

THE
DON BOSCO
PROVENANCE COLLECTION

A Legacy of Art, Devotion and Heritage
by Placidus D'Souza (Don Bosco)



153 ARTWORKS
ACROSS SIX THEMATIC COLLECTIONS

Collection Statement

The present collection comprises 153 hand-painted skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf artworks originating from India. The works remain together as a coherent group and are accompanied by original Don Bosco provenance documentation.

The accompanying documentation consists of a single scan containing two identical notes headed “An Indian curiosity — HAND PAINTED LEAVES” and bearing the name and title of Fr. Aurelius Maschio, S.D.B., “DON BOSCO,” Matunga, Bombay-400 019 India. The notes describe the leaves as Pipal leaves, explain that chlorophyll was removed with special acids, and state that the resulting surfaces were painted with oil colours.

For this catalogue, the artwork numbering follows the scanned artwork sequence after excluding the two-note documentation scan. The result is a continuous accession-style sequence from Artwork PL-0001 through Artwork PL-0153.

Preface

This catalogue has been prepared to preserve not only a collection of artworks, but also the knowledge, context, and documented history that give the collection its enduring identity.

The paintings documented here combine a delicate natural material with carefully applied imagery. The skeletonized structure of the peepal leaf remains visible through the painted composition, making the leaf itself an integral component of each work.

The collection is notable for its integrity as a group, its broad range of imagery, the survival of original provenance documentation, and the excellent overall condition in which the artworks have been preserved.

This publication deliberately distinguishes observation from interpretation. Where historical evidence is incomplete, the catalogue records the uncertainty rather than filling it with conjecture.

Introduction

Each artwork is recorded under a permanent catalog identifier in the form Artwork PL-0001 through Artwork PL-0153. The identifier is intended to remain stable even if future research adds titles, dates, artist attributions, or other metadata.

The principal visual record in this edition is the supplied scan set. The scans provide consistent framing and preserve the fine venation of the leaf skeletons. This catalogue therefore functions as the scan-faithful documentary baseline.

No artwork has been given an invented artist attribution or a speculative date. The medium is recorded conservatively as oil colour on a skeletonized peepal leaf, consistent with the surviving accompanying note.

Why This Collection Matters

The significance of the present collection lies in the combination of several characteristics: its integrity as a group, its documented association with Don Bosco in Matunga, its diversity of imagery, its preservation, and the systematic documentation now being established.

The collection is not presented here as a set of individually ranked masterpieces. Its value as a historical record derives from the survival of the group itself. The 153 artworks provide a substantial body through which recurring subjects, materials, and visual approaches can be studied.

The accompanying provenance note also gives the collection a documentary dimension that would otherwise be difficult to reconstruct. It identifies the material, describes its preparation in broad terms, and connects the leaves to the Don Bosco missionary context in Matunga, Bombay.

The Peepal Leaf as an Artistic Surface

The peepal, or sacred fig (*Ficus religiosa*), is distinguished by its characteristic heart-shaped leaf and long tapering tip. In skeletonized leaf art, the softer tissues of the leaf are removed so that the network of veins remains as a delicate structural framework.

The accompanying Don Bosco note states that the chlorophyll was removed with special acids. It further states that oil colours were applied over the prepared leaf to reproduce an Indian subject. This contemporary documentation is the primary evidence used here for the collection's stated technique.

The resulting artworks are unusual because the natural structure is neither merely a support nor completely hidden by the painting. The vein network remains visible and contributes texture, rhythm, and transparency to the finished composition.

Don Bosco Provenance

The surviving note bears the name and title of Fr. Aurelius Maschio, S.D.B., and gives the address “DON BOSCO,” Matunga, BOMBAY-400 019 INDIA. It describes the painted leaves as an “Indian curiosity” and records that they were accompanied by prayers and greetings from the children associated with the institution.

Independent historical sources identify Fr. Aurelius Maschio (1909–1996) as a Salesian missionary who became a major figure in the development of the Salesian work in Bombay/Mumbai. Don Bosco South Asia records his role in the development of the Matunga work and identifies him as a central figure in the Salesian Province of Mumbai.

The provenance evidence does not, by itself, establish the identity of the artists who painted the individual leaves, nor does it establish a precise production date for each object. Those questions are therefore left open in this edition.

Research Note: Fr. Aurelius Maschio, S.D.B.

Fr. Aurelius Maschio was born in Vazzola, Treviso, Italy, in 1909 and died in Mumbai in 1996. Don Bosco sources describe his long missionary career in India and his importance to the development of the Salesian presence in Bombay/Mumbai. The official Don Bosco Matunga school history lists him among the institution's rectors from 1937 to 1952, while Don Bosco South Asia identifies his wider role in the development of the Mumbai province.

The surviving leaf note is therefore historically consistent with the documented Don Bosco-Matunga context in which Maschio worked. The catalog nevertheless treats the note as collection-level provenance rather than as proof of individual artist identity or exact date.

Sources consulted: Don Bosco South Asia, "A Missionary of Vision, Charity, and Devotion: The Life of Fr Aurelius Maschio SDB" (9 September 2025); Don Bosco High School, Matunga, official history/staff record; Don Bosco's Madonna, history of the publication founded by Fr. Maschio in 1937.

Cataloguing and Imaging Methodology

This catalogue uses the supplied scanned leaf images as the primary documentary image set. The scans were standardized for presentation by removing the large surrounding scanner field while retaining the complete dark artwork panel and its natural margins.

The two-note provenance scan is retained as supporting documentation and is not included in the artwork count. No artwork has been duplicated to compensate for the two notes.

Colour has not been individually manipulated in this edition. This is deliberate: the present PDF establishes a stable scan-faithful baseline. A later, separate colour-matched derivative can use the photographed images as the visual reference without altering the archival scan masters.

The resulting illustrated catalogue places two artworks on each landscape page, with the permanent catalog identifier printed beneath each image.

Original Accompanying Documentation

An Indian curiosity
HAND PAINTED LEAVES

This leaf called "Pipal", belongs to the rubber tree family.

The chlorophyll has been removed with special acids, and over it the painter has been able to reproduce-with oil colours-an Indian subject.

The painter assures me these oil colours will remain fresh for many years.

I send you some painted leaves just as an "Indian curiosity" without any special value. They are accompanied by the fervent prayers and the fondest kisses of our orphans.

With feelings of the deepest gratitude, I remain,

Yours gratefully,
Fr. Aurelius Maschio, S.D.B.
"DON BOSCO"
Matunga, BOMBAY-400 019 INDIA

An Indian curiosity
HAND PAINTED LEAVES

This leaf called "Pipal", belongs to the rubber tree family.

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With feelings of the deepest gratitude, I remain,

Yours gratefully,
Fr. Aurelius Maschio, S.D.B.
"DON BOSCO"
Matunga, BOMBAY-400 019 INDIA

Illustrated Catalogue

The following 153 artworks are presented in a thematic arrangement.

Each identifier is permanent for this edition and is intended to remain the primary reference number for future additions of descriptive or historical metadata.

The artworks are grouped by subject to make the collection easier to study and to show relationships among recurring themes.
The thematic order does not alter the permanent PL reference numbers.

Artwork PL-0001 — Artwork PL-0153

I. Bird Studies

21 artworks • thematic section



Artwork PL-0015

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0024

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0025

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0043

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0045

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0046

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0048

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0049

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0050

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0066

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



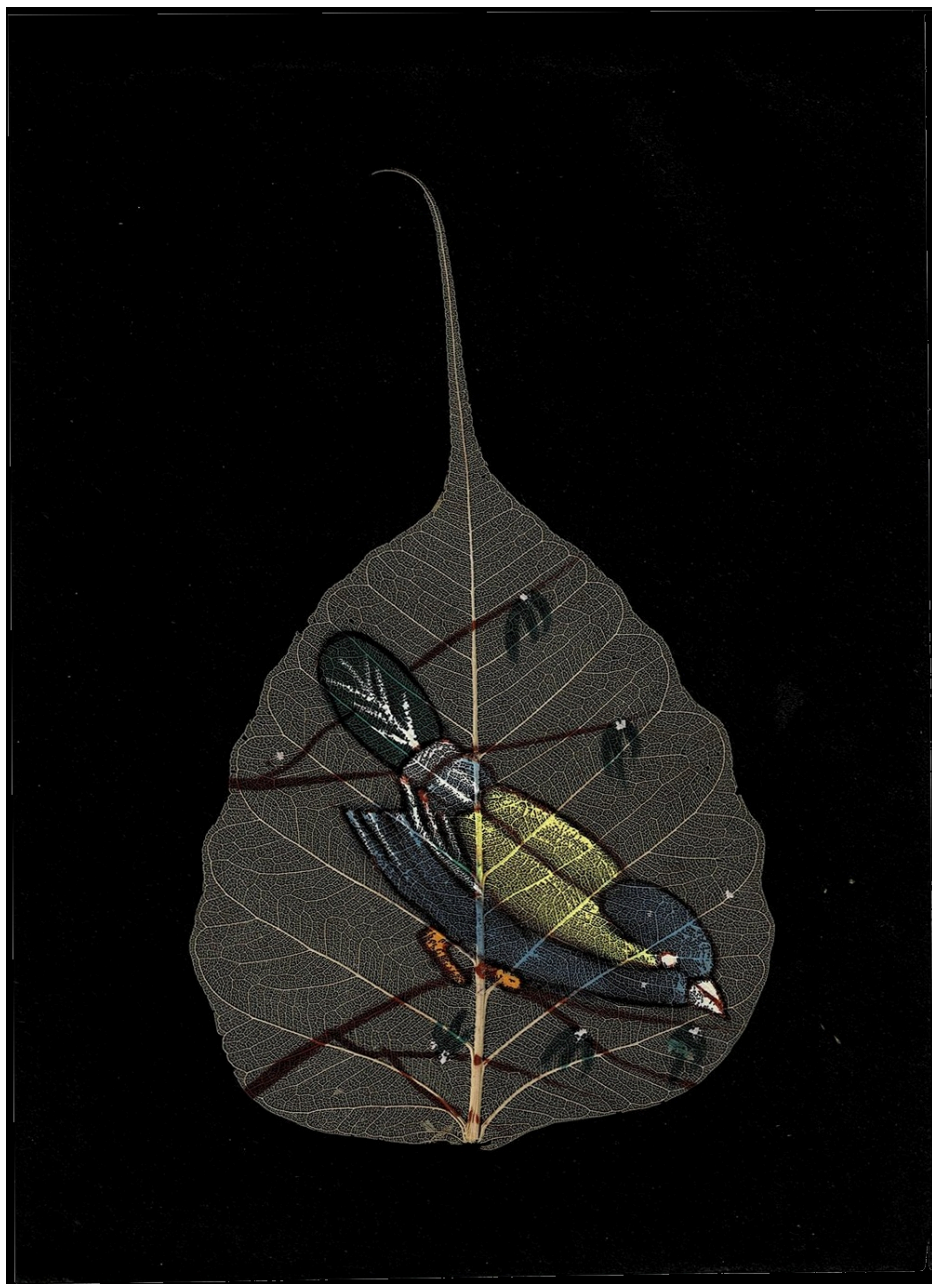
Artwork PL-0072

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0074

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



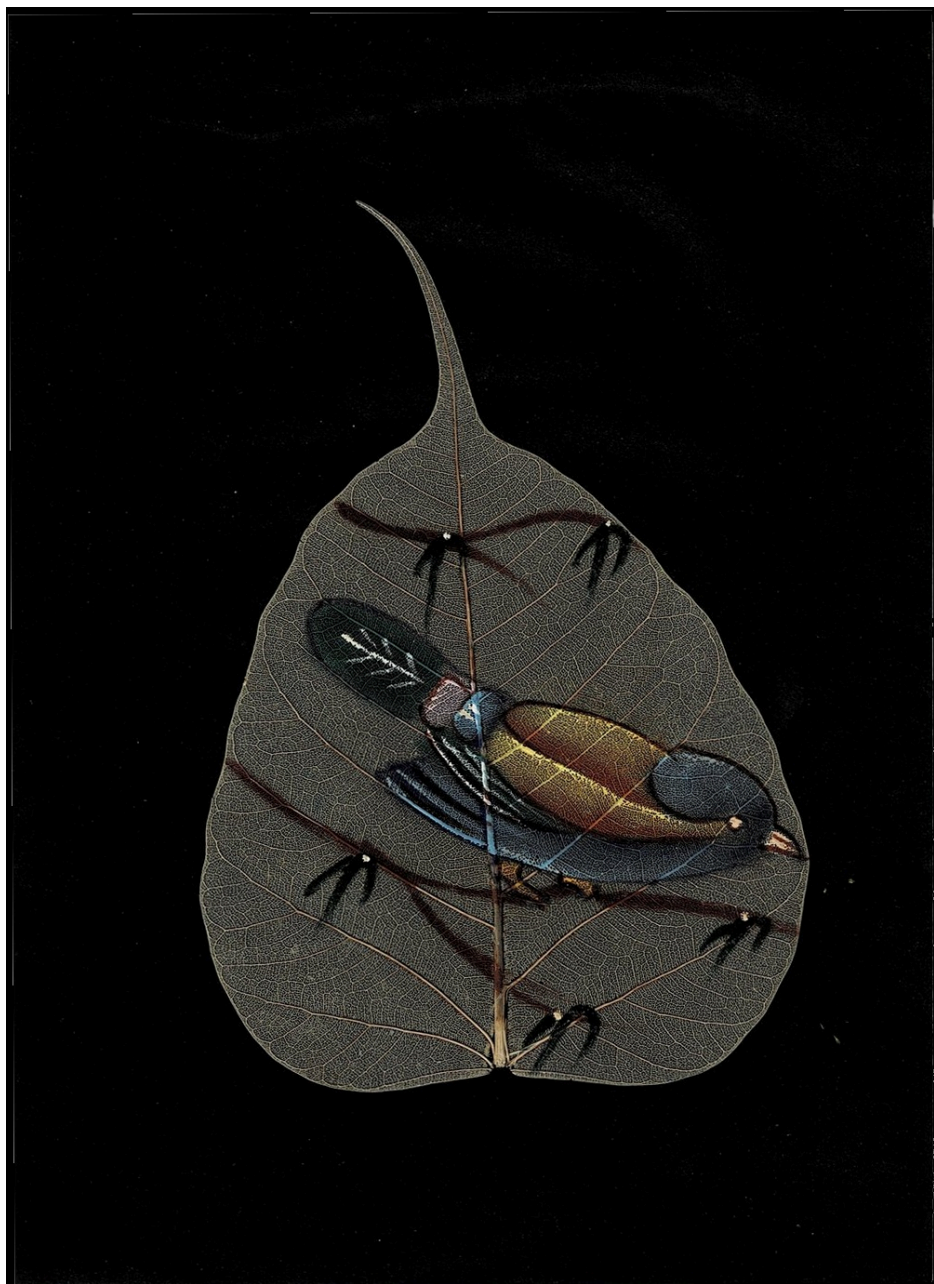
Artwork PL-0079

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0080

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0129

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0131

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0132

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0136

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0137

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0138

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0139

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf

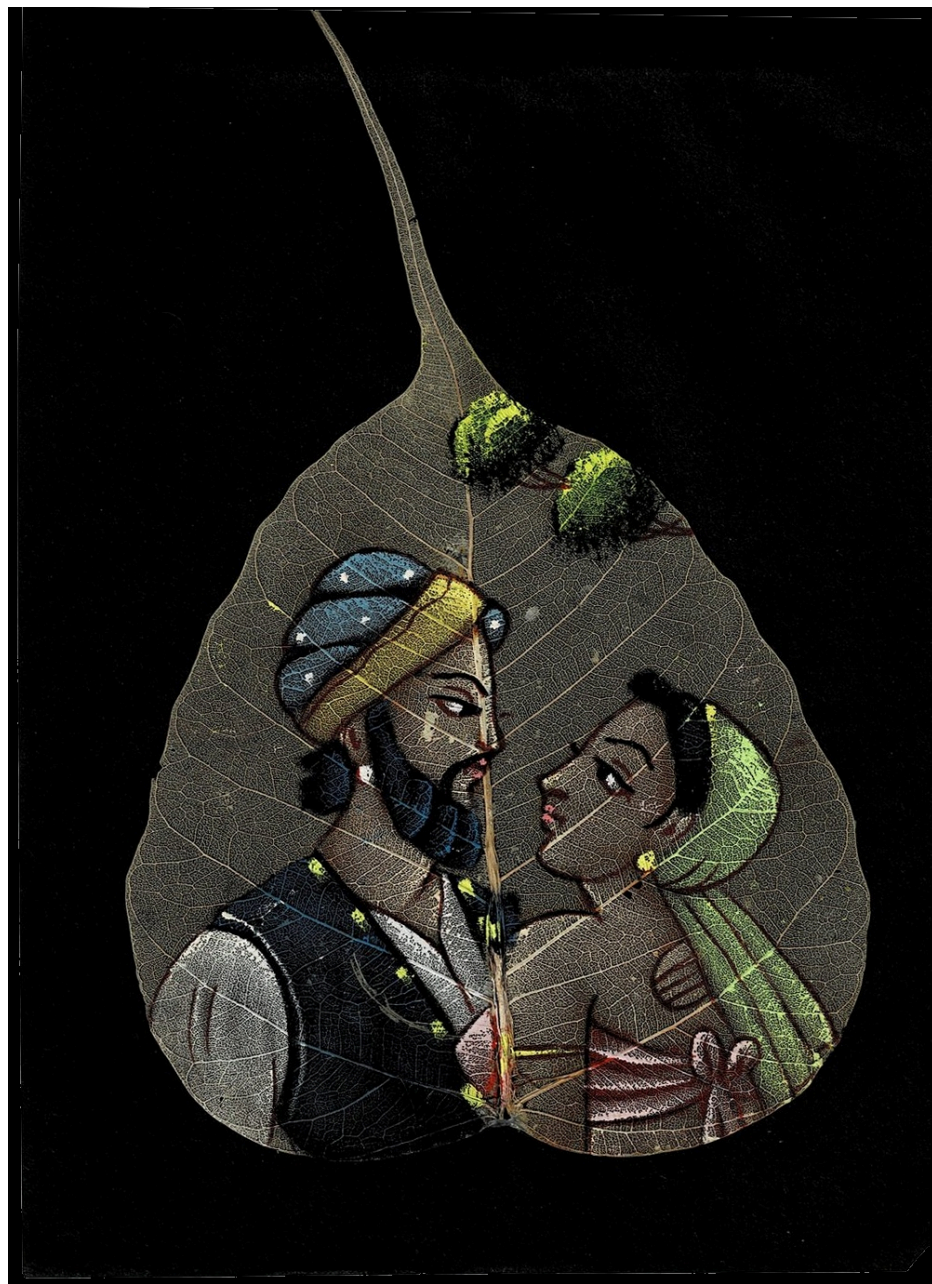
II. Indian Village Life & Cultural Scenes

