

**17<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER – 15<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER, 2021**  
**11 – 7 PM | Tuesday - Sunday**

**LATITUDE 28 presents**  
**GAURI DANCERS**  
**The Opera of Mewar**

IN ASSOCIATION WITH MUSEO CAMERA

An exhibition by Waswo X. Waswo & Rajesh Soni

VENUE: GALERIE AT MUSEO  
Gurugram, Haryana

Exhibition continues till 15 October



**LATITUDE 28**



*Galerie*  
**Museo**

Waswo X. Waswo, Gauri Dancers, Photographic Hand-Painting by Rajesh Soni, Text by Sonika Soni



The Gavri (Gauri, Gavari) Dancers are a phenomenon unique to the confluence of southern Rajasthan and its borders with Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. This predominantly tribal belt has a glorious tradition of oral literature and performing arts, by way of dance and drama. The Bhils who make up much of this region speak in the twin dialects of Mewari and Vagadi.

Shot mostly at Waswo's studio in the village of Varda, these photographs are captured digitally, though the staging itself hearkens back to the days of painted backdrops, arranged sets and natural light. Selected images are printed digitally on matte, fibre-based papers, with archival inks. Rajesh, a third generation hand-colourist, then works diligently and patiently to tint the final prints with Windsor and Newton water colours. Using an assortment of natural, soft brushes, he utilises the skills and methods that are his inheritance, coupled with a lifetime of training.

Limited editions of the photographs featured in the book 'Gauri Dancers' (right) have been released — each individually and meticulously hand-painted by Rajesh Soni.





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Black and white photograph hand  
painted by Rajesh Soni  
18 X 12 inches

**Waswo X. Waswo  
with Rajesh Soni**





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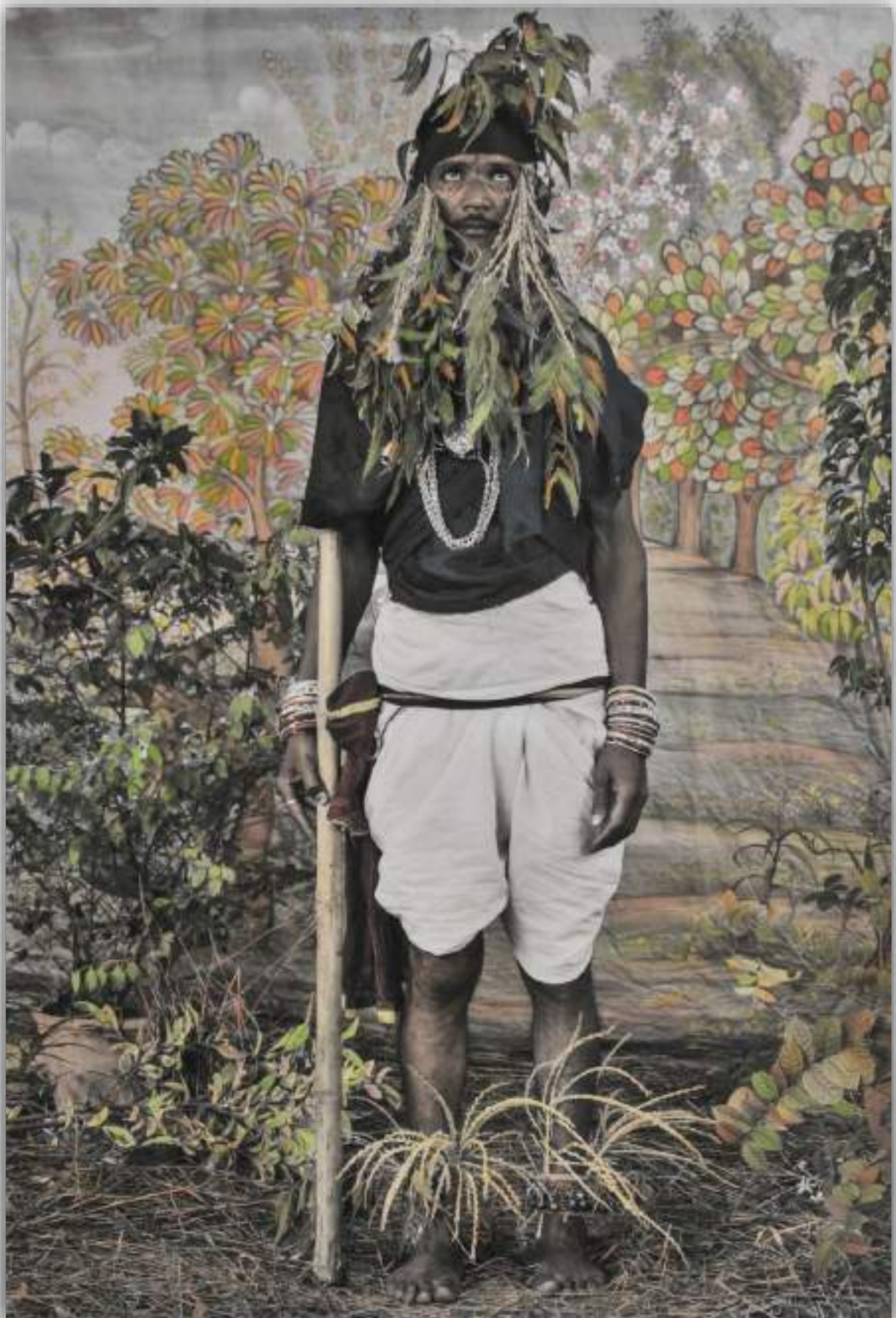




