

Tempered Branches

Recent Work by G. R. Iranna

February 15th, 2013– March 11th, 2014

Press Preview & Opening Reception: Saturday, February 15th, 6:00pm – 8:00pm

35 Great Jones St., New York NY 10012

Aicon Gallery is proud to present *Tempered Branches*, a solo exhibition of new works by **G. R. Iranna**. Comprised of several major recent series of paintings, along with a monumental wall drawing and installation piece, the exhibition explores themes of forcibly altered growth and development, both in nature and human thought. The work continues to build upon Iranna's career-spanning investigation into how social frameworks and religious dogmas, traditionally viewed as net-cultural positives, either directly or indirectly serve to suppress free-thought and organic growth, often with complex and disastrous consequences.

Two sets of iconography dominate these canvases; homogenous groups of theologically indeterminate monks engaged in ambiguous often nonsensical devotions, and beautifully rendered flowering trees with their branches and roots twisted, hacked and manipulated by external forces. Elsewhere, an installation of Paduka - wooden sandals traditionally worn by saints and mendicants and representative of the footprints of deities - meanders from a ramshackle pile on the floor to a path of footprints wandering aimlessly up a wall. The symbolism is clear. Iranna's interest here lies in articulating a visual language through which the journey from our beginnings to our ends, both as individuals and societies, can be mapped out in such a way as to pinpoint its turning points and deviations, along with the causes and repercussions of such. This desire, rooted in humanity's age-old quest for explanations and spanning millennia of debate regarding predestination, self-determination and countless philosophical and religious doctrines, is the formidable foundation beneath Iranna's contemporary cartography of the human condition.



G. R. Iranna, *Tempered Branches*, 2013, Acrylic on canvas, 60 x 66 in.



G. R. Iranna, *Golden Bowls*, 2013, Acrylic on canvas, 60 x 105 in.

Born in 1970, Iranna's practice over the last two decades has been prolific and multi-disciplinary. In earlier works, his paintings conveyed pain as an abstract force, translated visually through bruised textures and razor-sharp edgework. His technique has always remained far removed from an overbearing, postmodern logic. Instead, Iranna prefers the more idealistic, representative and modernist language of Indian contemporary art. More recent series of works recall visions of resistance, where in just a glance, one can sense vibrant dynamism pervading the surfaces. The energy is often driven by torment and fueled by the struggle against it, the conflicts stirring on the

surface are present between colors, figures and hues, depending on the crudeness or expertise employed. Whether through painting, sculpture or installation, Iranna's work always symbolizes the struggle to remain free from conventional restraints of establishment or style that, over time, may become increasingly claustrophobic. He continues to employ repeated motifs in his work, oscillating between a proclivity for figuration or form. Overall, his works embody an almost romantic undertone, which is the result of the artist's attempt to break away from his own mold to consistently reform his work. This is the artist's third solo exhibition with Aicon Gallery.

Please contact Aicon Gallery (Andrew@Aicongallery.com) for more information.