52 artworks • thematic section



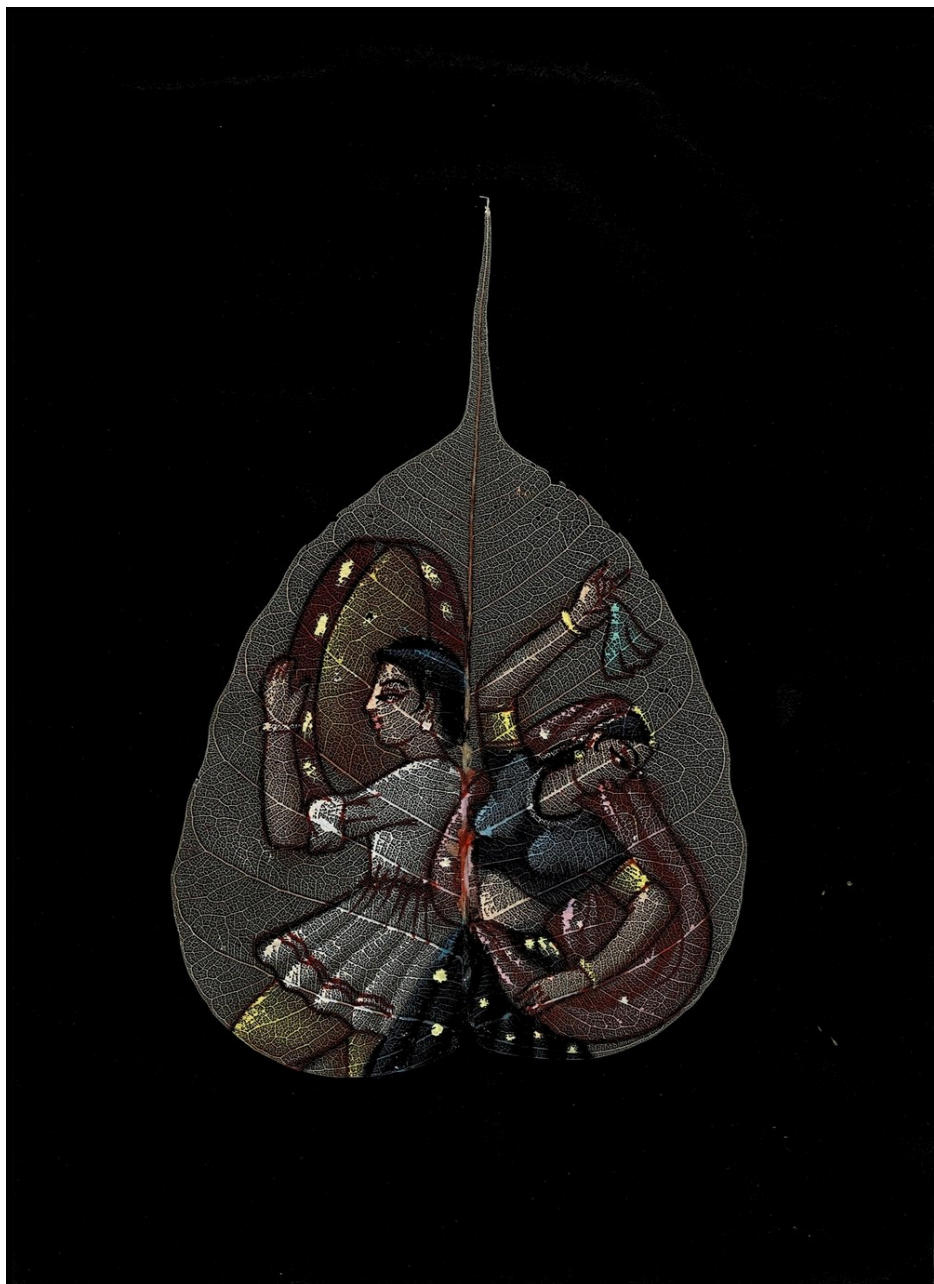
Artwork PL-0002

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0005

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0007

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (Ficus religiosa) leaf



Artwork PL-0008

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (Ficus religiosa) leaf



Artwork PL-0010

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (Ficus religiosa) leaf



Artwork PL-0011

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (Ficus religiosa) leaf



Artwork PL-0012

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0013

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0014

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0016

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0019

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0020

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0023

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0044

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0047

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0052

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0053

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0056

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



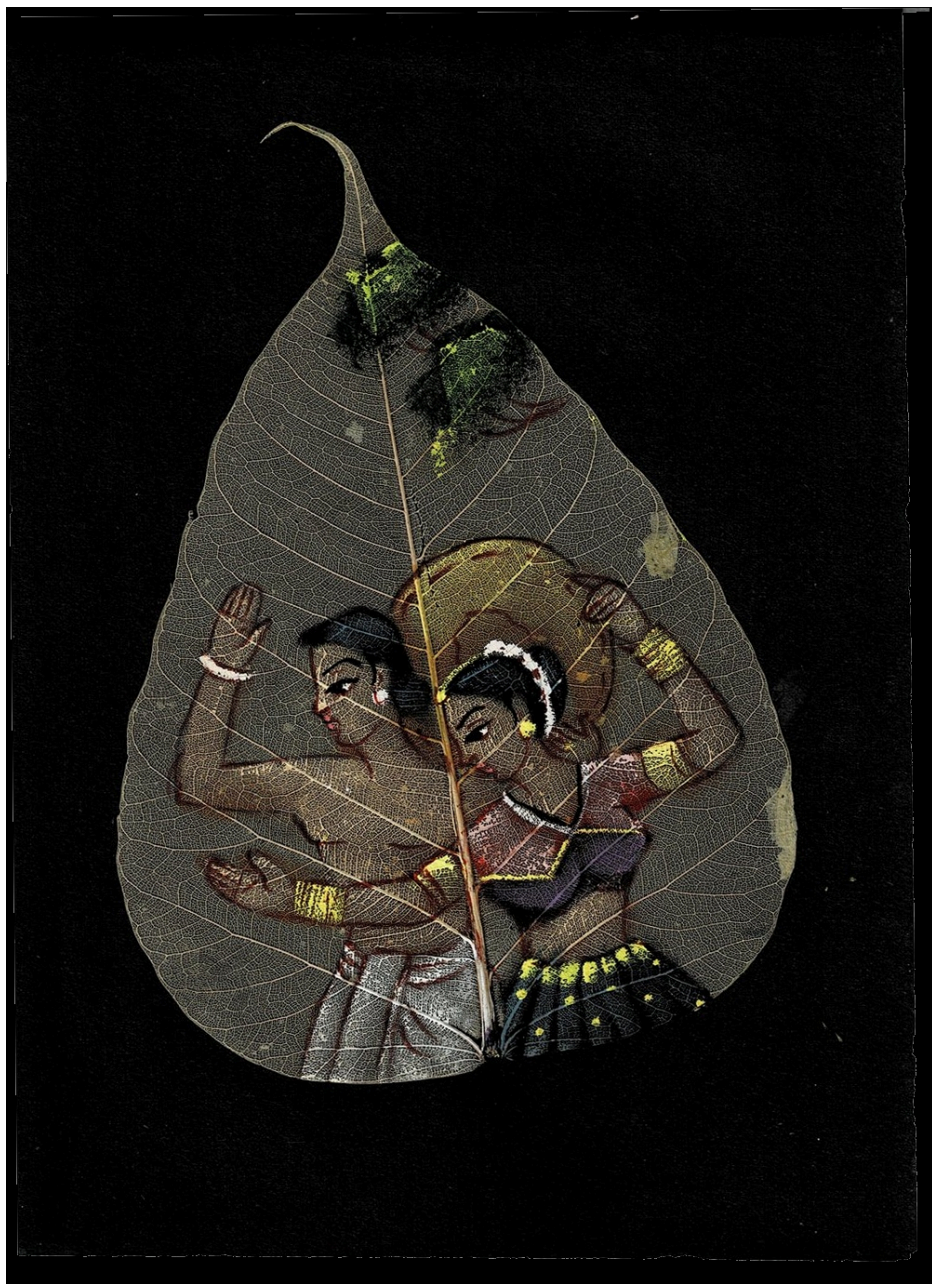
