

# CONVERSATION WITH KHANDO WANGMO

Artist of February in South Asia



*Khando Wangmo, born in Mongar, Bhutan, was captivated by art from a young age, particularly by her brother's expressive paintings. This early inspiration fueled a determination to pursue art, leading her to join VAST, a renowned NGO that actively promoted, nurtured, and supported local artists in Bhutan, in 2020. While she initially pursued a degree in Hotel Management and Catering (graduating in 2018), her passion for painting remains central. At VAST, she has honed her skills with acrylic, oil, and watercolor, driven by the desire to create unique and meaningful works.*

My name is Khando Wangmo, and I'm 28 years old, from Bhutan. I've loved painting since childhood but never had the time or encouragement at school. Watching my brother paint sparked my interest in color. Although I studied something else, nothing inspired me the way painting does, so I chose to follow my passion.

## On their journey to arts

I have never studied art formally; I started painting randomly in college during my free time. After graduation, I joined VAST Bhutan, where I met many great and talented artists who opened my eyes. That experience inspired me to pursue painting continuously.

In Bhutan, creative education is still developing, and many talented artists remain unseen due to limited opportunities. However, many great initiatives are now providing more support and exposure. Globally, creative education is more advanced, but it still needs to be more accessible and valued as an essential part of learning and personal growth.

## On personal education, and creative education viewed locally and globally

My art is mostly about my spiritual journey. Through my paintings, I explore themes of impermanence, self-discovery, and inner peace hoping to inspire reflection and connection.

## Messaging with art



## On Art as a representation of reality or escape from it

Art can be both—a reflection of contemporary reality, capturing today's hopes and flaws, and a timeless expression beyond any era or place. It depends on the artist's vision and intent.



I am still exploring online galleries and have not sold much online yet. To improve artist representation, platforms should provide better visibility, fair pricing, and support for emerging artists. Educating buyers about the value of art and creating stronger artist communities can also help artists earn a living.

## Online galleries and marketing artwork online