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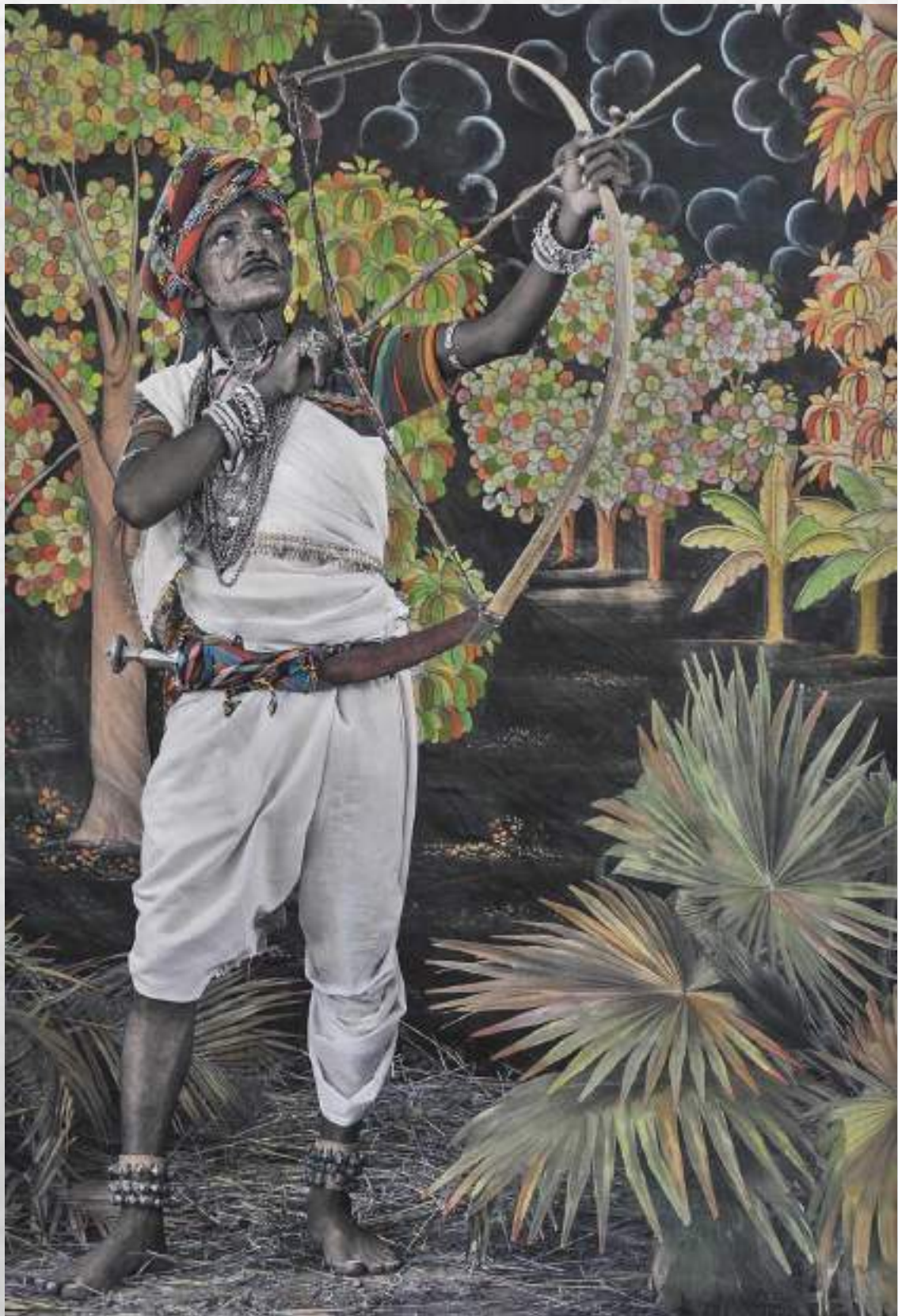




