

## ARTIST BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD

Artist name: Churi, Paresh Vishwanath

City and country of birth: Mumbai, India

Residence: India

Email: pareshchuri@gmail.com  
pareshtinsel@gmail.com

### Education:

B.A. in Economics & Statistics, Mumbai University, Maharashtra, 1999.

Event Management from National Institute of Event Management (NIEM), Mumbai, Maharashtra, 2004 – 2005.

Pergamano Parchment Techniques from Pergamano Institute Mumbai, 2004.

Plant & Animal Taxonomy, 1 Year Course, Mumbai University, 2010 – 2011.

Miniature Botanical Art Training from Mr. Mahaweer Swami, Bikaner, Rajasthan, 2008.

Onglaze Ceramic Painting on Botanicals training from IES Ceramic School Mumbai, Maharashtra, 2022.

### Career:

Purchase and Sales Head at Family Business – Image Photo Albums, Mumbai, Maharashtra, 1994 – 2013.

Proprietor at M/s Guruprasad Agencies (FMCG), Mumbai, Maharashtra, 2013 – 2017.

Director at Breathingroots Pvt. Ltd. (Ecological Landscaping Company), 2017 – present.

Reviewer on Butterflies of India website, 2007 – present.

### Professional memberships:

American Society of Botanical Artists, 2020 – 2021.

### Artwork medium:

Watercolor pencils

Oil color pencils

Charcoal pencils

Watercolor

Acrylics

Natural stone pigment painting for miniature botanical art, Bikaneri Style

Pen and ink for scientific botanical illustrations and entomological drawings

Pergamano 3D parchment technique, mixed media

### One-Person Exhibition(s):

- “A Monograph to Indian Butterflies” – Insect Plant Interaction, solo exhibition of 3D Parchment technique, held at:
  - Biology of Butterflies International Conference, National Center of Biological Science, Bengaluru, India, June 2018.

- Veer Jeejamata Udyaan & Botanical Garden during Wildlife Week, October 2018.
- ICAR – CIRCOT, Mumbai, Maharashtra, November 2019.
- Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS, Conservation Education Center, Goregaon, Mumbai), October 2022.
- Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR, Colaba- Mumbai, Maharashtra, India), March 2023.
- Potdar Art & Science College, Mumbai, Maharashtra, July 2023.

#### Group Exhibition(s):

- “Artist for Wildlife and Nature” All India Annual Event, AWN Group show, Chitrakala Parisath, Bengaluru, India, January 2019 (catalogue published).
- AWN Miniature Show, AWN Group show, Chitrakala Parisath, Bengaluru, India, April 2019 (catalogue published).
- AWN Miniature Show, AWN Group show, Chitrakala Parisath, Bengaluru, India, January 2020 (catalogue published).
- Margaret Flockton, Sydney, Australia, 2020, 2021, and 2022.
- “Turtle Survival India” Art online competition, August 2021.  
[https://www.instagram.com/p/CSa2ya5FogE/?utm\\_source=ig\\_web\\_copy\\_link](https://www.instagram.com/p/CSa2ya5FogE/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link)
- Dugong Competition held by Wildlife Institution of India, May 2020.  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/349257638802313/permalink/1021373328257404/?mibextid=A7sQZp>
- Wildlife SOS Fundraising Poster Participating Artist, August 2020. Wildlife SOS, a wildlife rescue center based in India.  
<https://www.instagram.com/p/CD6bqvoghCU/?igshid=YTI4YzE2YTYwMA==>

#### Honors/Awards:

- Miniature Category Winner (Vespa Wasp), Artist for Wildlife and Nature, India Miniature Show, Bengaluru, India, January 2020.
- Botanical Illustration of *Dichrostachys cineria* is a part of the RBGE’s (UK) Florilegium Biennial exhibition, October – December 2020.  
<https://www.rbge.org.uk/science-and-conservation/library-and-archives/library-collections/image-collection/rbge-florilegium/artists-in-the-florilegium/>

#### Collections:

- Botanical Illustration of *Dichostachys cineria* is a part of the RBGE’s Florilegium Biennial exhibition, and now in the permanent collection.
- Artwork in the private collection of Mr. Atul Jain, Delhi, India:
  - 3D Pergamano Parchment Artwork of Kaiser-i-hind & *Magnolia grandiflora*, 2018.
  - 3D Pergamano Parchment Artwork of Jungle Owlet, 2019.
  - 3D Pergamano Parchment Artwork of Brahmidae moth, 2019.
- Artwork in the private collection of Mrs. Alka Vaidya, Mumbai, India.
  - 3D Pergamano Parchment Artwork of Kaiser-i-hind, 2022.
- Artworks in the private collection of Dr. Krushnamegh Kunte, Bengaluru, India.
  - 3D Pergamano Parchment Artwork of Bhutan Glory Pair, 2016.

- 3D Pergamano Parchment Artwork of Kaiser-i-hind & Magnolia grandiflora, 2018.
- 3D Pergamano Parchment Artwork of Sps nov. Banded Tit Butterfly with Orchid, 2018.
- Artwork in the private collection of John Jesudasan, Mumbai, India.
  - Vespa Wasp, 2023.
- And a few more in other private collections.

Work reproduced in (publications the artist was commissioned to illustrate or works authored by the artist):

- Research papers can be searched here: <https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Paresh-Churi>
- Butterfly early stages, natural history, larval host and nectar plant images can be searched here (website still under construction): <https://www.ifoundbutterflies.org/>

Please include any pertinent biographical information not covered by the above categories:

Paresh, a Mumbai-based graduated in Economics with Statistics, embodies a unique fusion of passions: a Naturalist, Wildlife, and Botanical Artist. As the Director of Breathingroots Pvt. Ltd., his entrepreneurial spirit fuels a start-up focused on Urban Agriculture and Environmental Conservation, specializing in the development of butterfly gardens.

His extensive research on Indian butterflies delves into the intricate relationships between larval host plants and Lepidopteran preferences, ecology, and habitats. Paresh generously shares his wealth of knowledge, freely disseminating information across leading websites, biodiversity portals, books, and newspapers, dedicated to educating others.

His quest for art and conservation has led him across various Indian states, immersing himself in the rich tapestry of nature's wonders. His contributions extend beyond research papers, some of which have garnered international recognition through peer reviews and citations.

Paresh utilizes various media—watercolors, oils, metallic pencils, charcoal pencils, ink and pen, and natural pigments—to breathe life into his creations. His talents transcend traditional boundaries; he's been an illustrator for educational apps on human anatomy and his scientific illustrations grace the pages of prestigious science magazines, videos, and revered scientific journals.

Notably, Paresh's scientific illustration of *Dichrostachys cineria* proudly resides in the permanent collection of Florilegium-2020, UK, Edinburgh, enriching the heritage of the Kew Gardens. His stellar representation of India in the Margaret Flockton Awards for

Scientific Botanical Art in Sydney, Australia, spanning three consecutive years from 2020 to 2022, stands as a testament to his exceptional talent and dedication.

Paresh embodies a rare synergy of scientific rigor and artistic brilliance, seamlessly blending his love for nature, meticulous research, and artistic finesse to illuminate and preserve the natural world for generations to come. He worked as an illustrator for Prathan Foundation for their monthly magazines and educational videos. Currently he is working on illustrating rare trees of India, a self-funded project, as well as endemic flora of India.

Transcribed from copy of original by Leslie Shaver in 2024.