Artwork PL-0057

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (Ficus religiosa) leaf



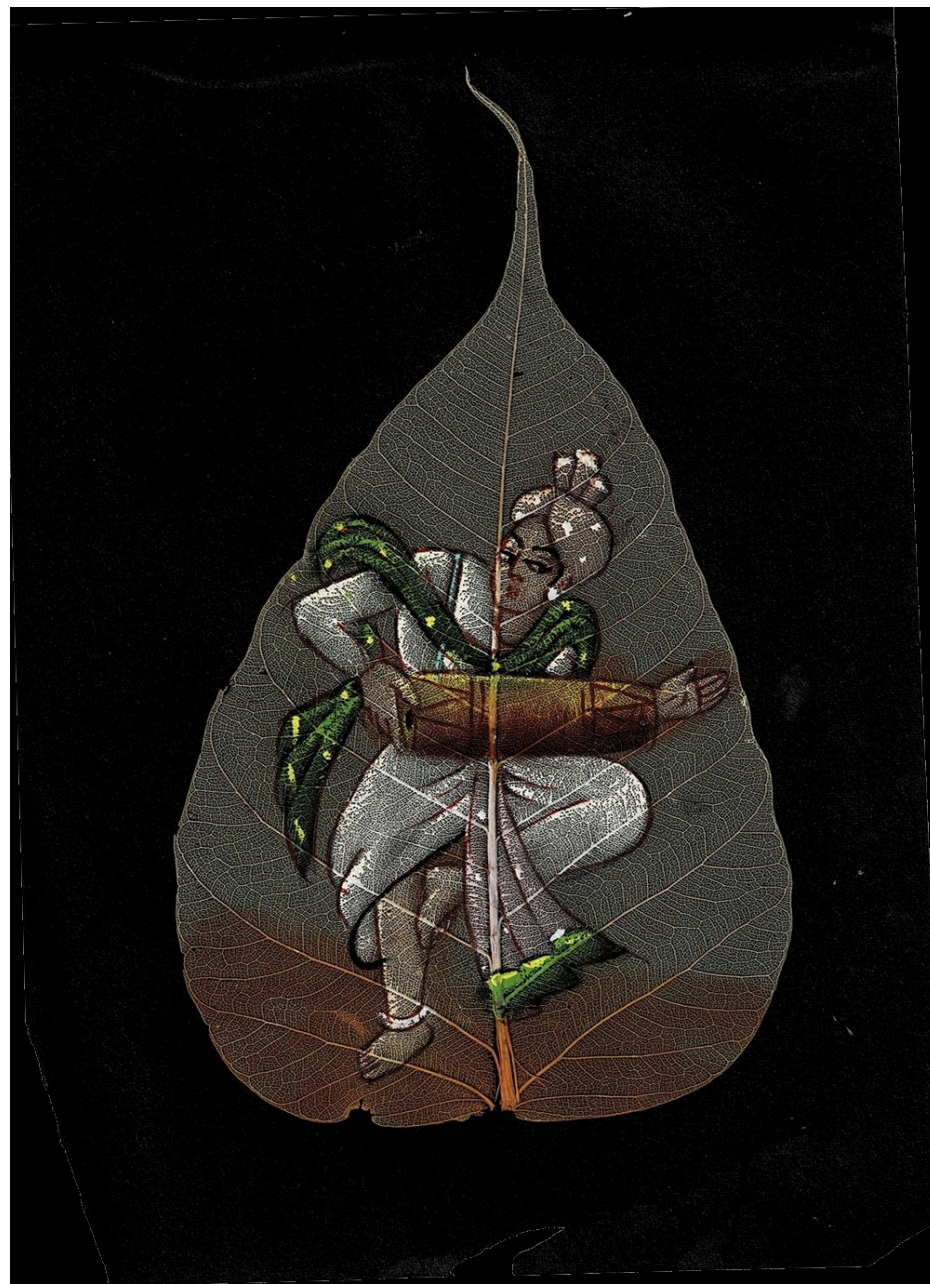
Artwork PL-0058

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (Ficus religiosa) leaf



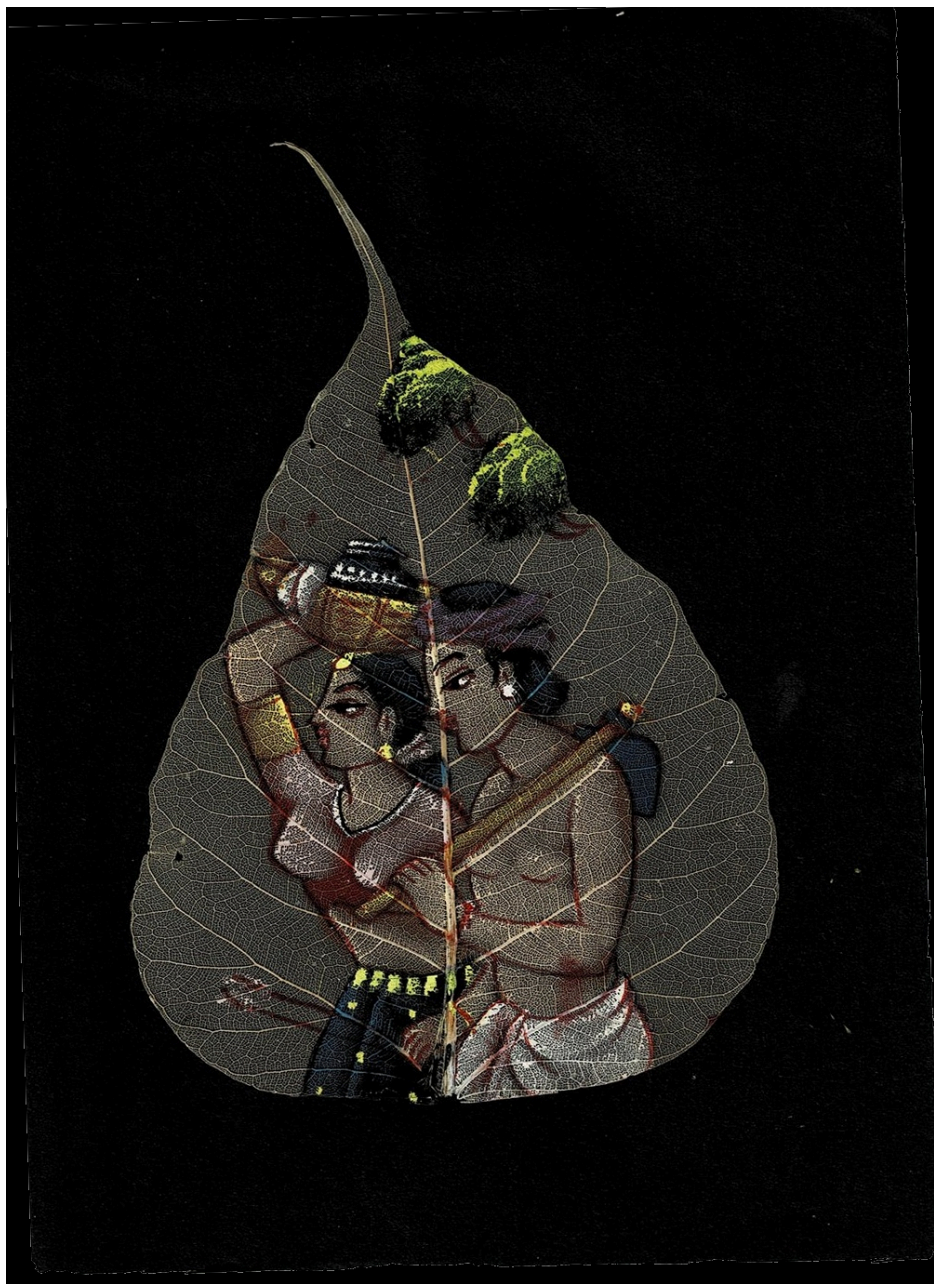
Artwork PL-0059

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (Ficus religiosa) leaf



Artwork PL-0060

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (Ficus religiosa) leaf



Artwork PL-0061

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



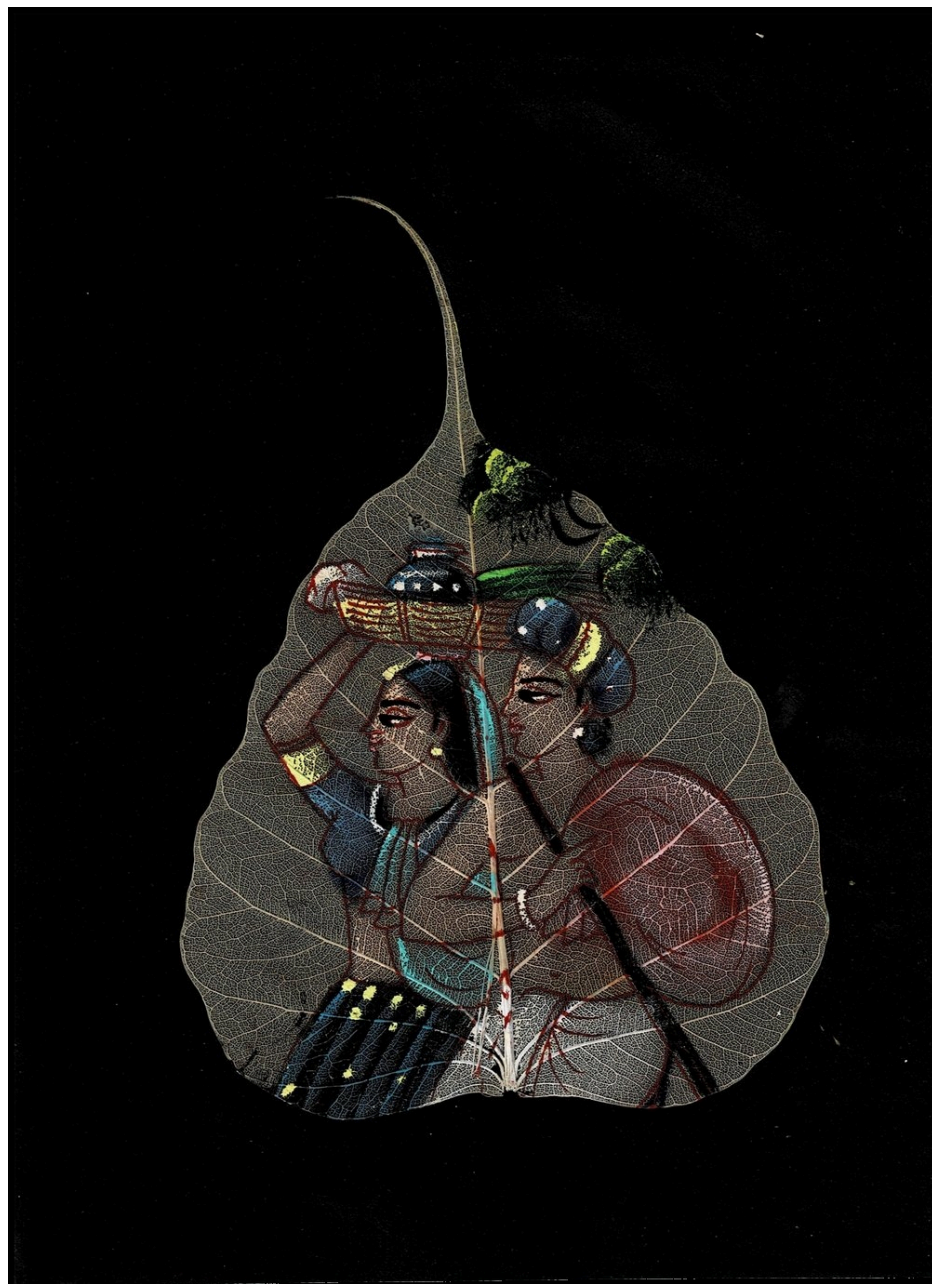
Artwork PL-0064

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0069

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0070

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



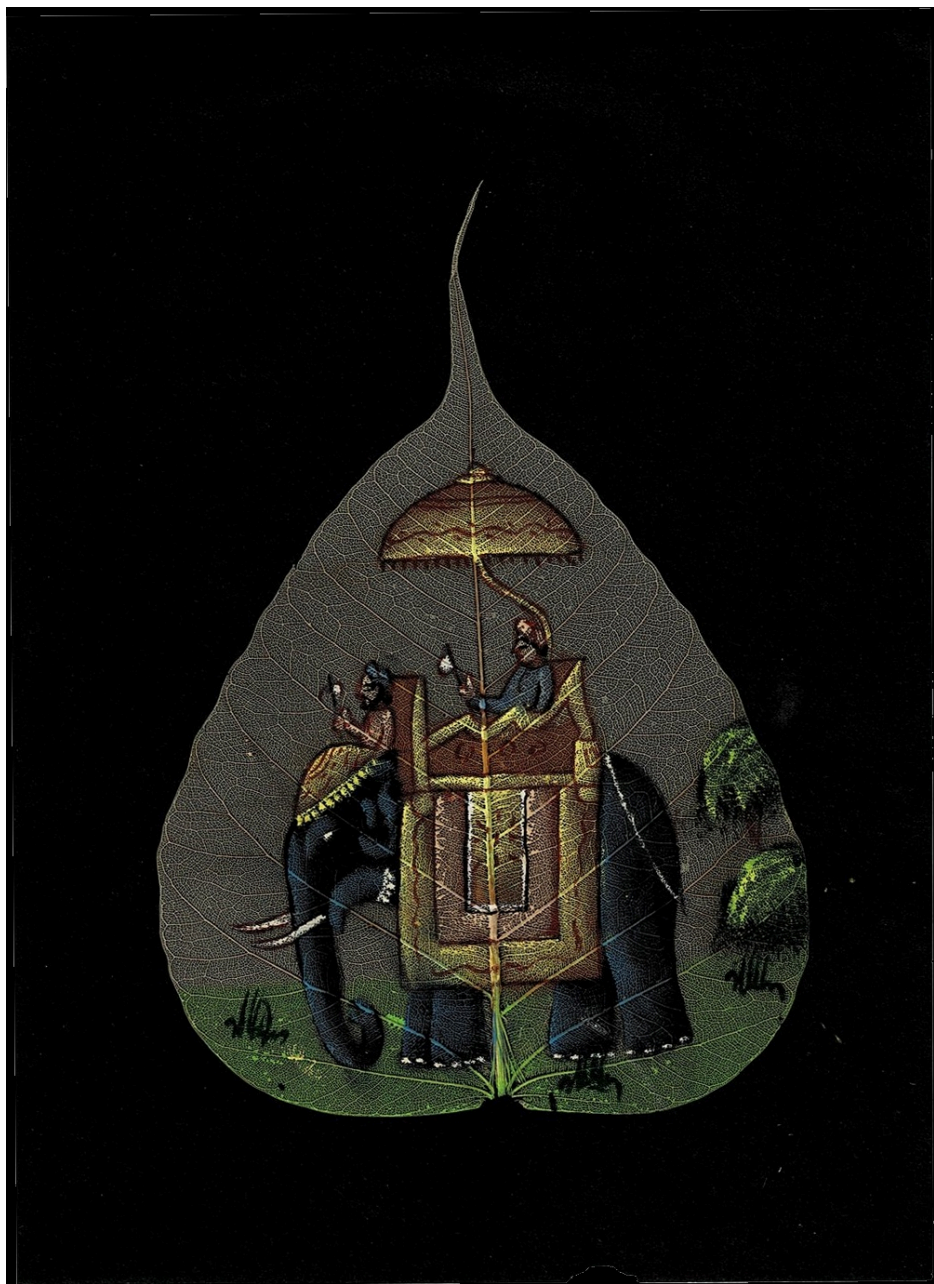
Artwork PL-0071

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0073

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0075

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0078

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0082

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



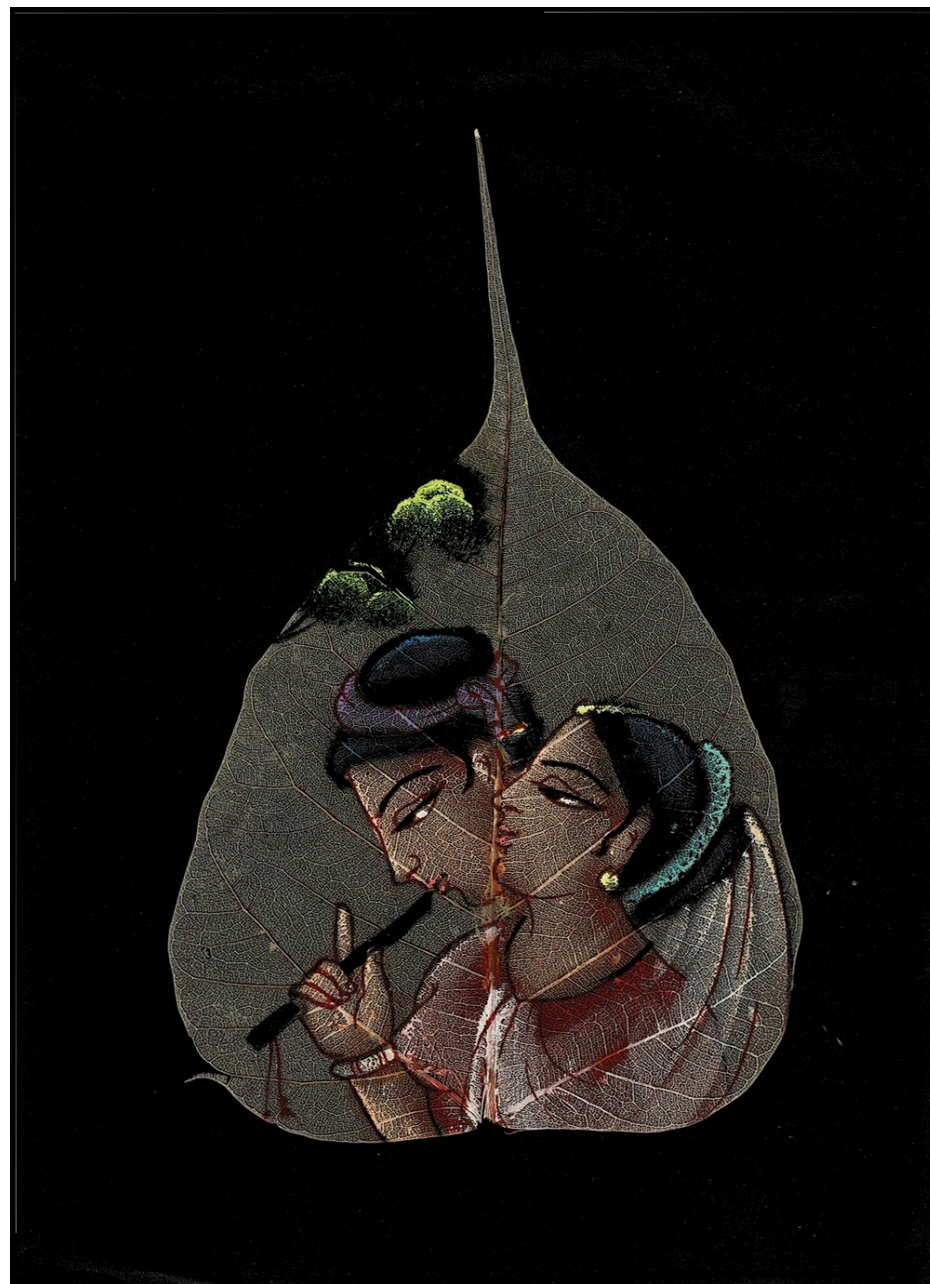
Artwork PL-0084

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0086

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0087

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