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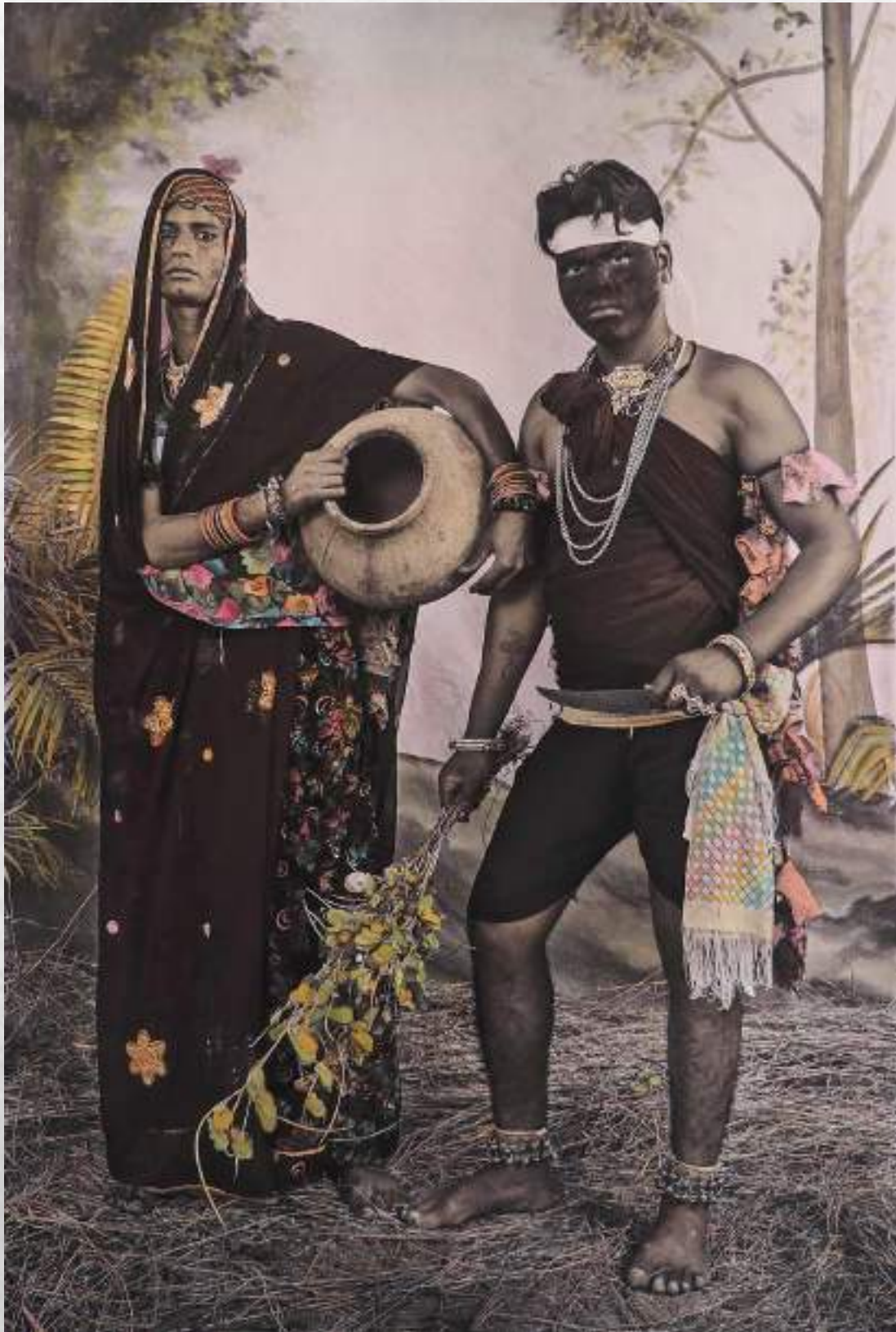




