

For Immediate Release

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Chicago, IL, April 2, 2022—For this year’s EXPO CHICAGO, the gallery presents an immersive series of landscape paintings from Chicago-based painter Soumya Netrabile, rooted in her ongoing relationship with the Des Plaines River Trail and its floodplain forest ecosystem. Netrabile regularly walks this local trail running along the Des Plaines River, which begins in Wisconsin and continues down into northern Illinois. She has easy access to it, allowing her to experience the environment throughout the seasons and in many different weather and light conditions.

The paintings in her solo presentation began as an exercise in approximating a real sense of the immersion she feels while on the trail, which ultimately leads to the same experience for the viewer. Although each individual painting is articulated in uniquely defining ways through shifts in color and composition, they are also directly connected in an effort to establish a panoramic view of the preserve. Netrabile relays the mood and music of the seasonal light shifts that make up the fall and winter here in this Midwestern climate. Netrabile explains, ‘there’s a different energy in the woods during the winter solstice, where light meets with sleeping or dying nature to create a palpable drama and cacophony amongst the landscape.’

Installed by itself on the exterior wall of the booth, *Search Party* captures the same wintry mood as the interior paintings, while placing more immediate emphasis on narrative. It further contemplates the architecture and divisions of space in the forest—and the sense of displacement and shifts that one feels when lost among a thick patchwork of trees.

SOUMYA NETRABILE (American, b. 1966 in Bangalore, India) lives and works in Chicago, IL. Netrabile received a BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and BSEE in engineering from Rutgers University. She has had recent solo exhibitions at ANDREW RAFACZ Gallery (Chicago, IL), Pt. 2 Gallery (Oakland, CA) and Terra Incognito (Oak Park, IL). Recent group exhibitions include the O’Connor Art Gallery at the Dominican University (River Forrest, IL), Anat Ebgi (Los Angeles, CA), Trinta Gallery (Santiago de Compostela, Spain), PRACTISE (Oak Park, IL), and KARMA (New York, NY). She will present a solo exhibition with The Journal Gallery (NY, NY) in April, 2022.