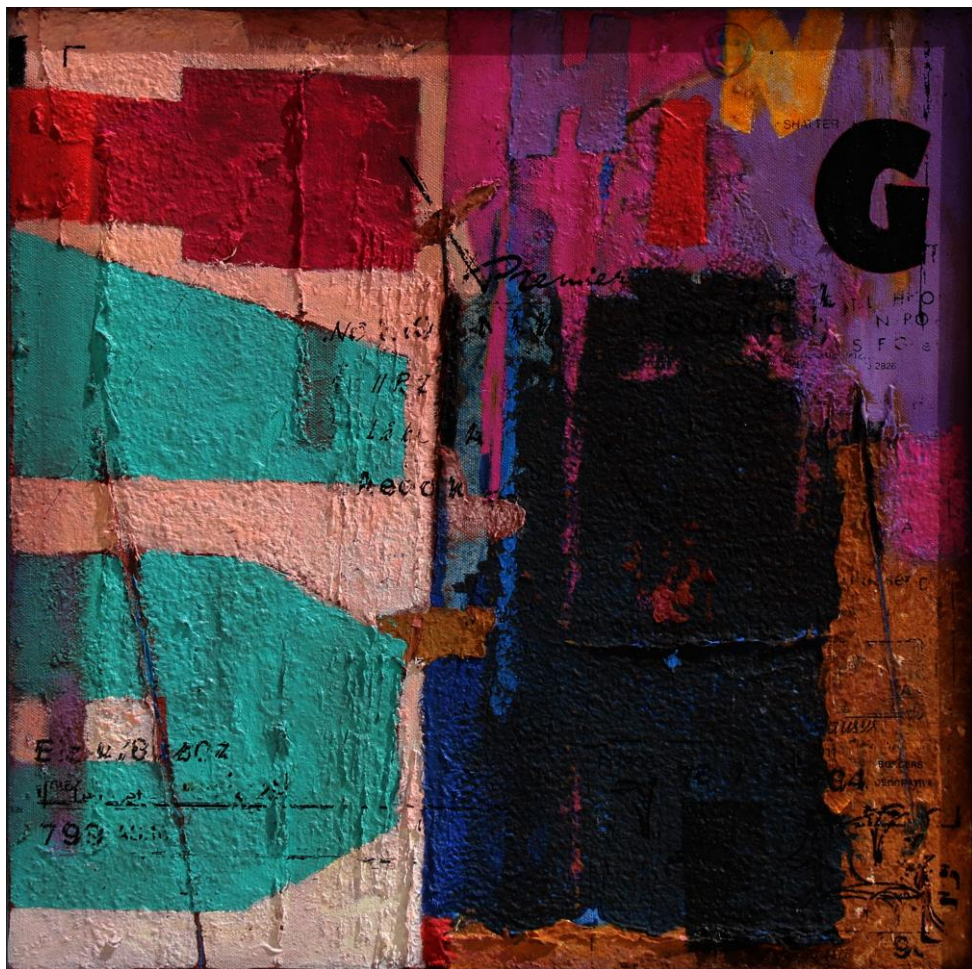
'Traces 21'

Oil, Acrylic, pen, pastels and carbon on Canvas, 36" x 48", 2021



'Traces 14'

Oil, Acrylic, pen, pastels and carbon on Canvas, 24" x 24", 2020



'Traces 22'

Oil, Acrylic, pen, pastels and carbon on Canvas, 18" x 18", 2020