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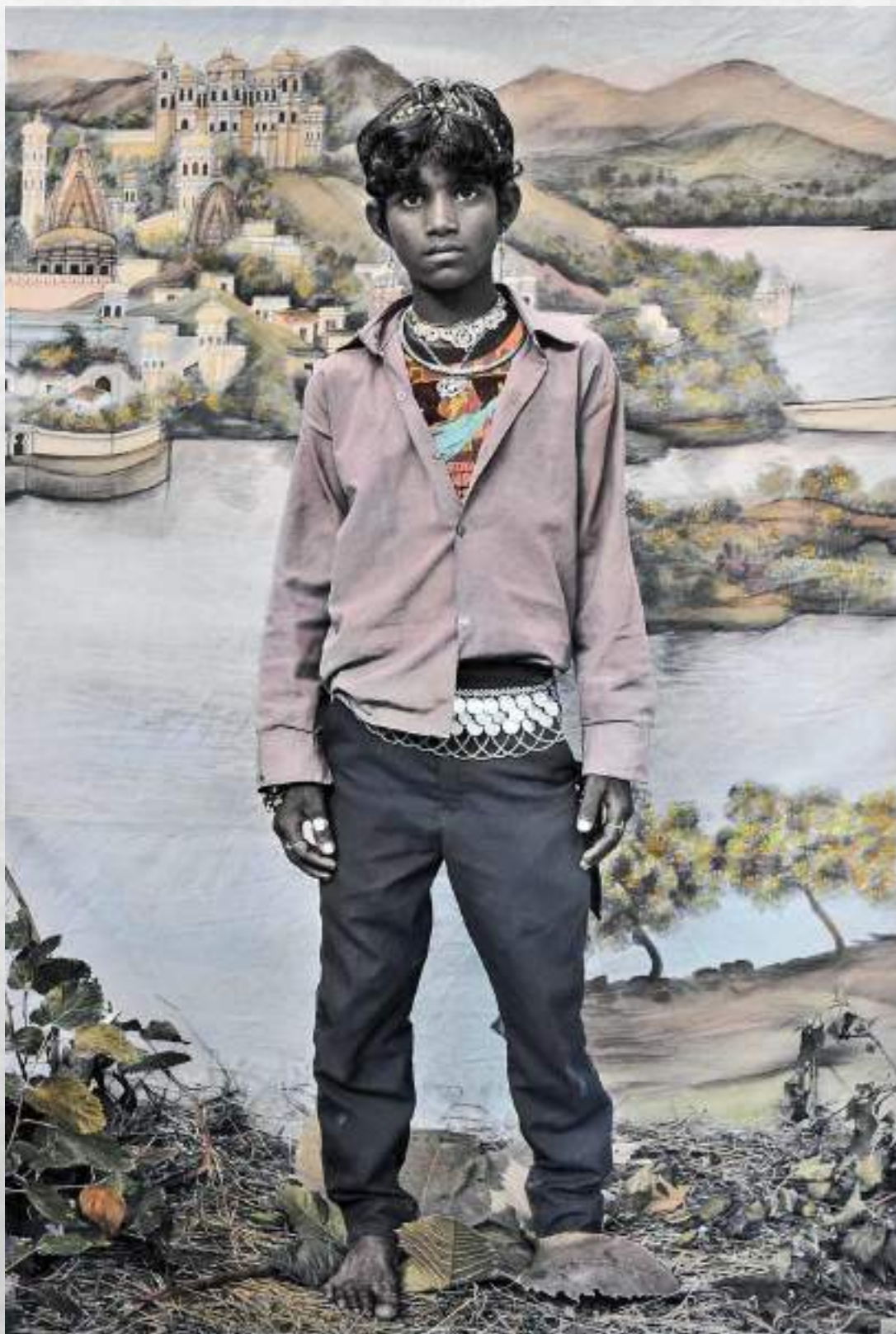