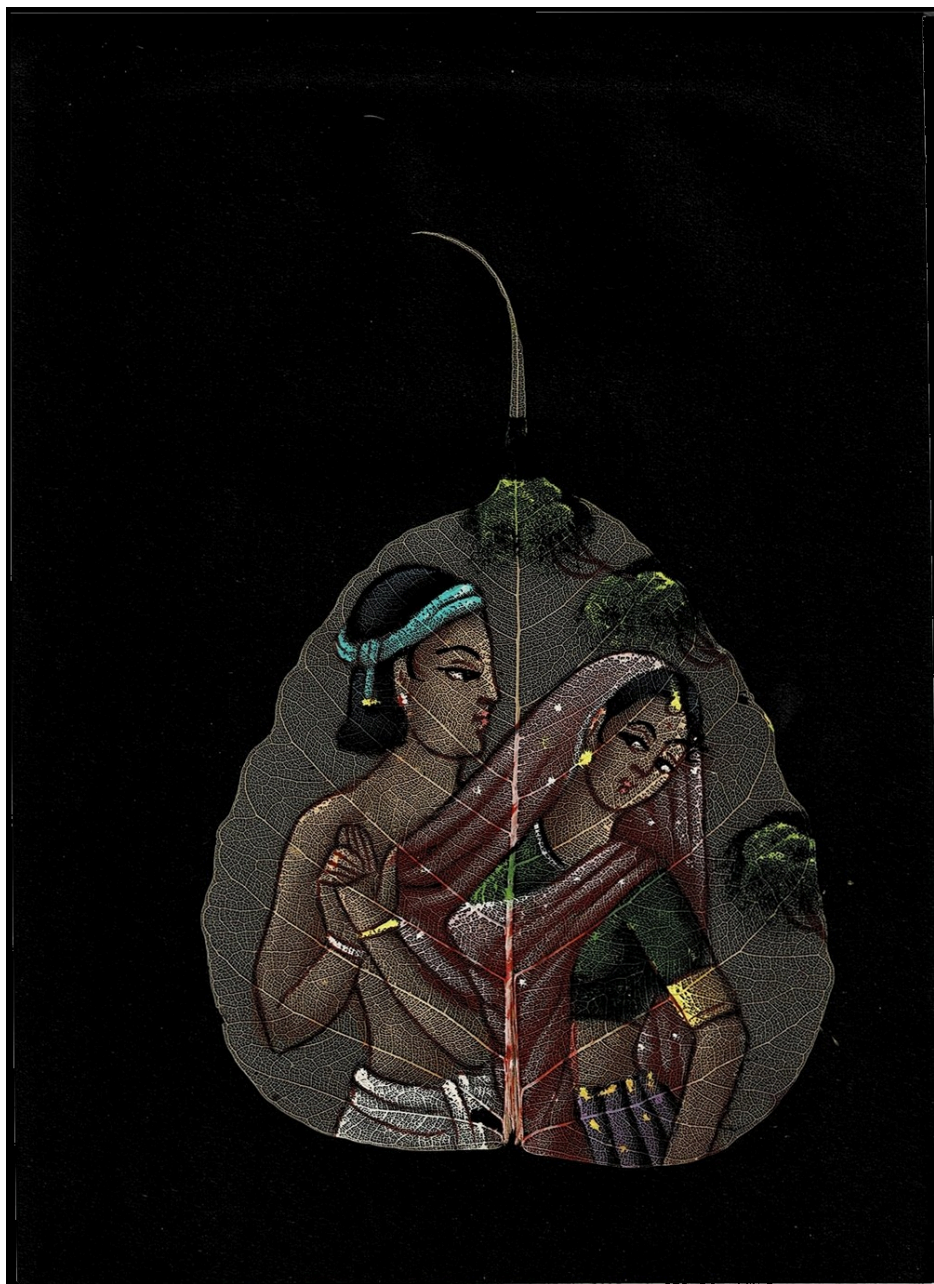
Artwork PL-0096

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0097

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0098

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0099

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



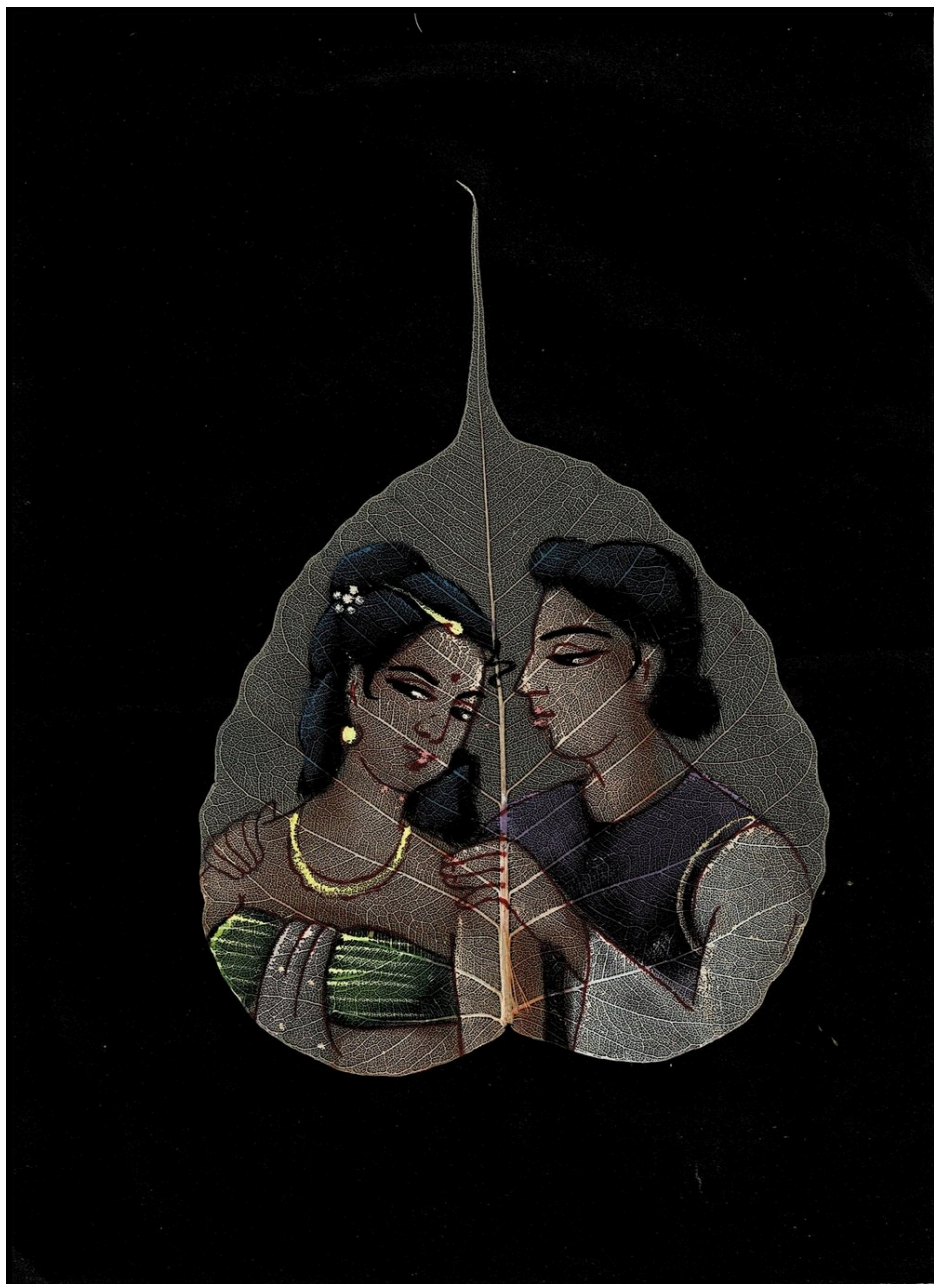
Artwork PL-0100

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (Ficus religiosa) leaf



Artwork PL-0101

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (Ficus religiosa) leaf



Artwork PL-0102

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (Ficus religiosa) leaf



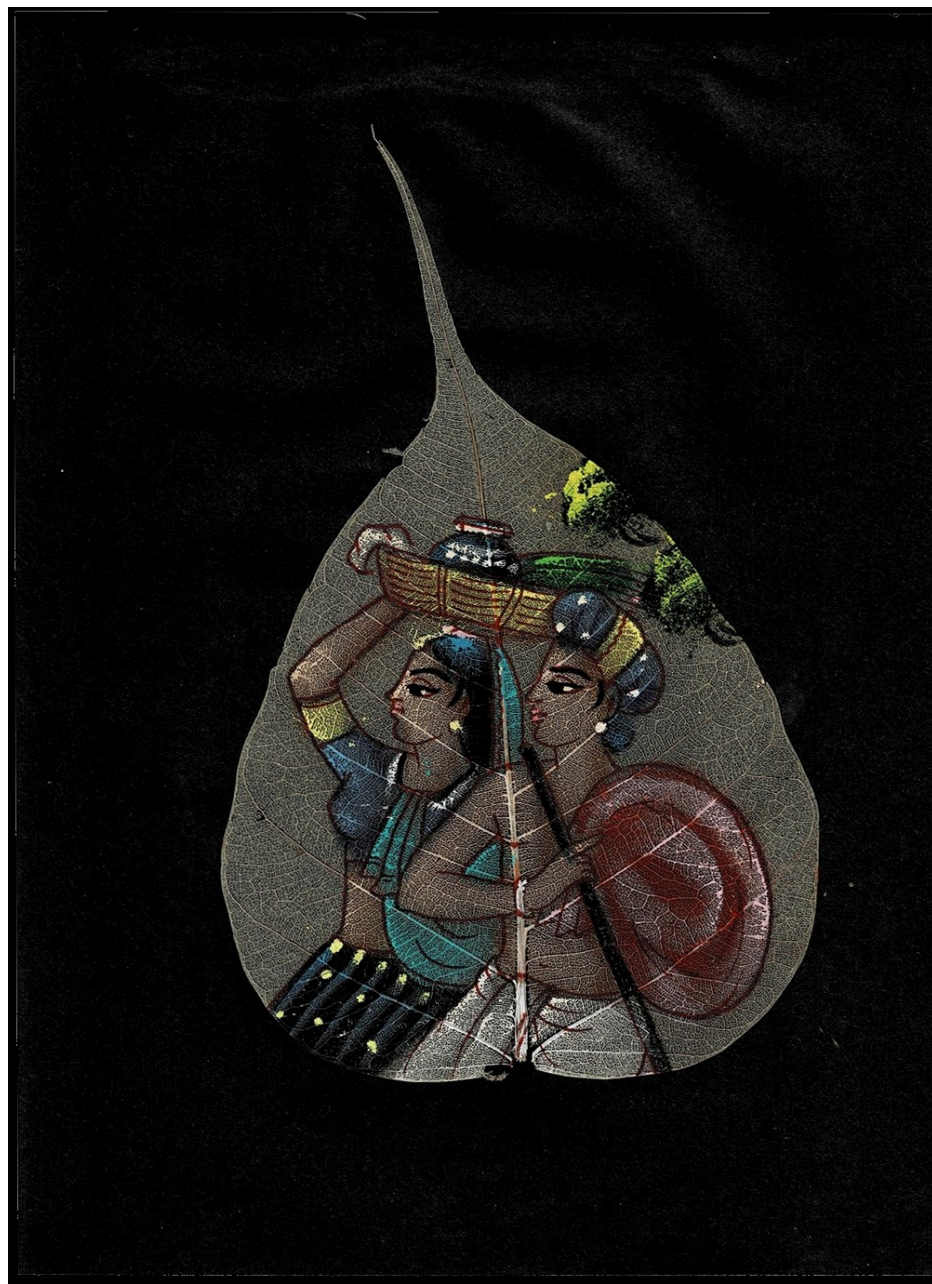
Artwork PL-0103

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (Ficus religiosa) leaf



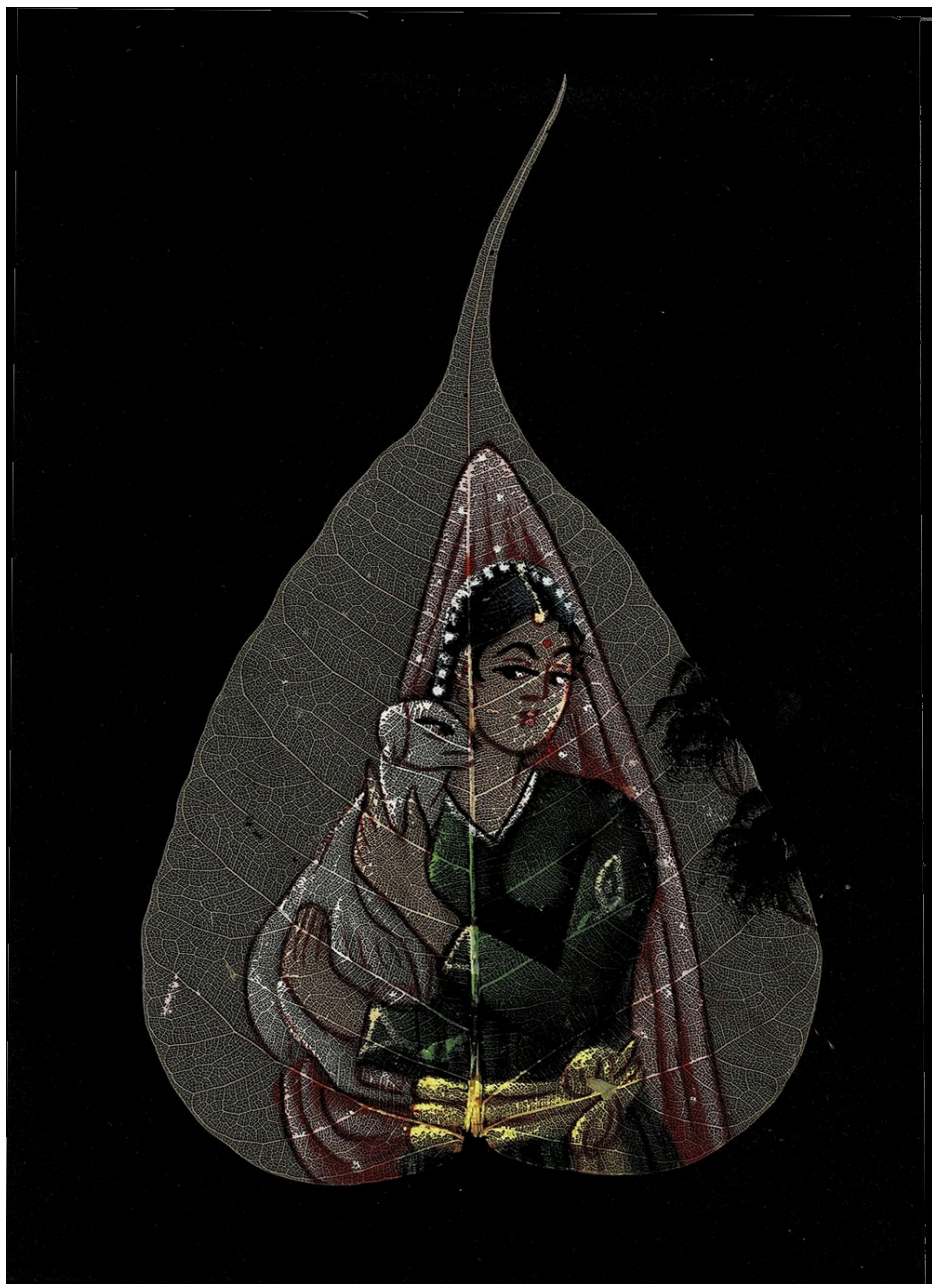
Artwork PL-0104

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0105

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0106

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0107

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0108

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (Ficus religiosa) leaf



Artwork PL-0109

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (Ficus religiosa) leaf



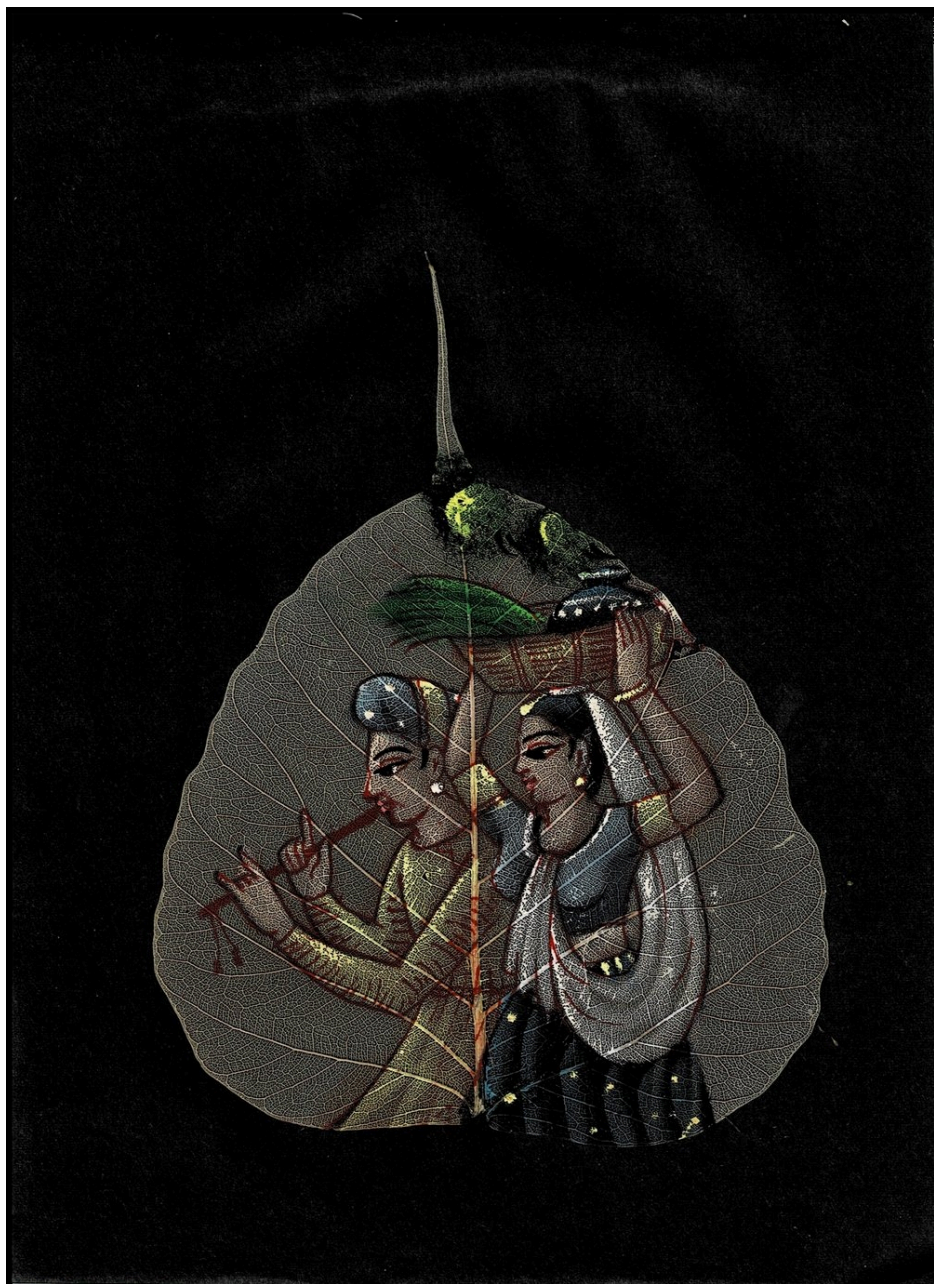
Artwork PL-0110

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0111

