

Basil Baby

Selected Works

VISUAL ARTIST · KOCHI, KERALA, INDIA

aarty

THE ARTIST

Basil Baby

An elephant glows against a field of pink. Another appears as a blue outline within a dark, textured landscape. In Basil Baby's work, familiar creatures enter spaces that feel remembered, imagined and quietly unsettled. Nature becomes a meeting ground for lived experience, mythology and the possibilities of the mind.

Born in Kochi, Kerala, in 1989, Basil is a visual artist whose practice ranges from small artworks to large installations. He explores the coexistence of humans and nature, bringing surreal imagery into contact with situations drawn from everyday life. His approach moves between ideas, materials and methods, allowing the character of each work to emerge through both its subject and its physical surface.

The paintings presented here give particular prominence to the elephant. At times solid and vividly coloured, at others barely visible within layers of blue and darkness, the animal becomes a recurring presence rather than a single fixed symbol. Some compositions place it within water or fields of radiating colour; others set it beside stark architectural or symbolic forms. A rounded mass of foliage offers another way of looking at the natural world, balancing recognisable detail with an unfamiliar setting.

Texture is central to this visual language. Rough surfaces, luminous outlines and concentrated colour create a tension between what is immediately visible and what must be discovered slowly. The paintings invite attention to the relationship between an animal and its surroundings, and to the ways imagination can transform an encounter with nature.

Basil completed a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Painting at Calicut University in 2010 and a Master of Fine Arts in Painting at Delhi University in 2014. His subsequent development includes the Master Practice Studio organised by the Kochi-Muziris Biennale in Fort Kochi in 2015, and the STAR TEIR cultural exchange and art residency programme in Thailand in 2024. In 2018, he received a Kerala Government cultural fellowship for art education.

A major recognition of his practice is the Kerala Lalithakala Akademi's 2024 State Award for Visual Arts, presented in 2025. This distinction sits within a career shaped by exhibitions, residencies and exchanges across India and Thailand.

His 2024 solo exhibition, Missing Spaces–Making Spaces, was held at Prayoon for Art in Dansai, Loei, Thailand, curated by Pornjitra Vongsrisawat. His group exhibition history includes Loei Art Fes in Thailand, Palette Fest in New Delhi, and art and performance presentations at Jawaharlal Nehru University and Hauz Khas. In Kerala, his work has appeared at David Hall and Durbar Hall Art Centre, among other venues.

His 2025 programme included Whispers of the Rainforest, the Monsoon Art Festival and Ashantham, alongside the exhibition trilogy Echoes from the Dreamscapes, Into the Dreamscapes and Beyond the Dreamscapes at venues in Kochi. These titles resonate with a practice that continually moves between the observable world and an interior landscape.

Basil's work asks viewers to spend time in that space between recognition and uncertainty. The creatures remain familiar, yet the worlds they inhabit open onto questions of coexistence, imagination and the stories through which people understand nature.



Blue Elephant Pair

Two elephants traced in luminous blue stand within a dark, heavily textured setting. The displayed title is a descriptive catalogue label; an artist-supplied title, medium, dimensions, date and price were not included in the supplied material. Please enquire for details.



Elephant in Pink

An elephant with its trunk lifted stands against a vivid pink field. The displayed title is a descriptive catalogue label; an artist-supplied title, medium, dimensions, date and price were not included in the supplied material. Please enquire for details.



Elephants in a Circle

Several elephants occupy a circular composition of red, green and layered textures. The displayed title is a descriptive catalogue label; an artist-supplied title, medium, dimensions, date and price were not included in the supplied material. Please enquire for details.



Elephant in a Rose Landscape

A small elephant with a raised trunk stands within an expansive rose and violet landscape. The displayed title is a descriptive catalogue label; an artist-supplied title, medium, dimensions, date and price were not included in the supplied material. Please enquire for details.



Elephant in Golden Water

An elephant rises from dark water, surrounded by golden spray and reflected light. The displayed title is a descriptive catalogue label; an artist-supplied title, medium, dimensions, date and price were not included in the supplied material. Please enquire for details.



Elephants and the Red Cross

Elephants gather behind a glowing red cross within a dark arched space. The displayed title is a descriptive catalogue label; an artist-supplied title, medium, dimensions, date and price were not included in the supplied material. Please enquire for details.



Foliage Beyond the Wall

A dense rounded mass of green foliage rises beyond a pale curved wall. The displayed title is a descriptive catalogue label; an artist-supplied title, medium, dimensions, date and price were not included in the supplied material. Please enquire for details.



Blue Elephant in a Golden Halo

A pale blue elephant with a raised trunk appears against a golden halo and rust-coloured ground. The displayed title is a descriptive catalogue label; an artist-supplied title, medium, dimensions, date and price were not included in the supplied material. Please enquire for details.



Elephant in a Radiant Circle

A golden elephant rests at the centre of a textured, radiating circular field. The displayed title is a descriptive catalogue label; an artist-supplied title, medium, dimensions, date and price were not included in the supplied material. Please enquire for details.



Blue Elephant in Profile

A blue elephant outline emerges from a dark, textured surface. The displayed title is a descriptive catalogue label; an artist-supplied title, medium, dimensions, date and price were not included in the supplied material. Please enquire for details.



Blue Elephant with Lowered Trunk

An elephant with its trunk reaching down is traced in blue beneath vertical passages of green and blue. The displayed title is a descriptive catalogue label; an artist-supplied title, medium, dimensions, date and price were not included in the supplied material. Please enquire for details.



Blue Elephant Facing Forward

A frontal elephant form appears in luminous blue against a dark, textured background. The displayed title is a descriptive catalogue label; an artist-supplied title, medium, dimensions, date and price were not included in the supplied material. Please enquire for details.



Blue Elephant in Shadow

An elephant emerges through overlapping blue contours against a richly textured dark ground. The displayed title is a descriptive catalogue label; an artist-supplied title, medium, dimensions, date and price were not included in the supplied material. Please enquire for details.

aarty
BY AJI NAYAR

More from Basil Baby, and every work in this book, online

AARTY.IN/ARTISTS/BASIL-BABY