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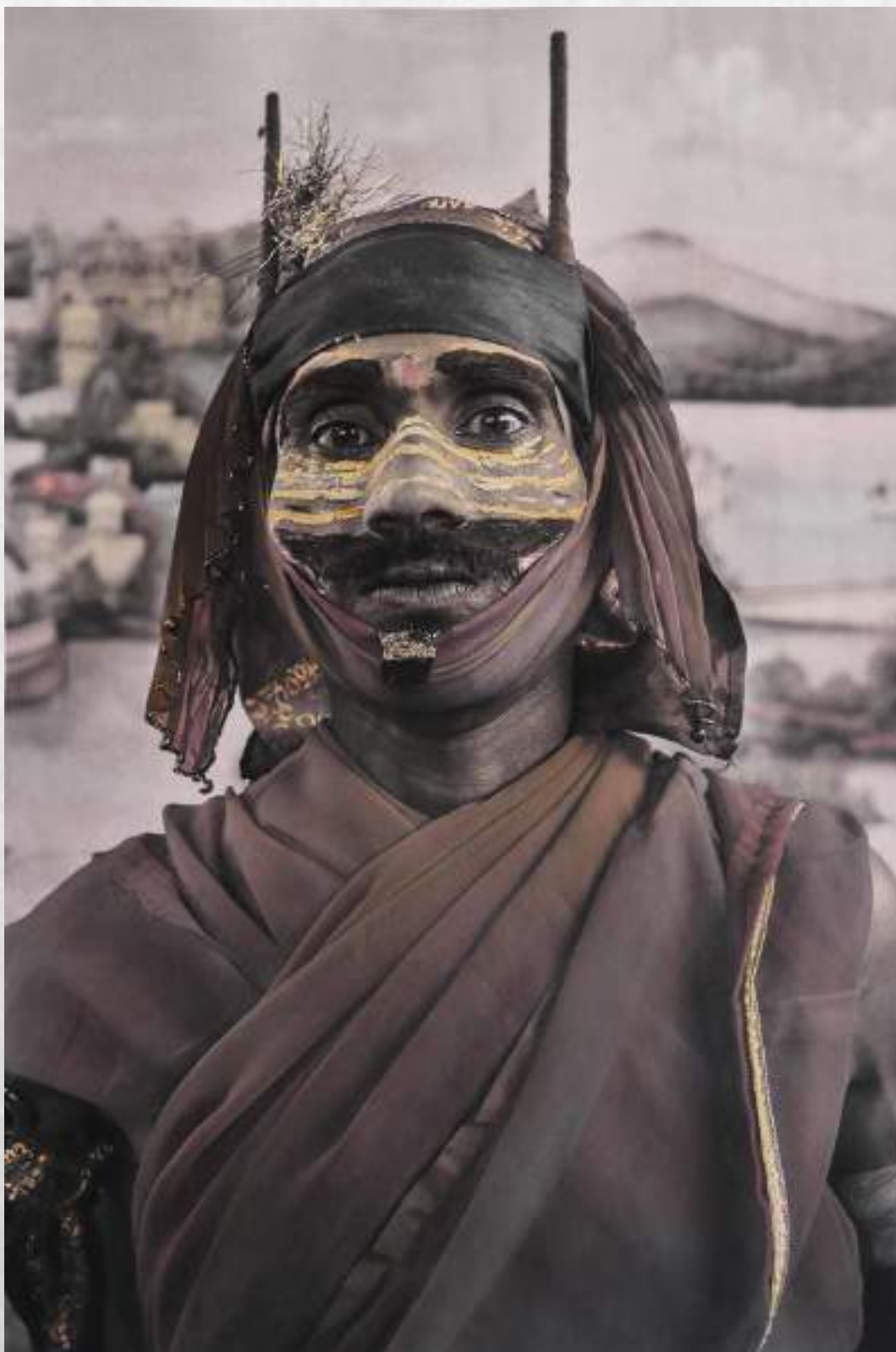