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0112

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf

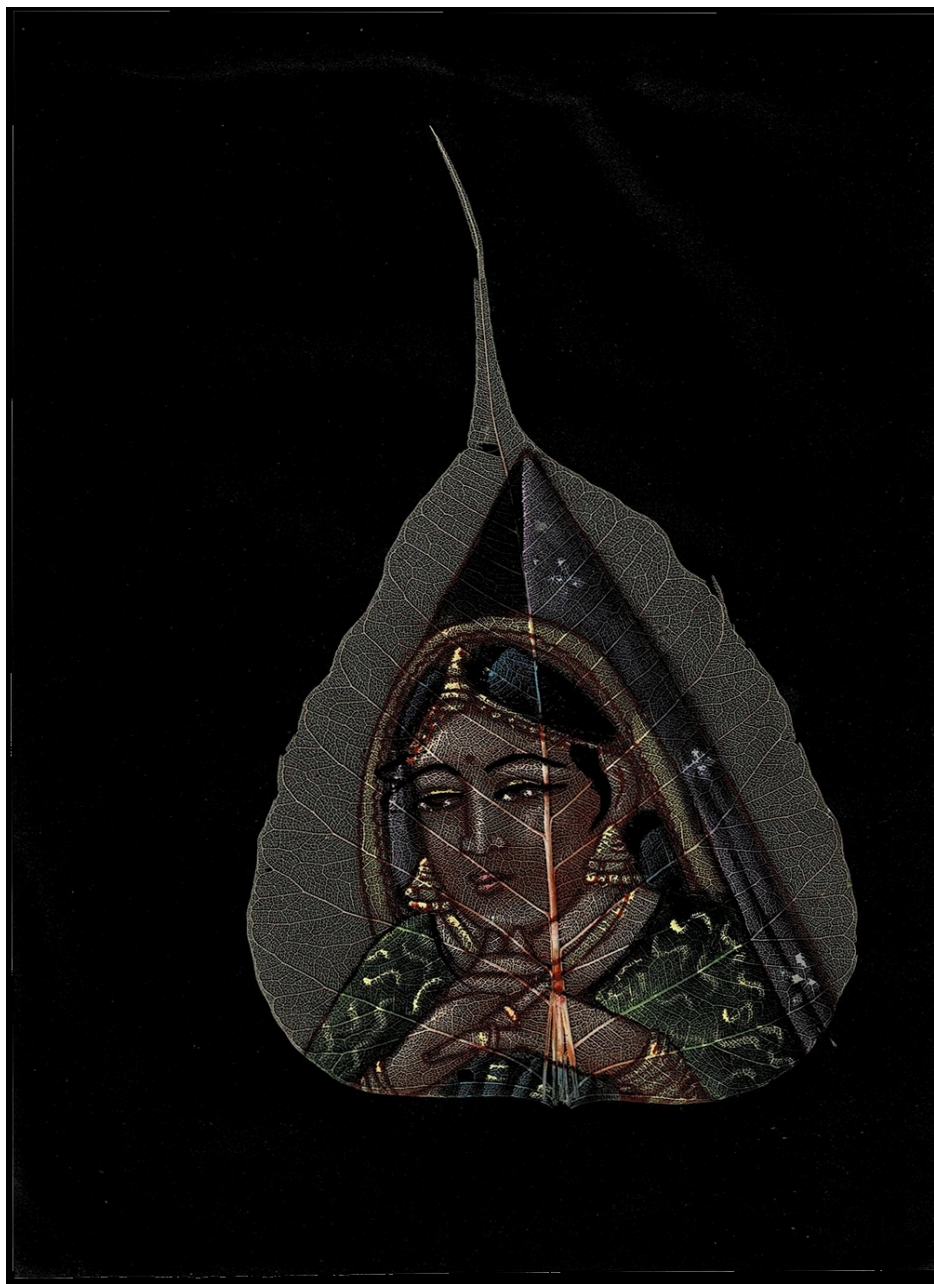


Artwork PL-0115

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf

III. Religious & Devotional Subjects

9 artworks • thematic section



Artwork PL-0004

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0009

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0028

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



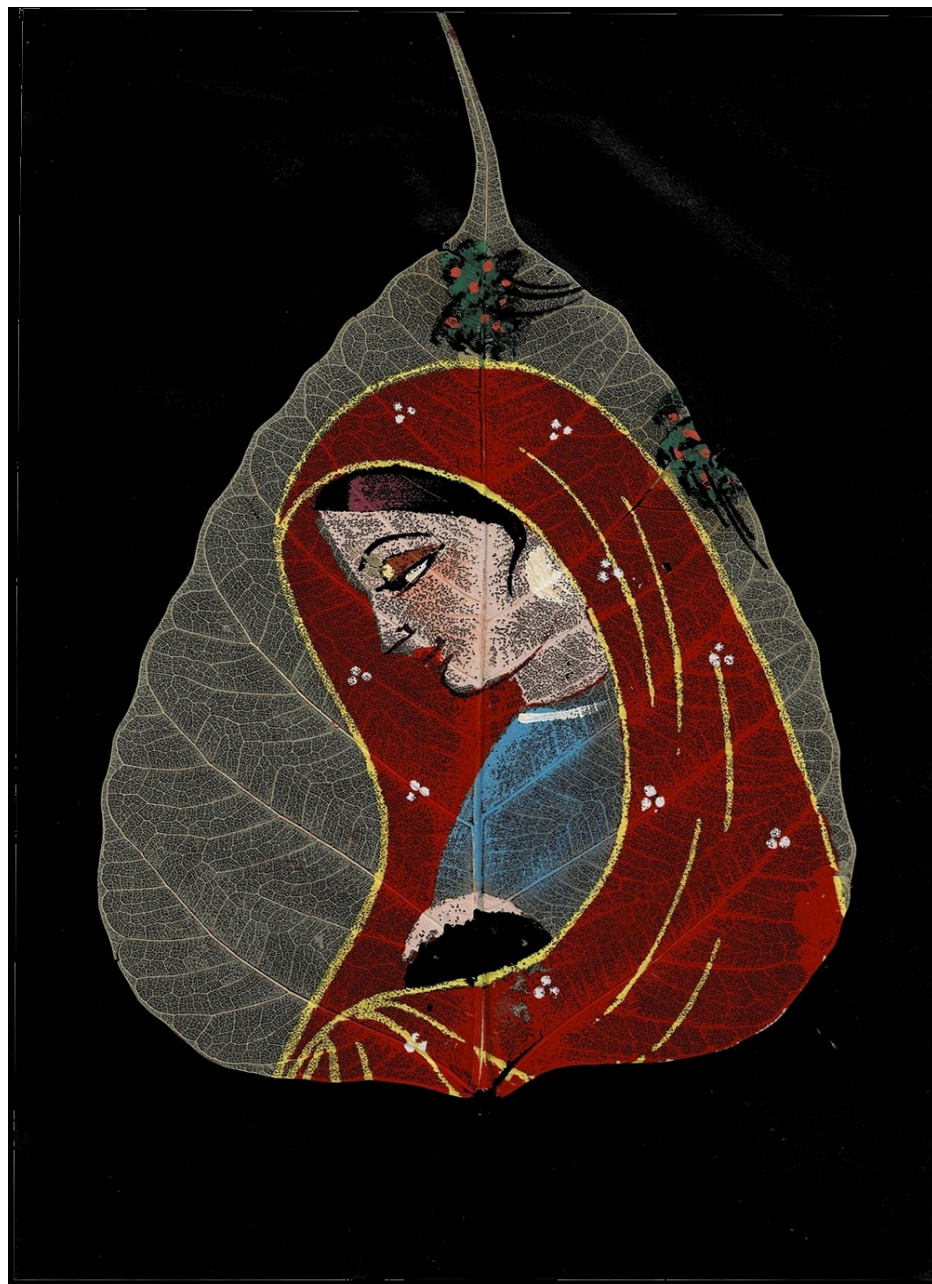
Artwork PL-0030

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0083

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



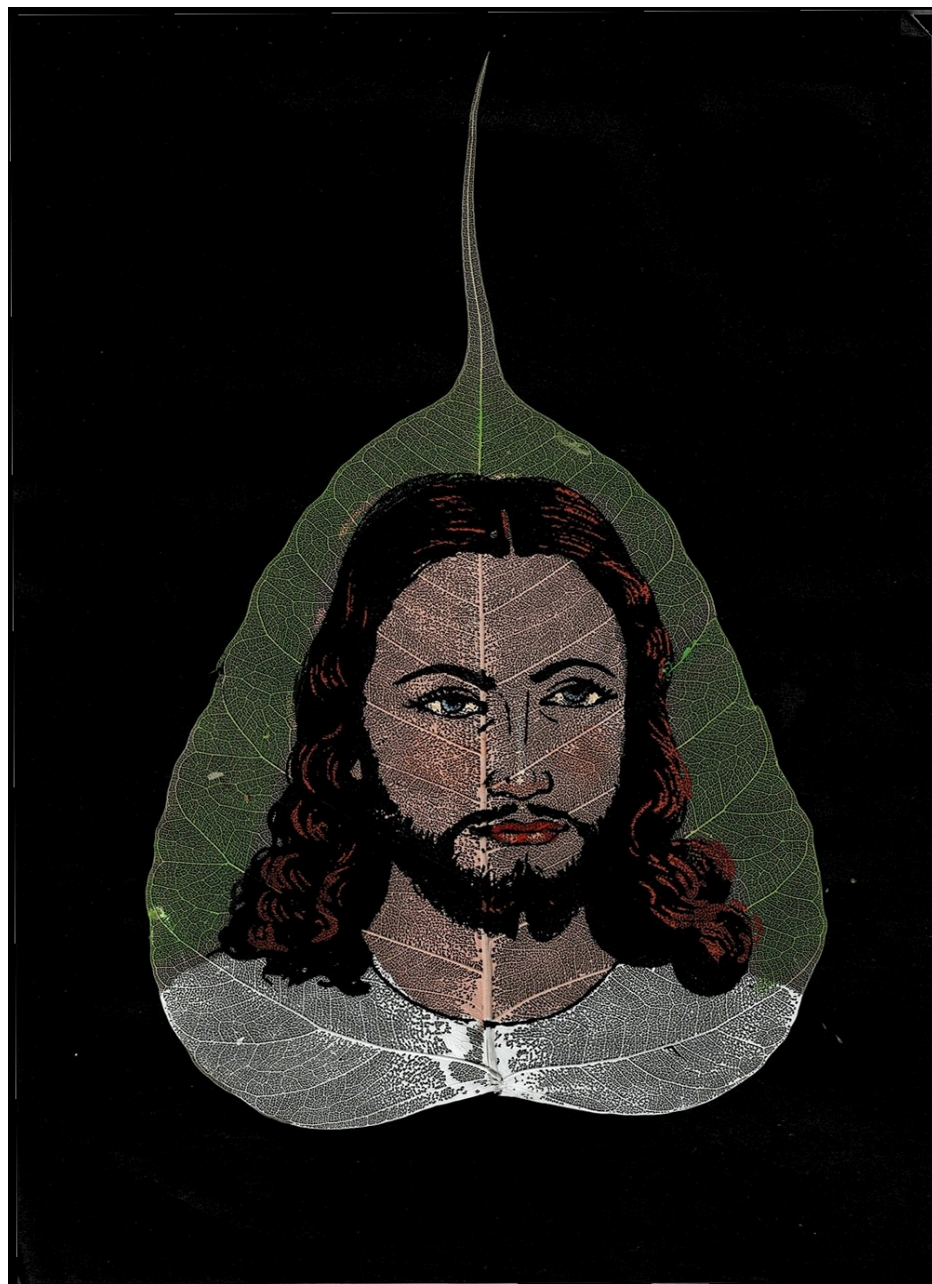
Artwork PL-0133

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



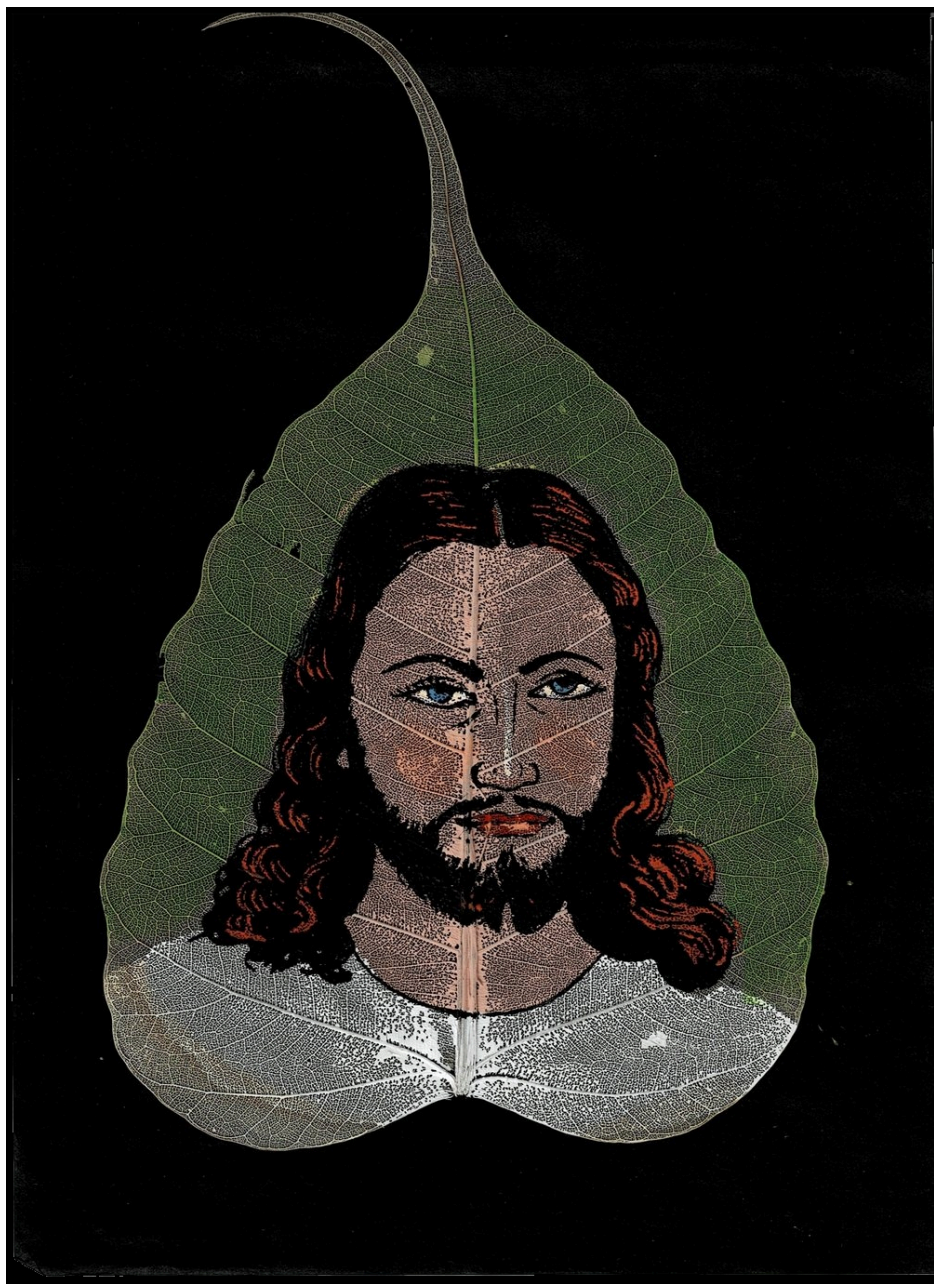
Artwork PL-0134

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0135

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf

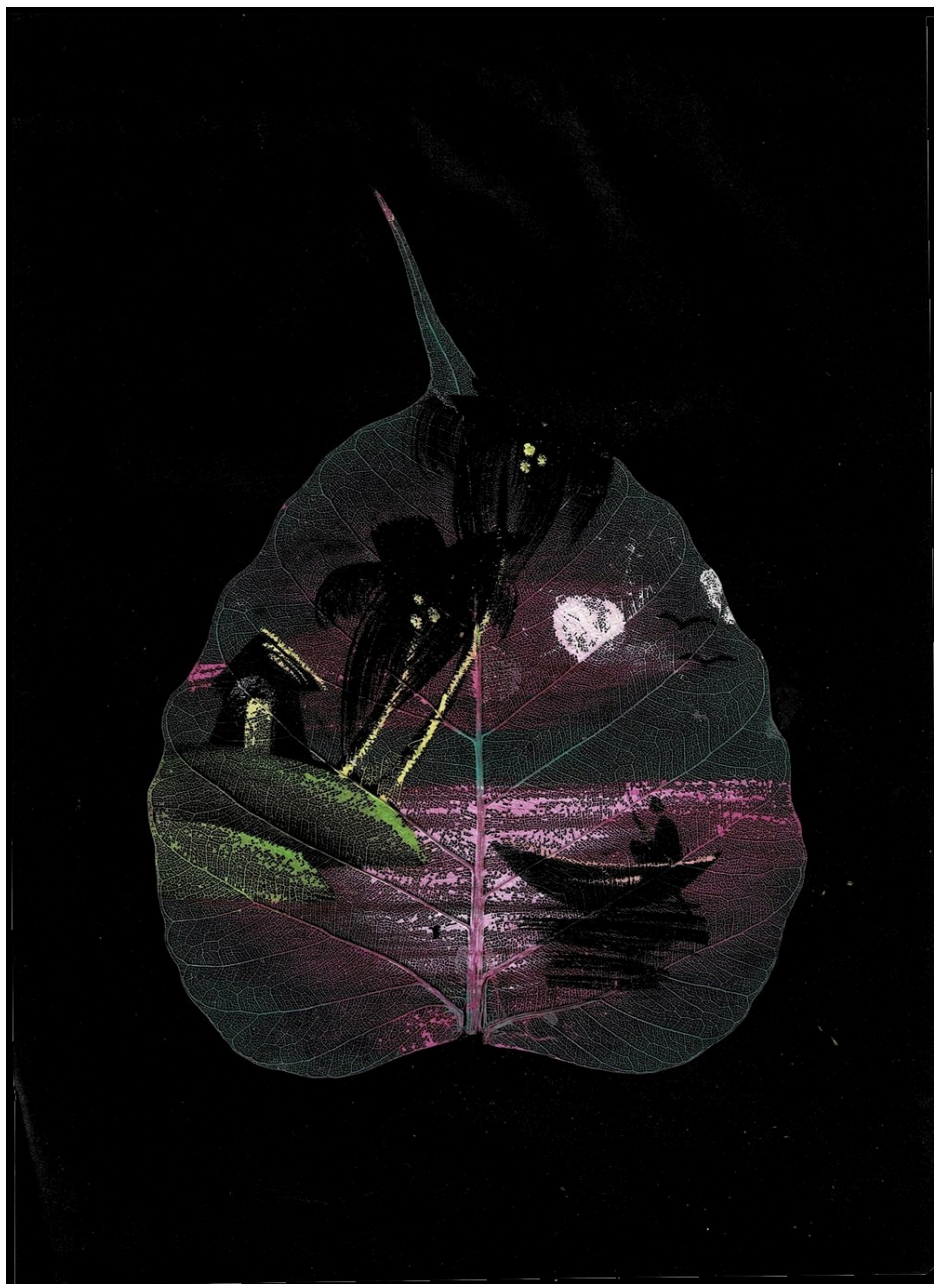


Artwork PL-0140

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf

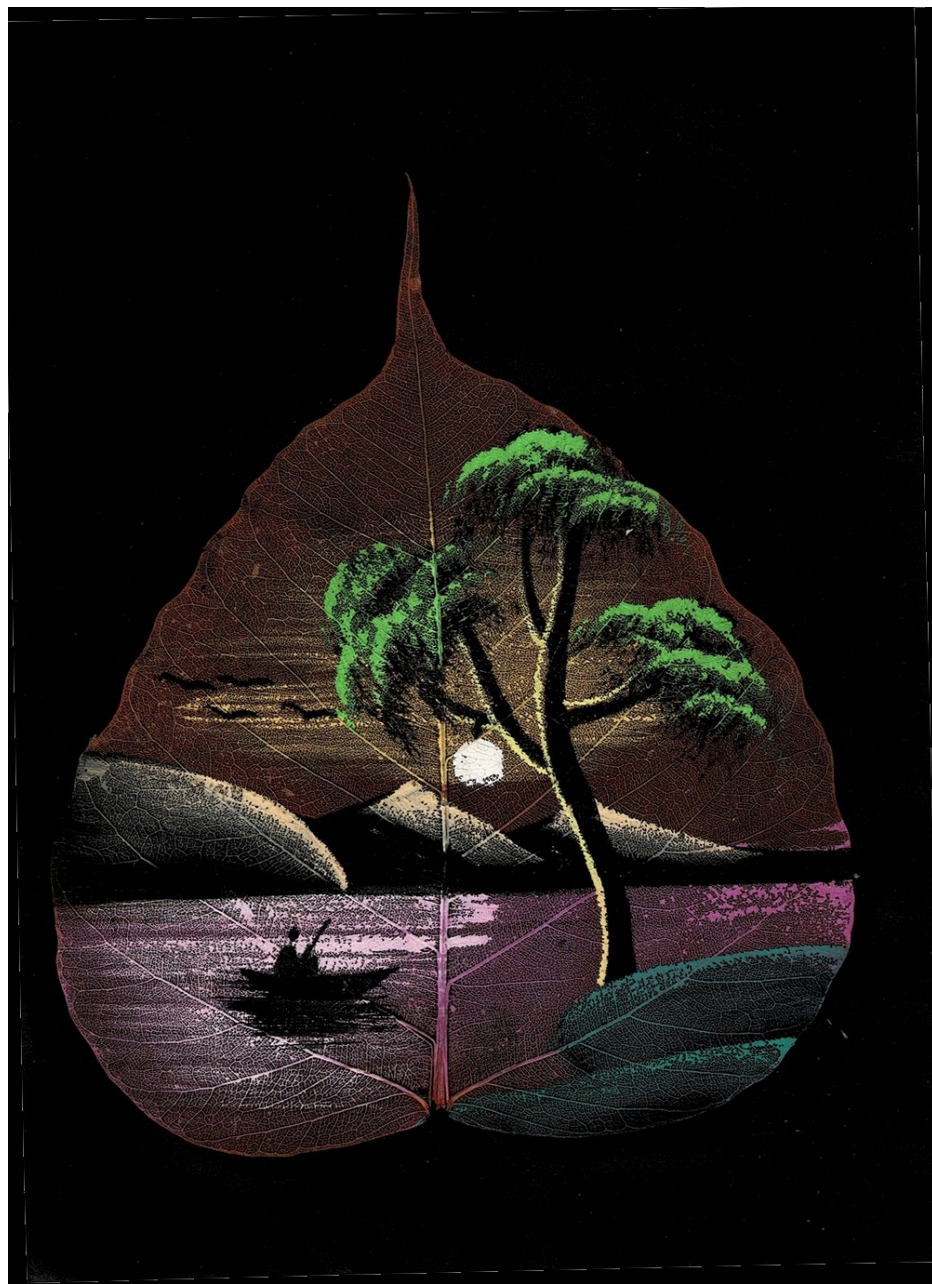
IV. Landscape Studies

61 artworks • thematic section



Artwork PL-0001

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0017

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



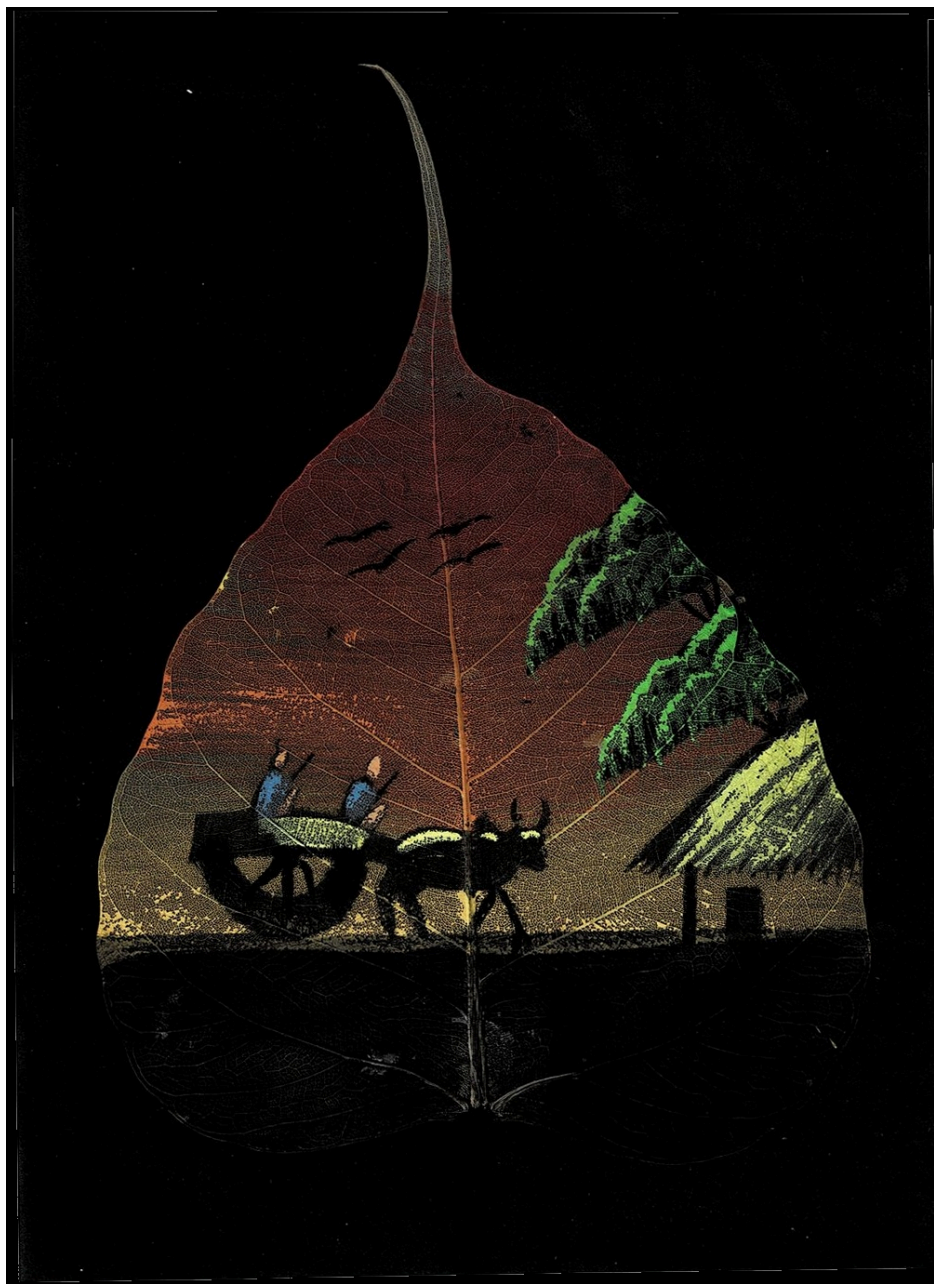
