



ANU DAS

My art has always been a reflection of personal events or a reaction to topics which touch me on an emotional level.

The rural women of Odisha, a region on the East Coast of India, have inspired me both, as artists and as women. I have often watched them execute the beautiful and exclusive art form, Chitta. The word Chitta is derived from Sanskrit, where chit means eye or consciousness. This form of ephemeral artwork is done on mud walls using rice paste and just three fingers of the artists, and turns the villages into pages of an art book during the months of November and December. The motifs of flowers, birds and vines used in this art form have influenced my artist books, prints, and now my jewelry.

Natural disasters like hurricanes, typhoons and cyclones in these coastal areas have become the norm and have eroded the beauty I once saw. It made me realize the importance of climate change and the urgency to address the vulnerabilities on the natural habitats through my art.

Drawing inspirations from nature and traditions, I use fabric, threads and found materials to articulate my feelings. Sewing together pieces of fabric, giving them color with dyes and paints; wrapping yards of fabric in shimmering threads; turning them into jewelry which tells a story and evoke emotions in viewer; the whole process is exhilarating! I explore and experiment with new materials and use fabric and thread to transform them into pieces of jewelry I can resonate with. On a personal level, this journey continues to be a therapeutic process.

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