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# About the Artists

## Waswo X. Waswo

Waswo X. Waswo was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in the U.S.A. He studied at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, The Milwaukee Center for Photography, and Studio Marangoni, The Centre for Contemporary Photography in Florence, Italy. His books include: *India Poems: The Photographs*, published by Gallerie Publishers in 2006, *Men of Rajasthan*, published by Serindia Contemporary in 2011 (hardcover 2014), and *Photowallah* published by Tasveer in 2016. In 2019, his latest book, *Gauri Dancers*, was published by Mapin Publishing. The artist has lived and travelled in India for over twenty years and he has made his home in Udaipur, Rajasthan, for the past thirteen. There he collaborates with a variety of local artists including the photo hand-colourist Rajesh Soni. He has also produced a series of semi-autobiographical miniature paintings in collaboration with the artist R. Vijay. This collaborative miniature work was documented in the book *The Artful Life of R. Vijay*, by Dr. Annapurna Garimella. Waswo is most known for addressing issues of Otherness and collaboration in his work.

## Rajesh Soni

Rajesh Soni is an artist who has become known primarily for his abilities to hand paint digital photographs. He is the son of artist Lalit Soni, and the grandson of Prabhu Lal Soni (Verma), who was once court photographer to the Maharana Bhopal Singh of Mewar. Prabhu Lal was not only a court photographer, but also a hand-colourist who painted the black and white photographs that he produced. His skills of hand-colouring photographs were passed down to Rajesh through the intermediary of his father Lalit.



# About LATITUDE 28

Since its inception in 2010, LATITUDE 28 has been promoting creative dialogue and presenting dynamic exhibitions that focus on contemporary art from South Asia. Founded by art historian Bhavna Kakar, LATITUDE 28 has become synonymous with cutting edge art from the region, seeking fresh perspectives and innovative thinking in its attempt to stimulate interest in new waves of art making and provides a horizontal environment where artists are encouraged to contextualize and experiment with medium and material, positioning them within historical and contemporary frameworks that critically respond to the canon. When making programmatic decisions, LATITUDE 28 seeks to promote diversity through building a community and culture that is inclusive of all groups and individuals. Keeping with its wider role as an institution dedicated to the arts, LATITUDE 28 has paved the way for active collaborations between artists from Iran, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and India through its curated shows and outreach events. The gallery, thus, continues to work towards making art accessible and inclusive to larger audiences and our patrons, with exhibitions strategically located at the nexus where artists, their work, art institutions, collectors and many different publics intersect.



# About Museo Camera

Located in the heart of Gurugram city, Museo Camera is one of the largest not-for-profit, crowdfunded centres for the photographic arts in Southeast Asia. A unique public-private partnership between India Photo Archive Foundation and The Municipal Corporation of Gurugram, Museo Camera is one of its kind in India with 18,000 sq. ft. of space dedicated to the art and history of photography. It comprises a museum, which has a collection of over 3000 cameras and photographic equipment dating back to the 1850s. In addition, it houses studio spaces, exhibition galleries showcasing contemporary art practices, a reference library and a fully functional darkroom.



# **GAURI DANCERS**

The Opera of Mewar

An exhibition by

**Waswo X. Waswo**

**&**

**Rajesh Soni**

**For more information:** +91 11 46791111 |  
latitude28@gmail.com | [www.latitude28.com](http://www.latitude28.com)



# **LATITUDE 28**

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Monday to Saturday, 11am - 7pm

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[www.latitude28.com](http://www.latitude28.com)