Artwork PL-0018

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



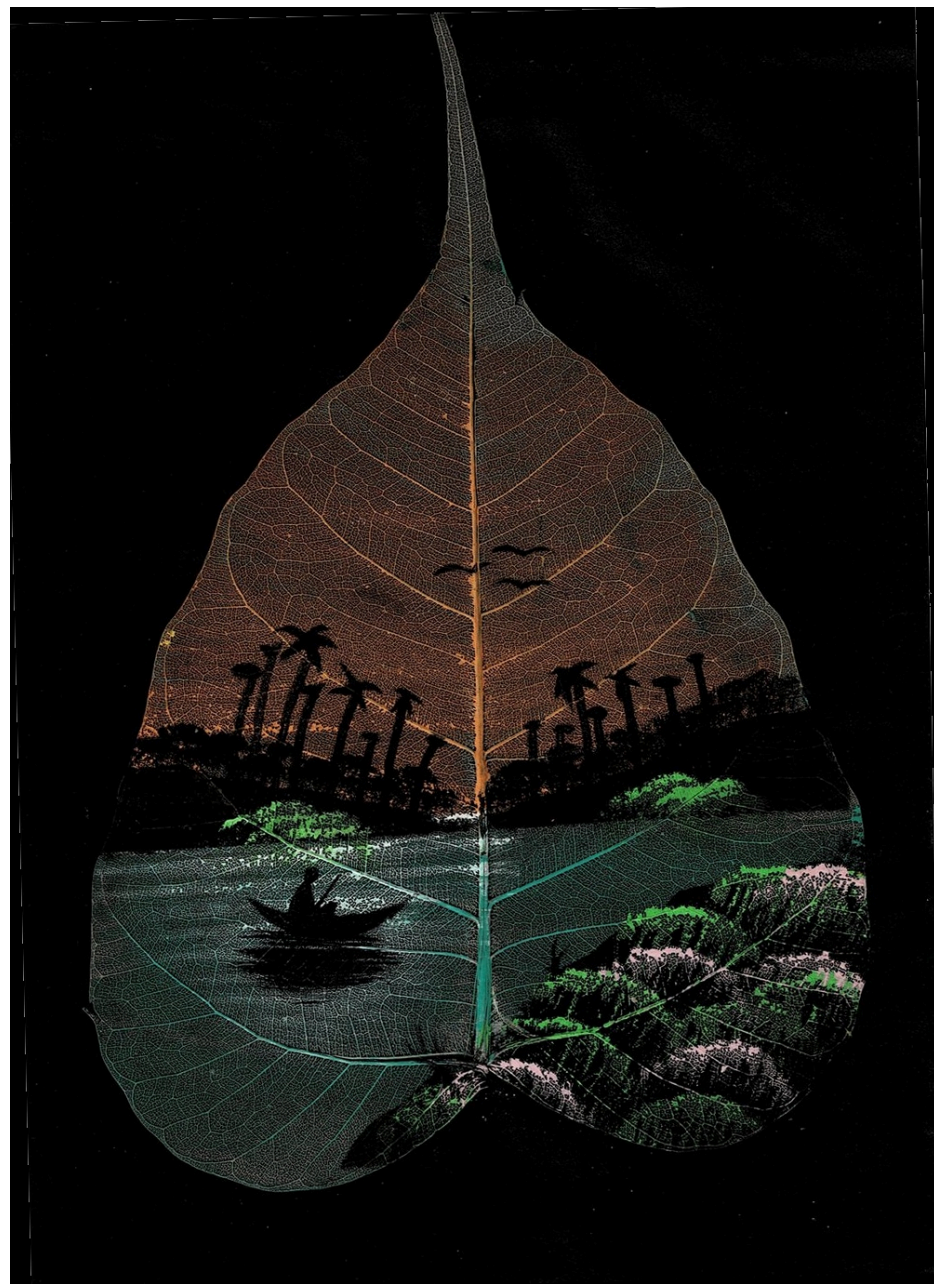
Artwork PL-0021

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0022

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



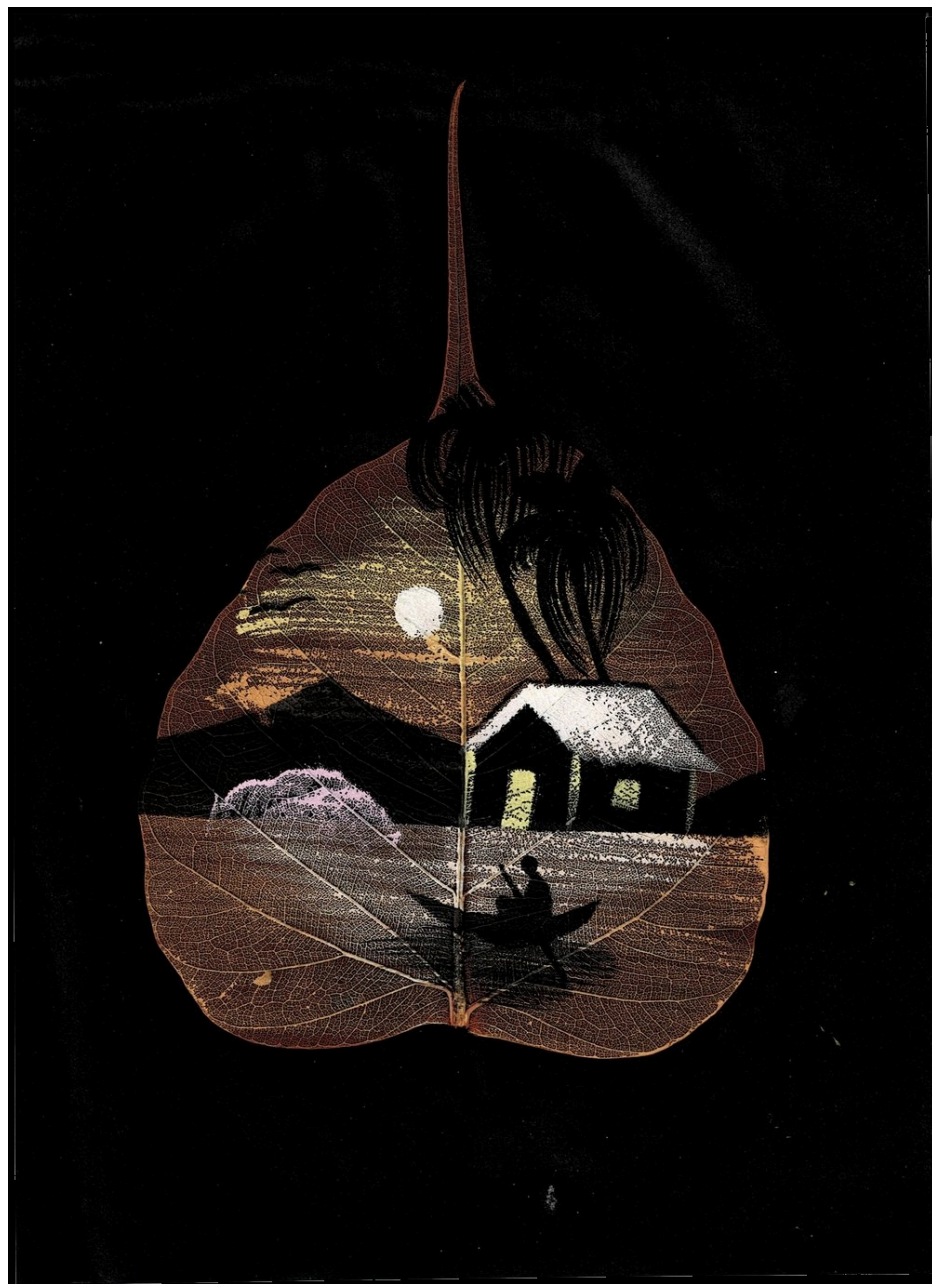
Artwork PL-0026

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



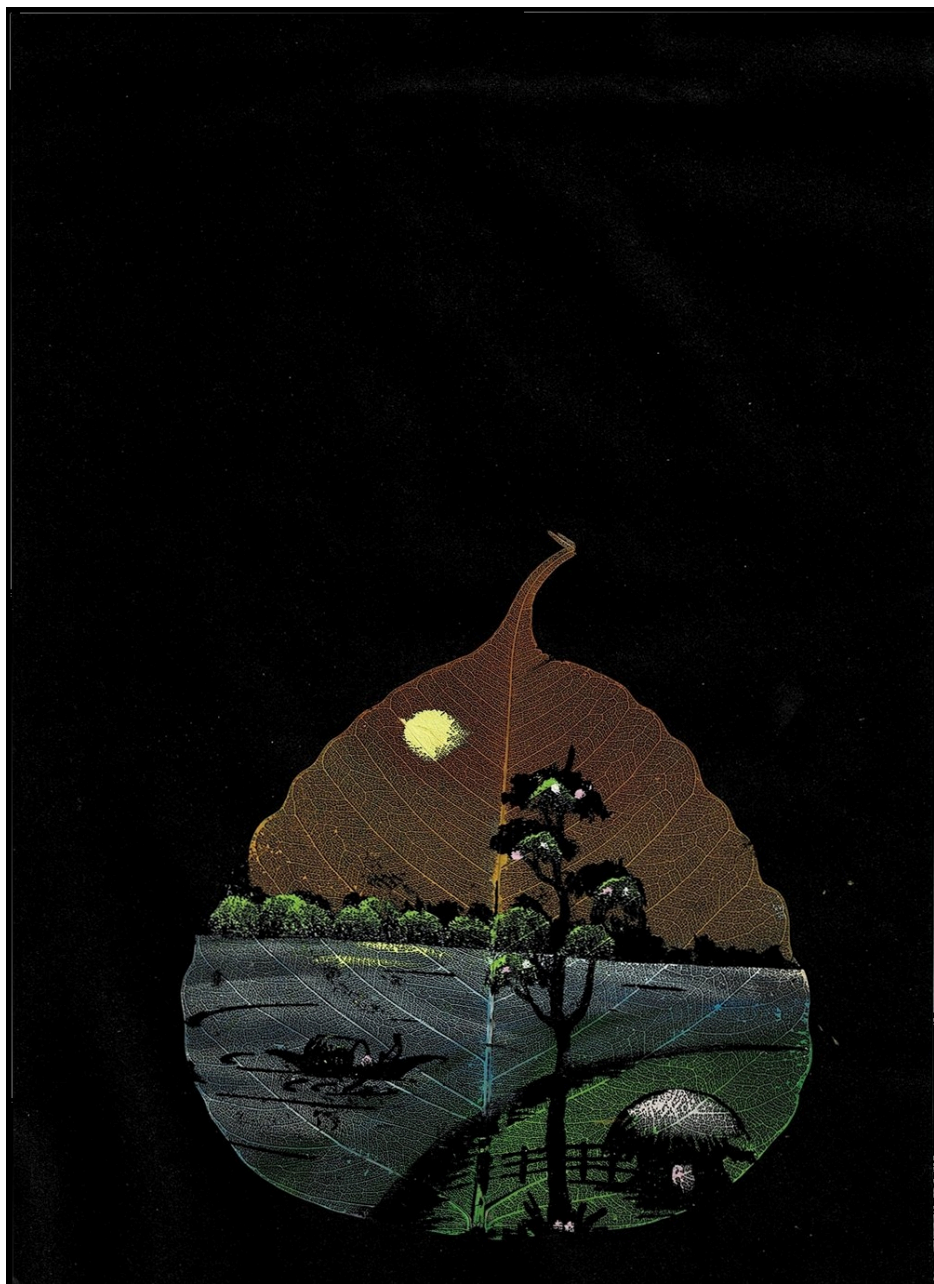
Artwork PL-0027

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



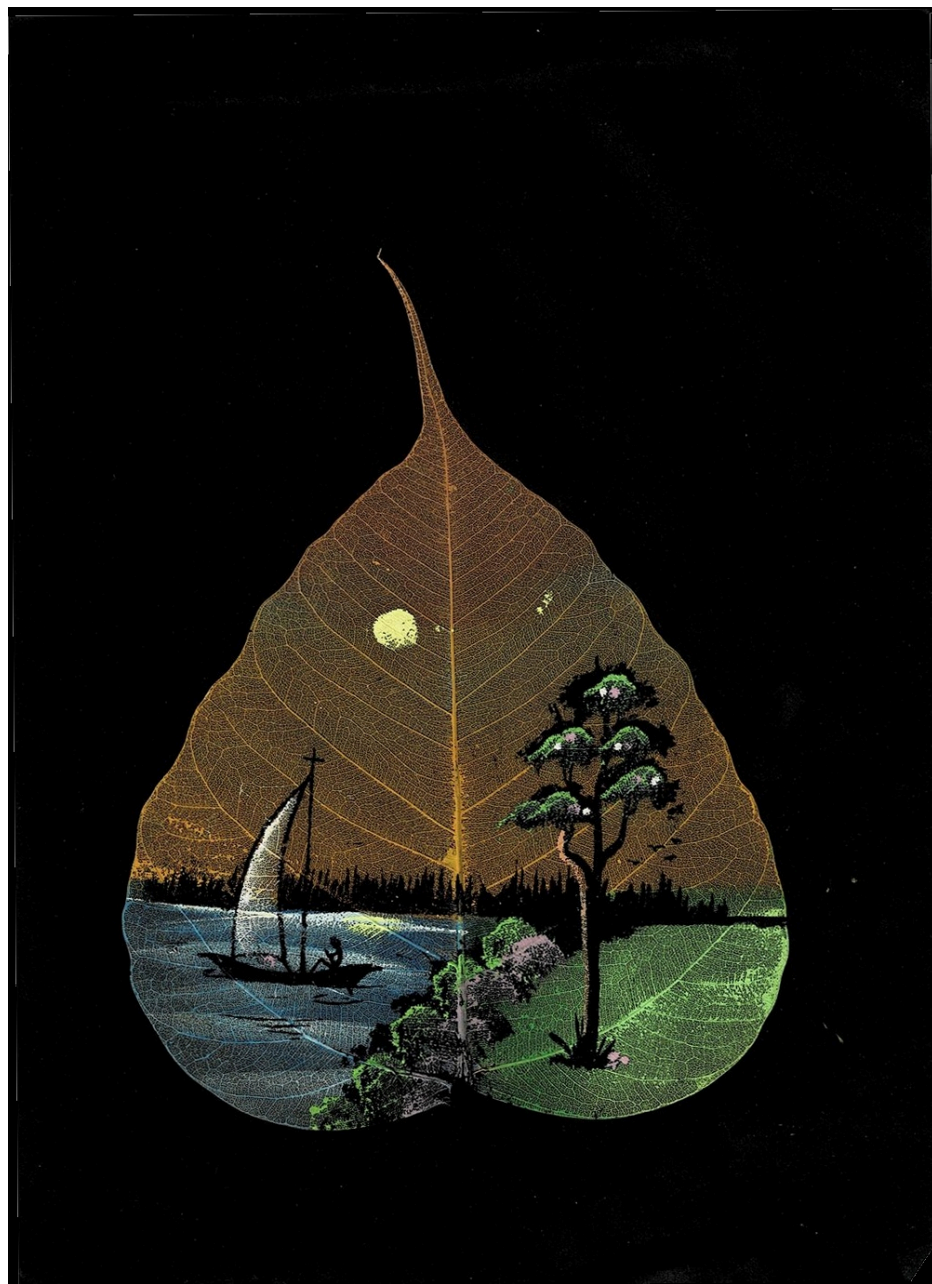
Artwork PL-0029

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0031

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0033

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0034

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0035

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



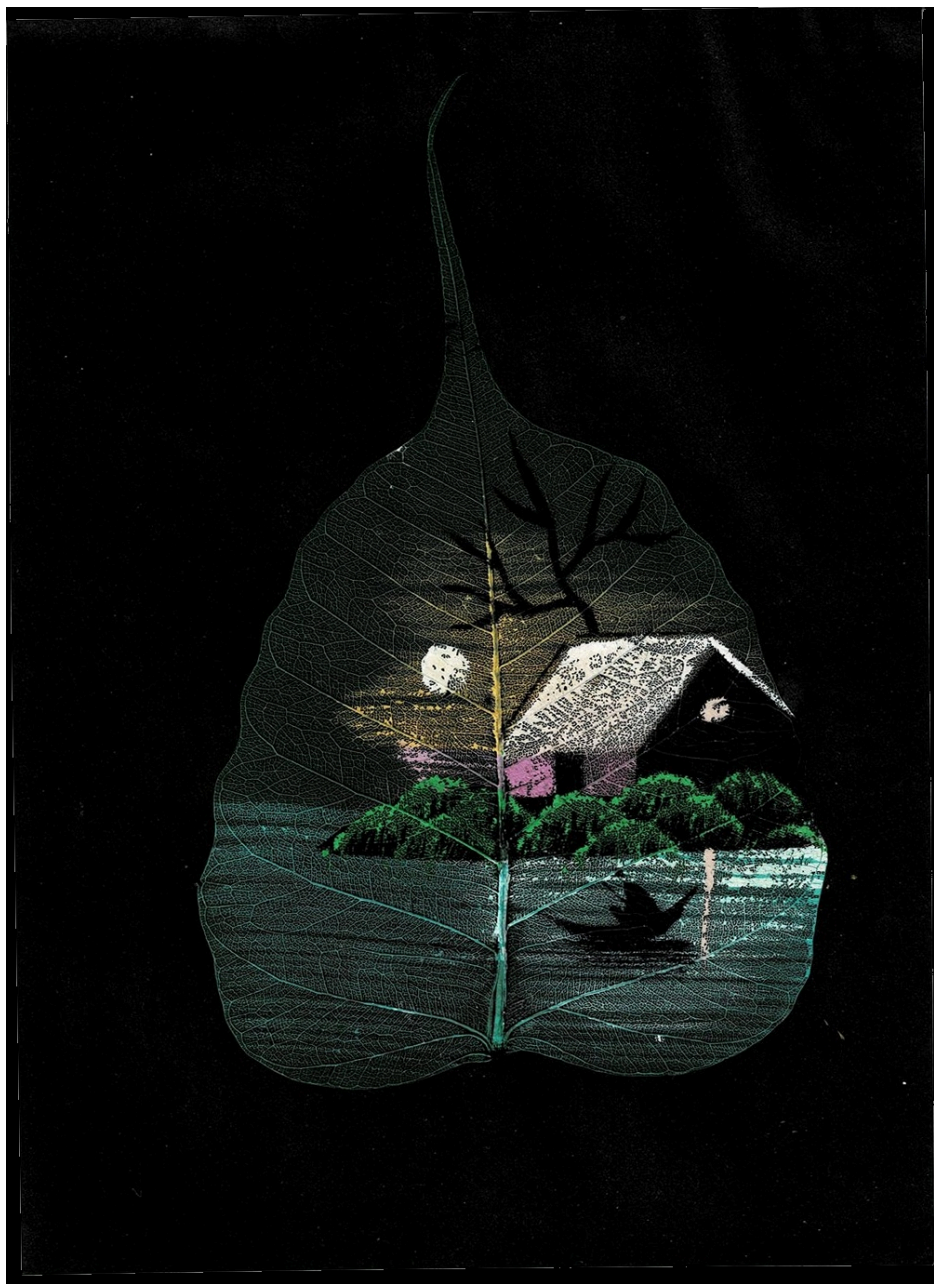
Artwork PL-0036

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0037

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0038

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0039

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0040

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0041

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



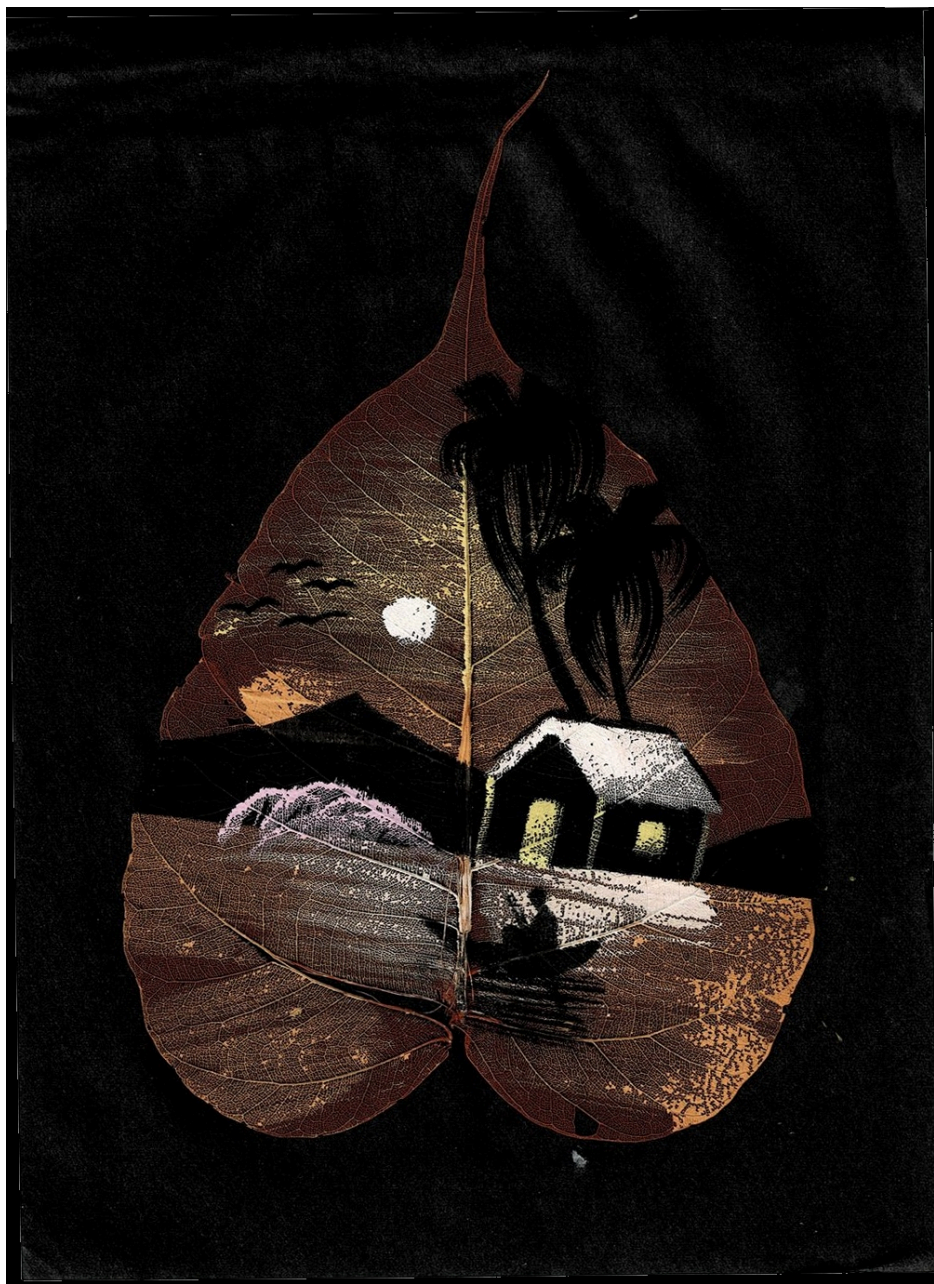
Artwork PL-0054

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



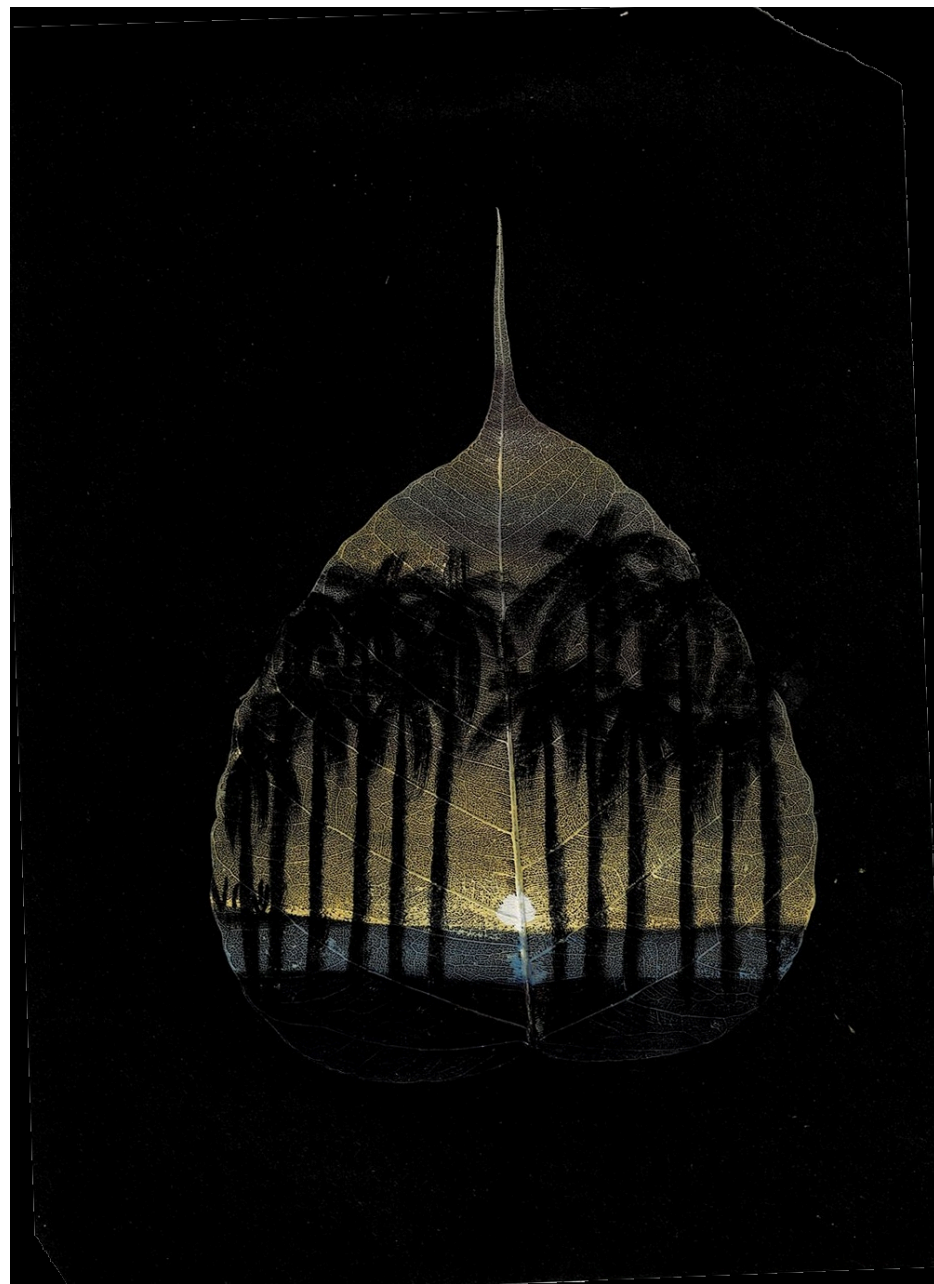
Artwork PL-0055

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0062

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0063

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



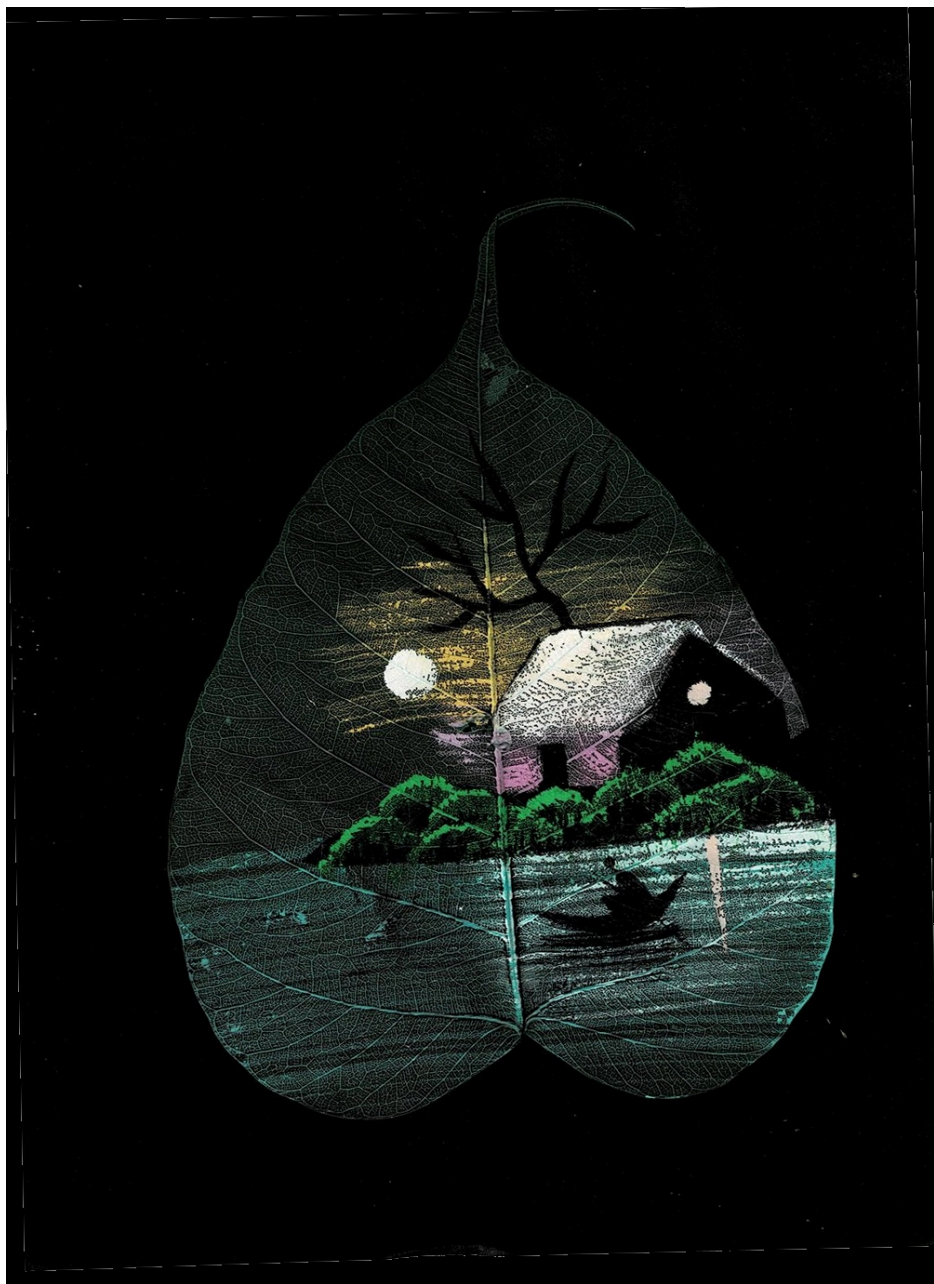
Artwork PL-0067

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0068

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0076

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0077

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0085

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0088

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



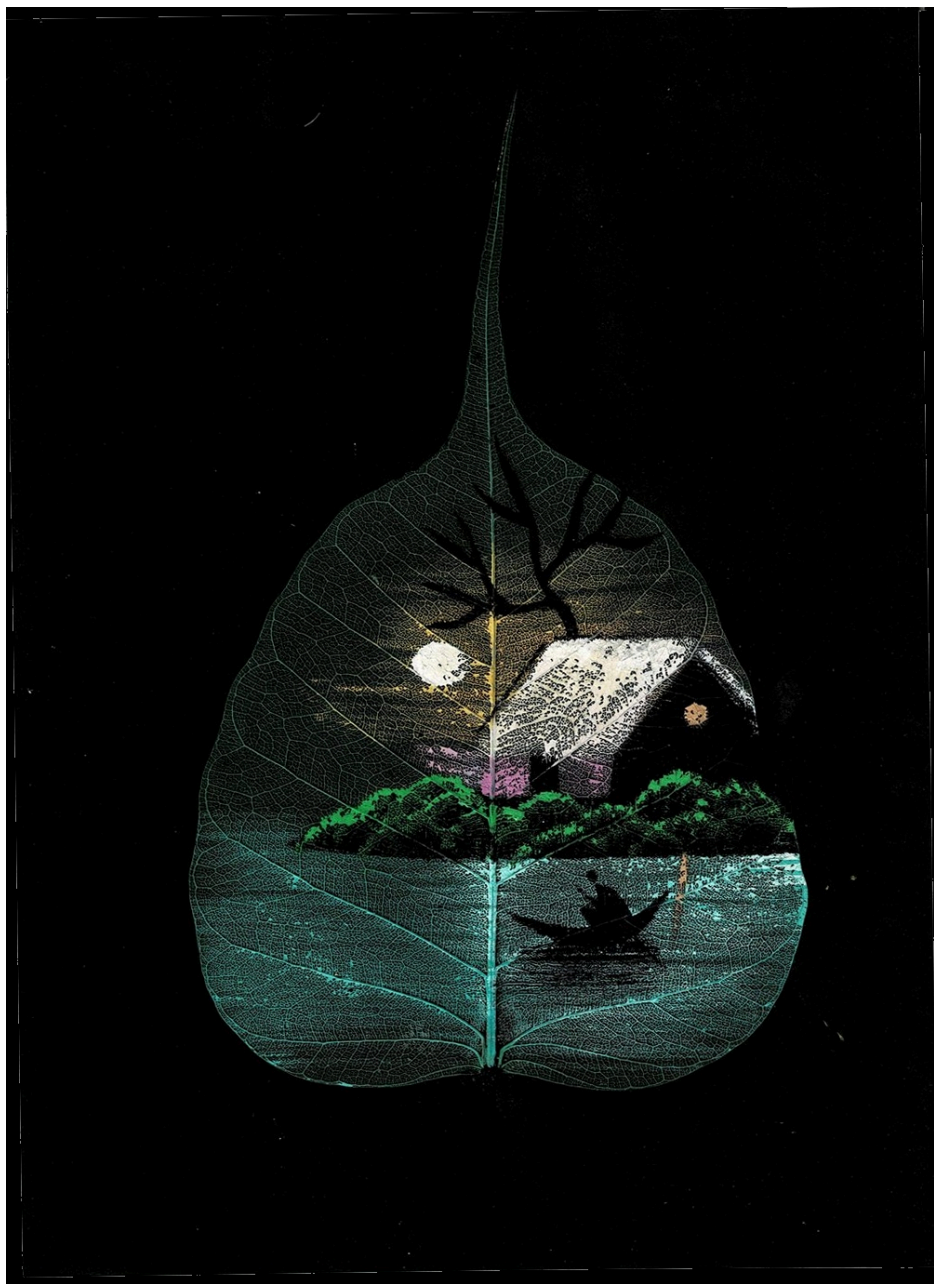
Artwork PL-0089

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



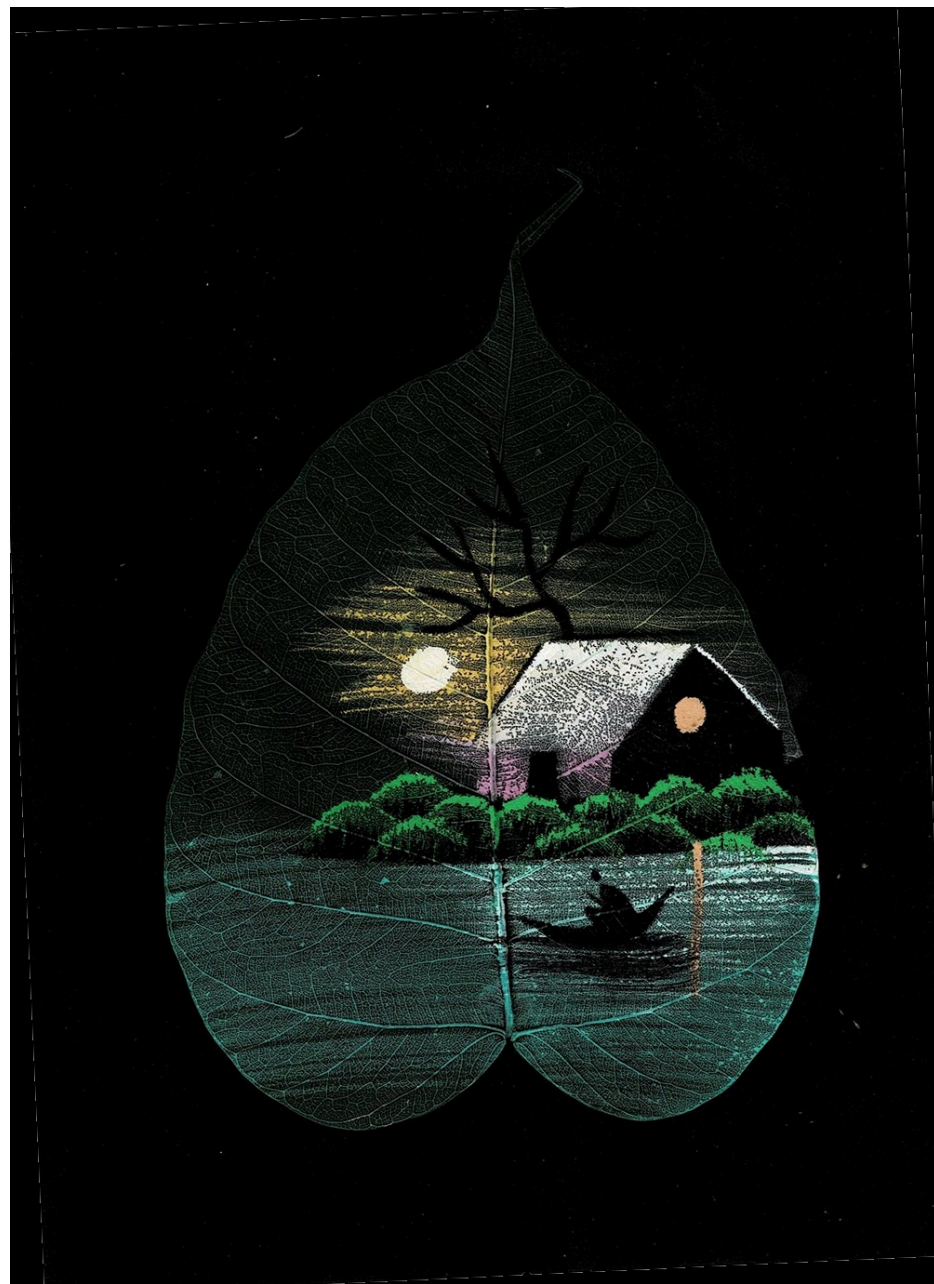
Artwork PL-0090

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0091

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



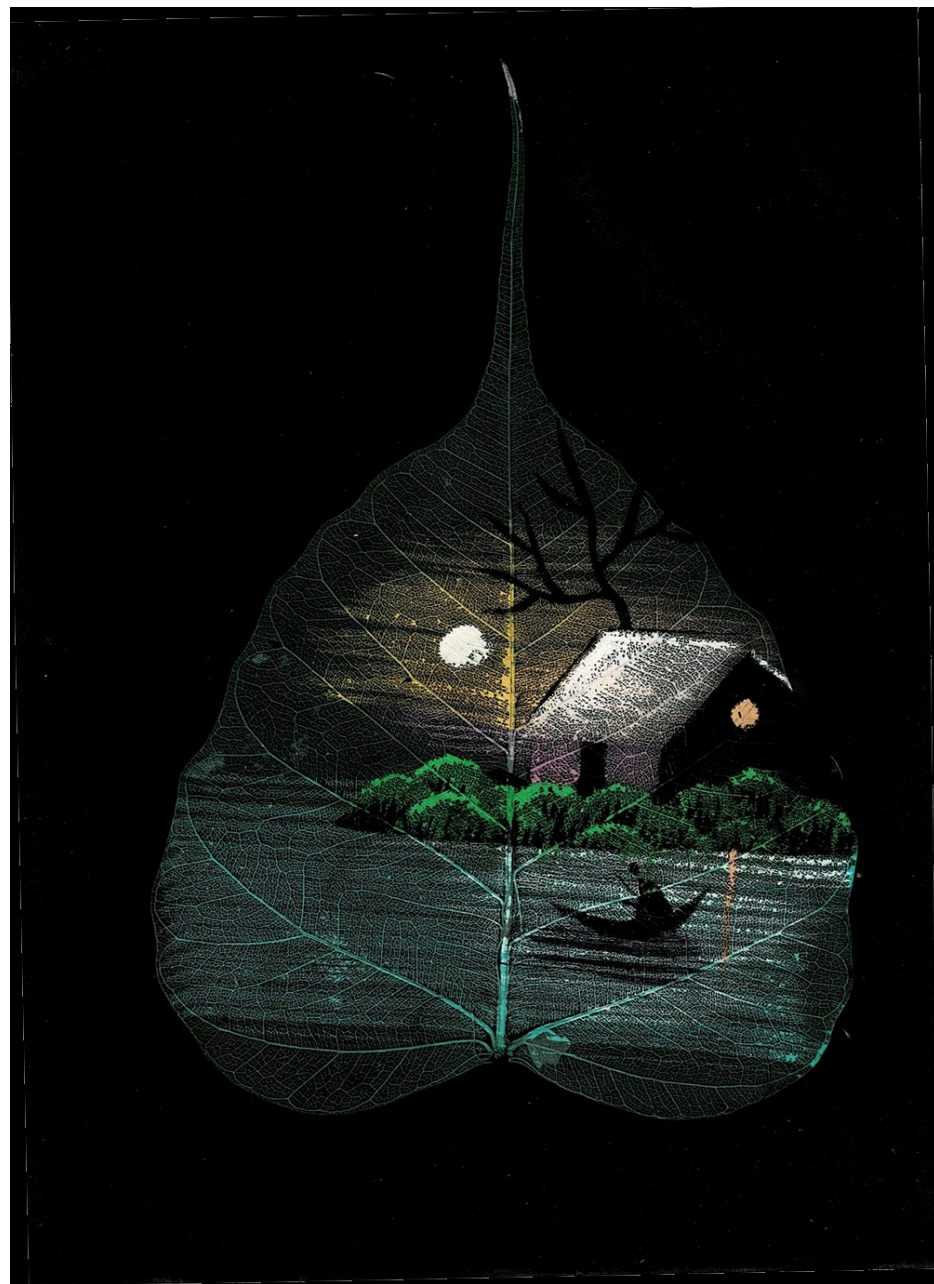
Artwork PL-0092

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0093

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0094

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



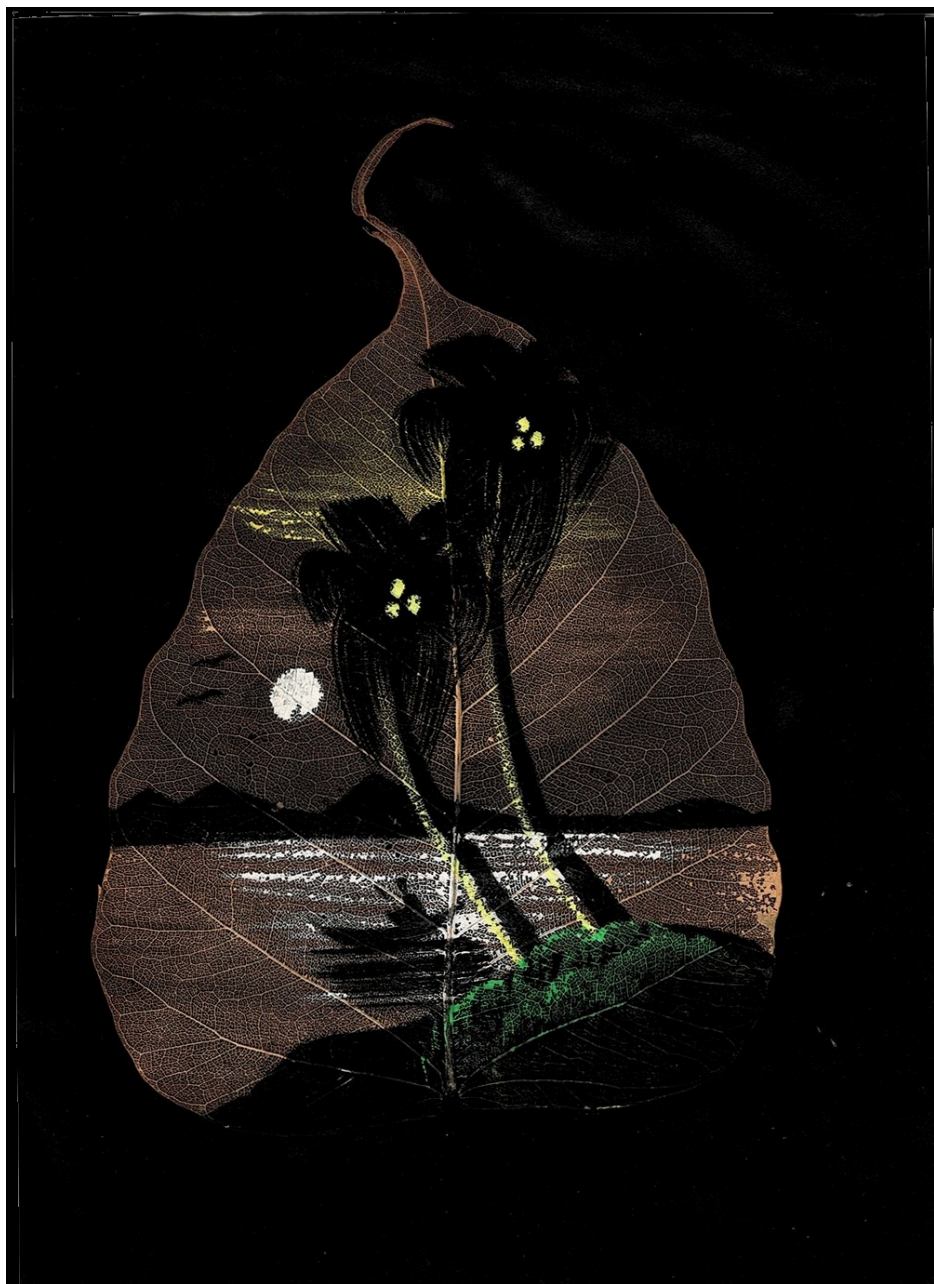
Artwork PL-0095

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



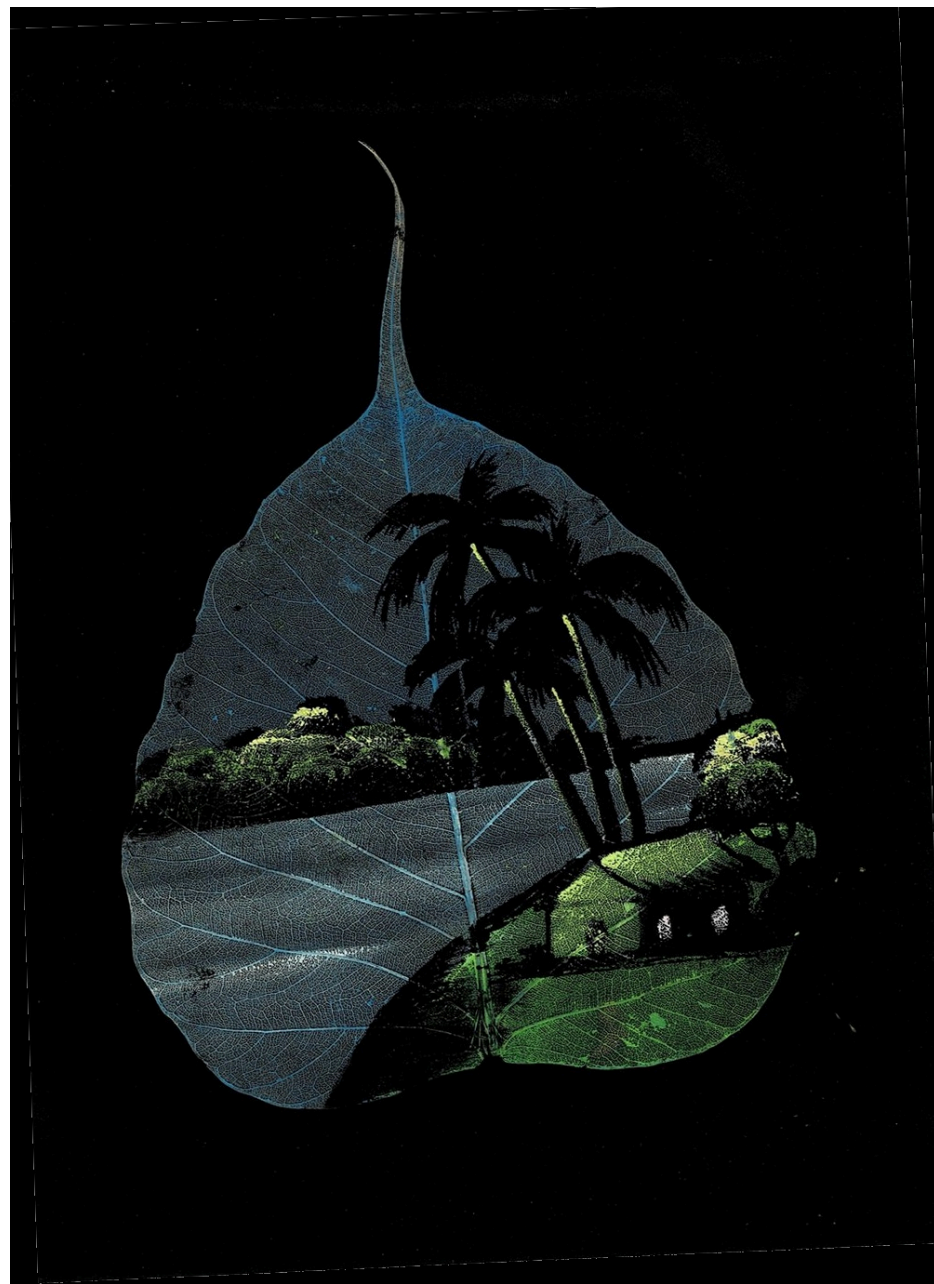
Artwork PL-0116

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0117

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0118

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



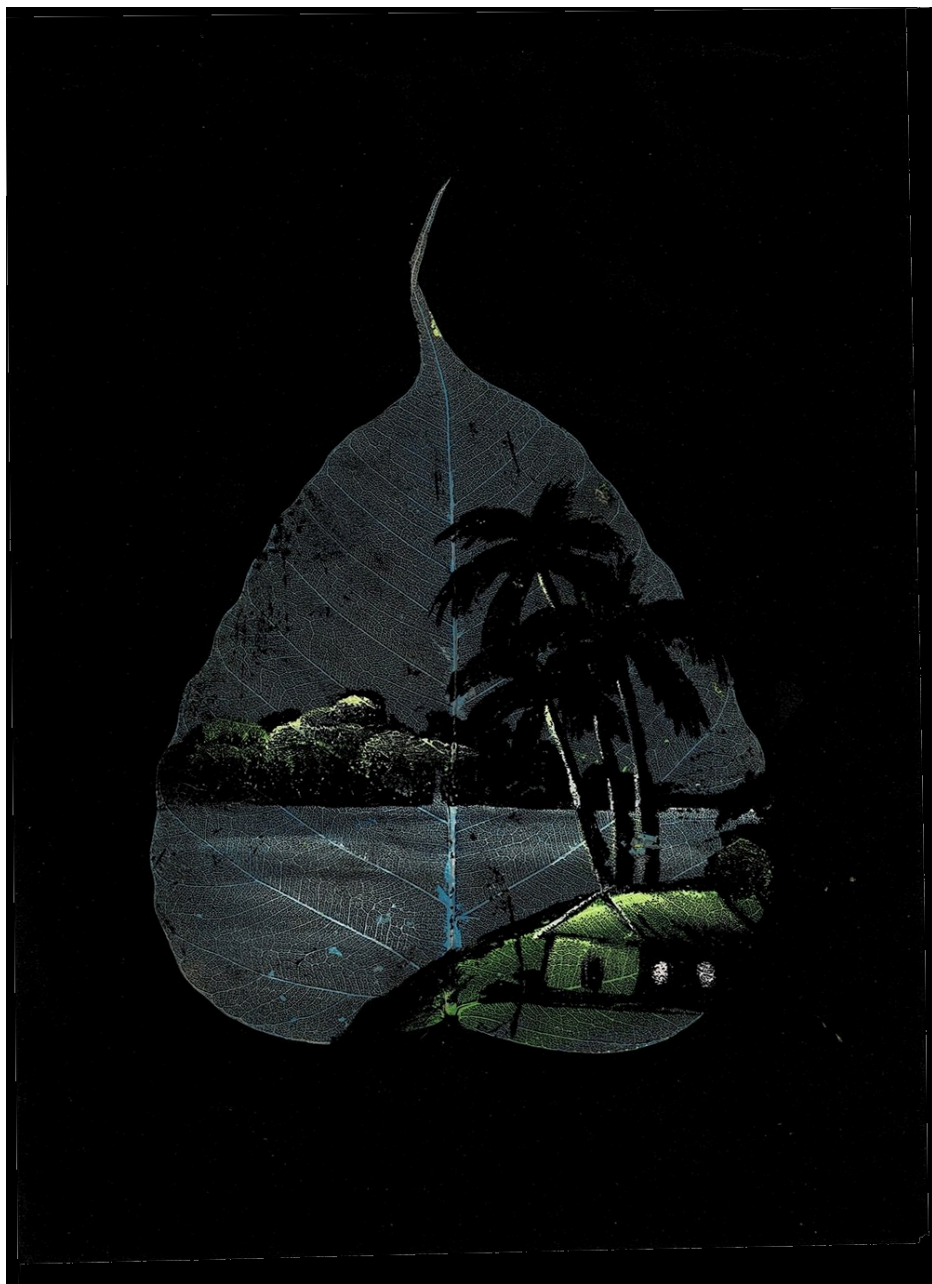
Artwork PL-0120

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



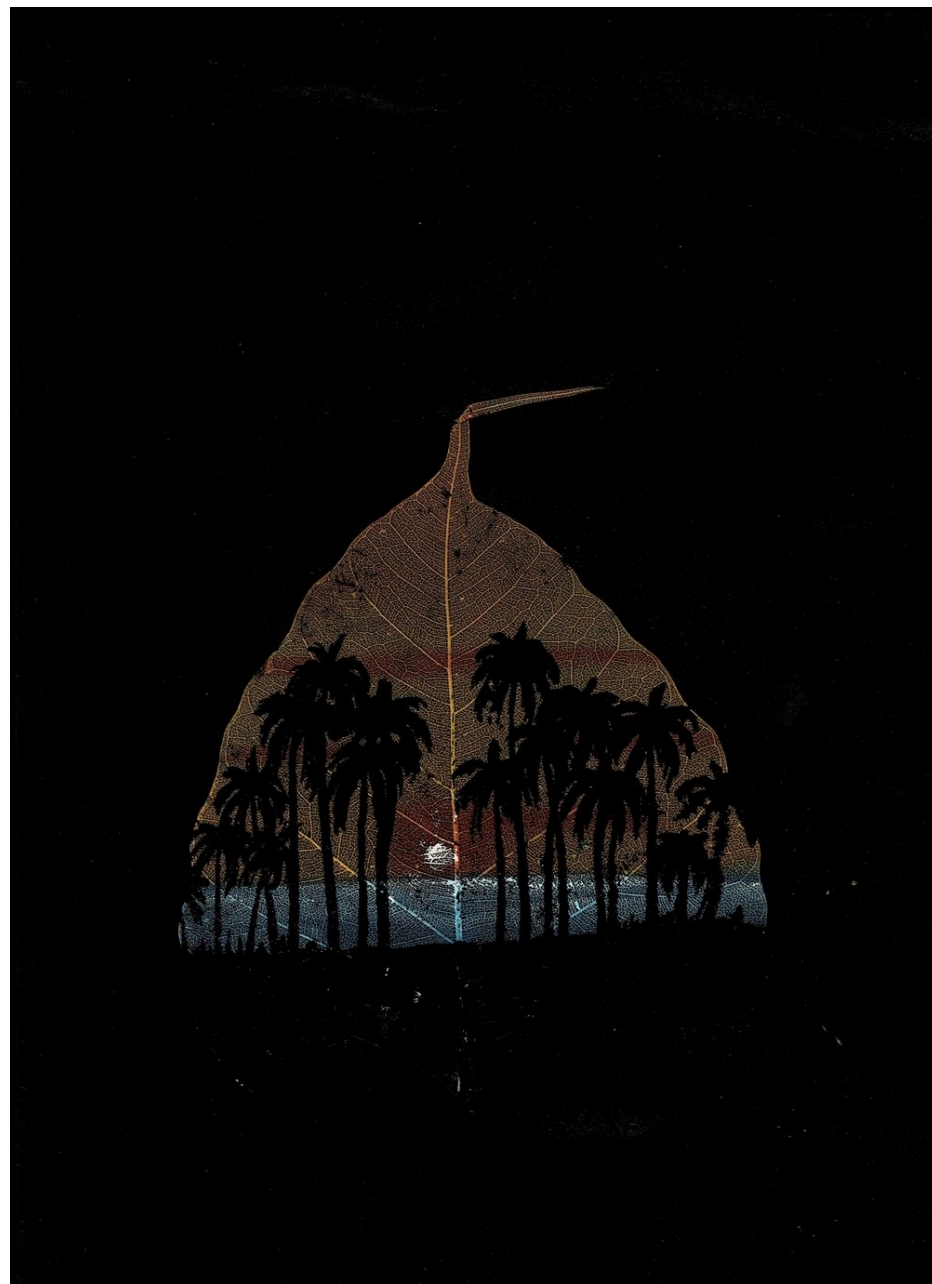
Artwork PL-0121

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0122

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



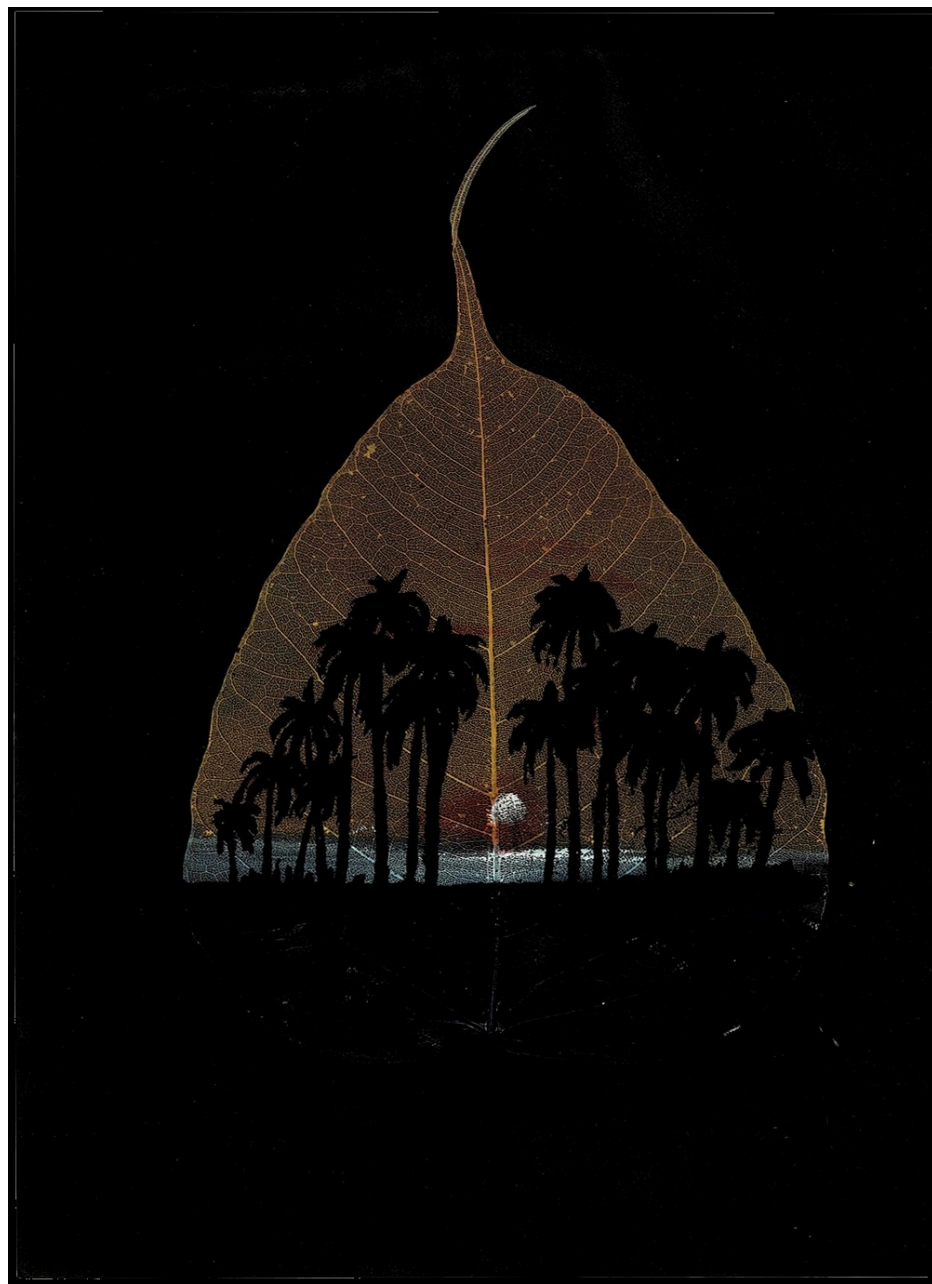
Artwork PL-0123

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0124

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0125

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0126

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



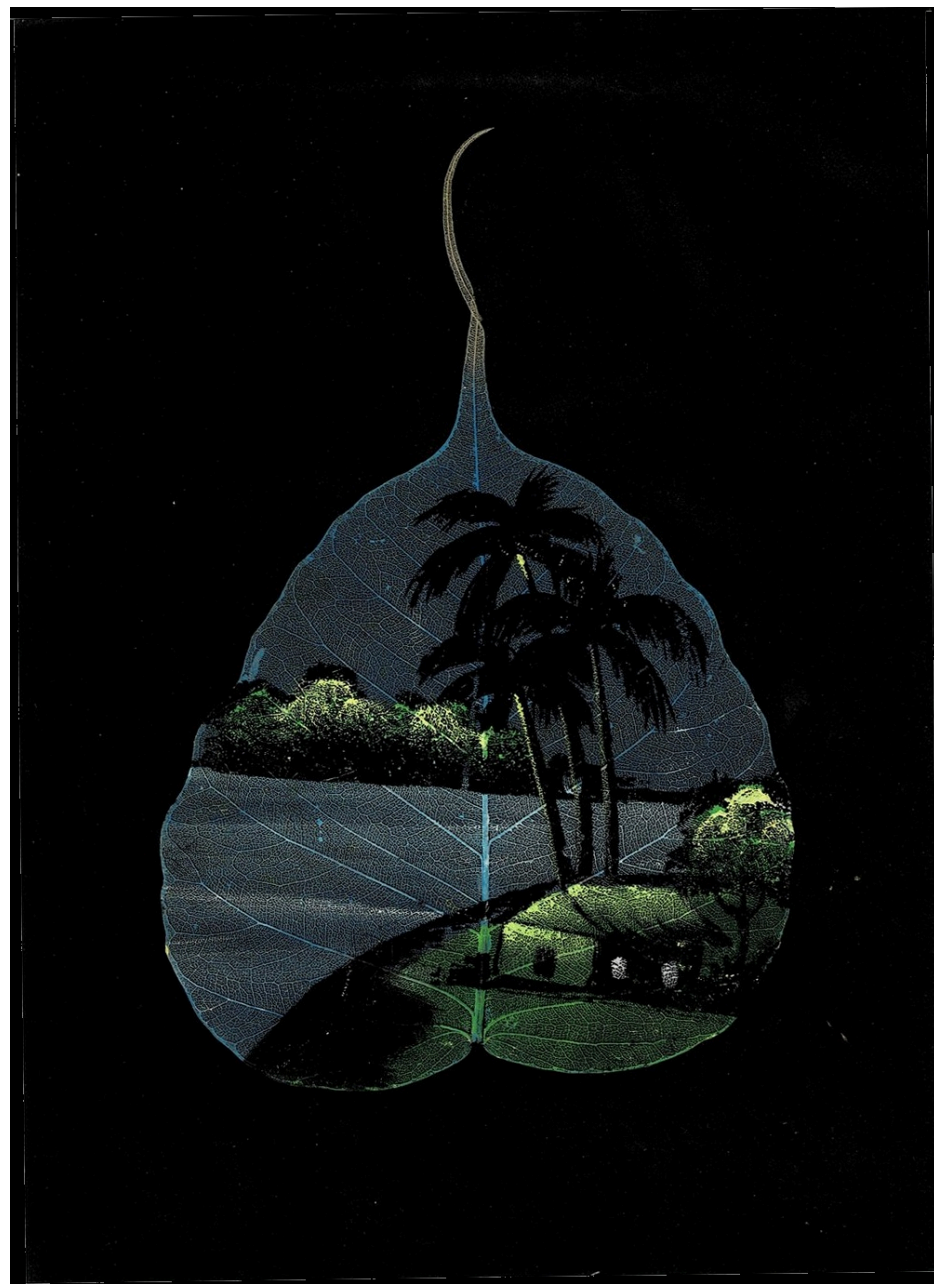
Artwork PL-0127

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0128

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



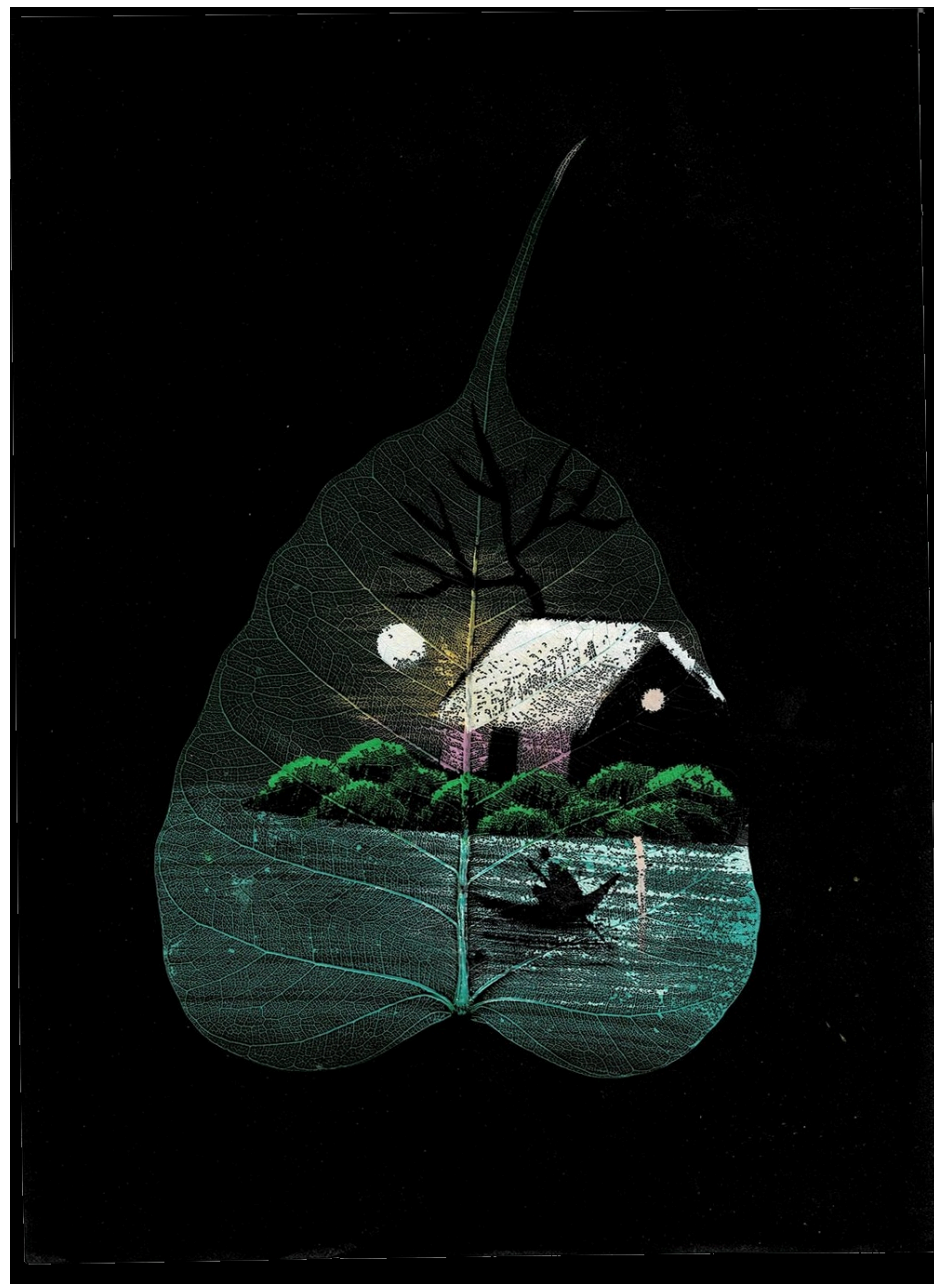
Artwork PL-0130

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



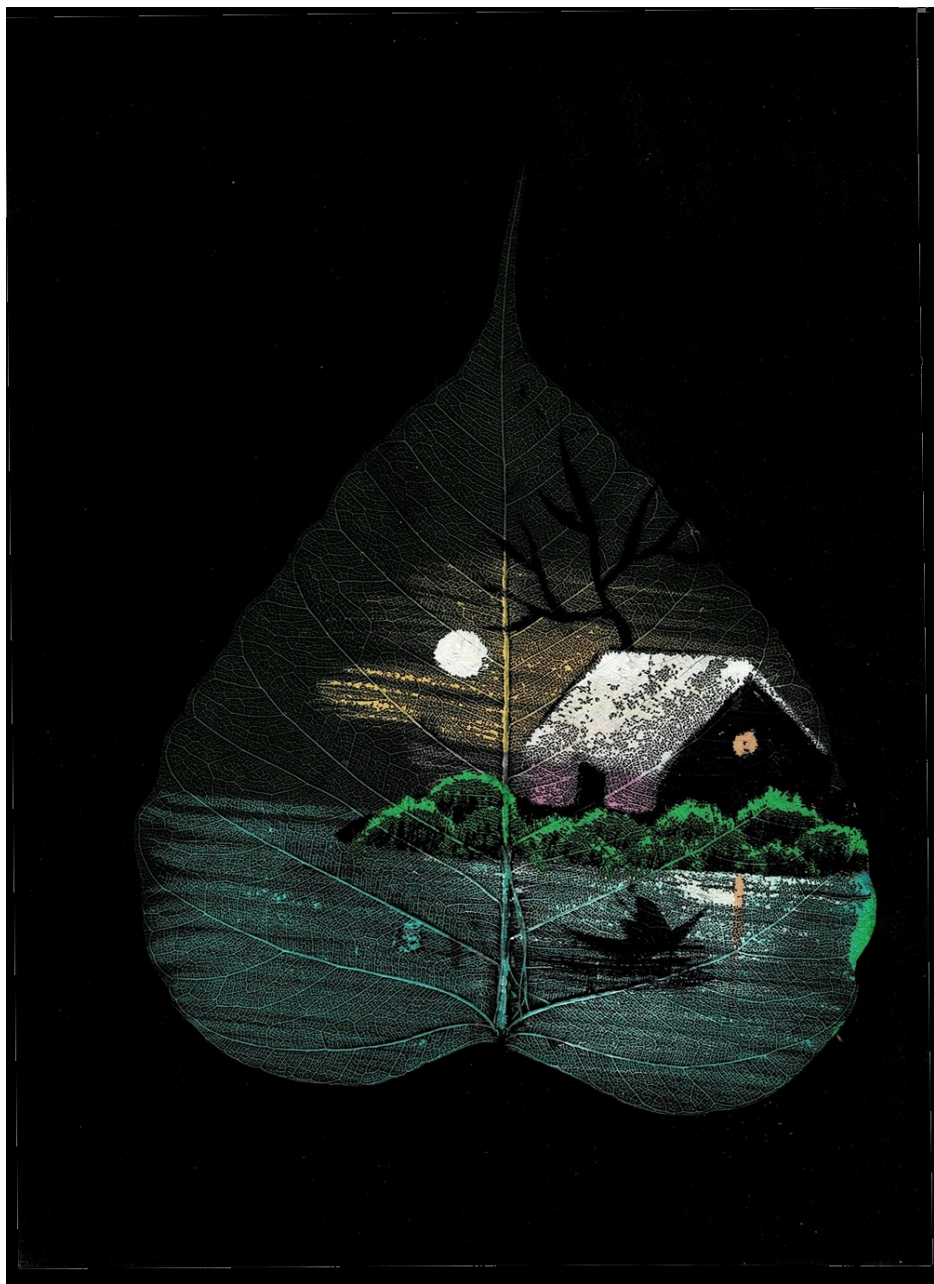
Artwork PL-0141

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



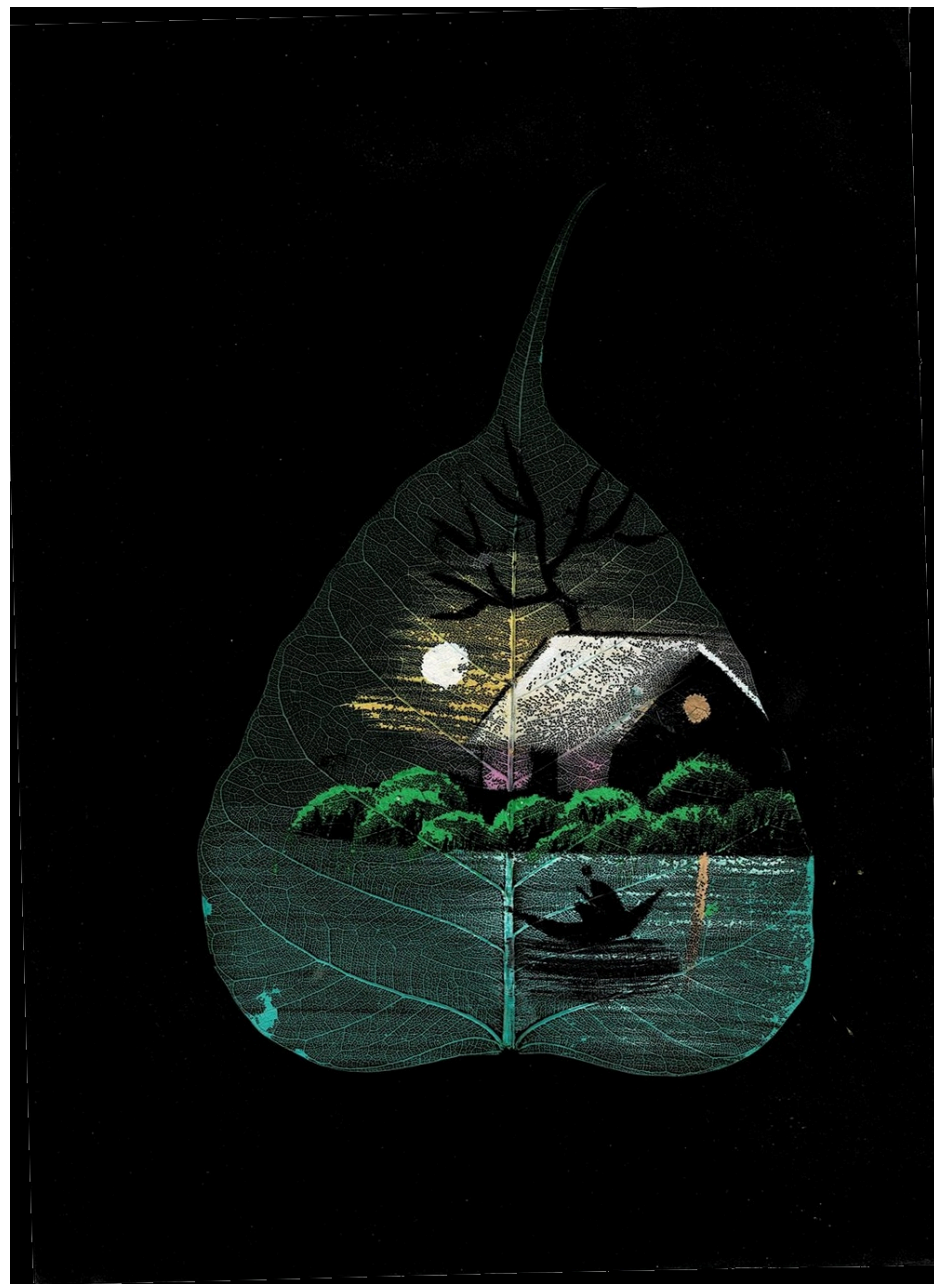
Artwork PL-0142

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0143

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



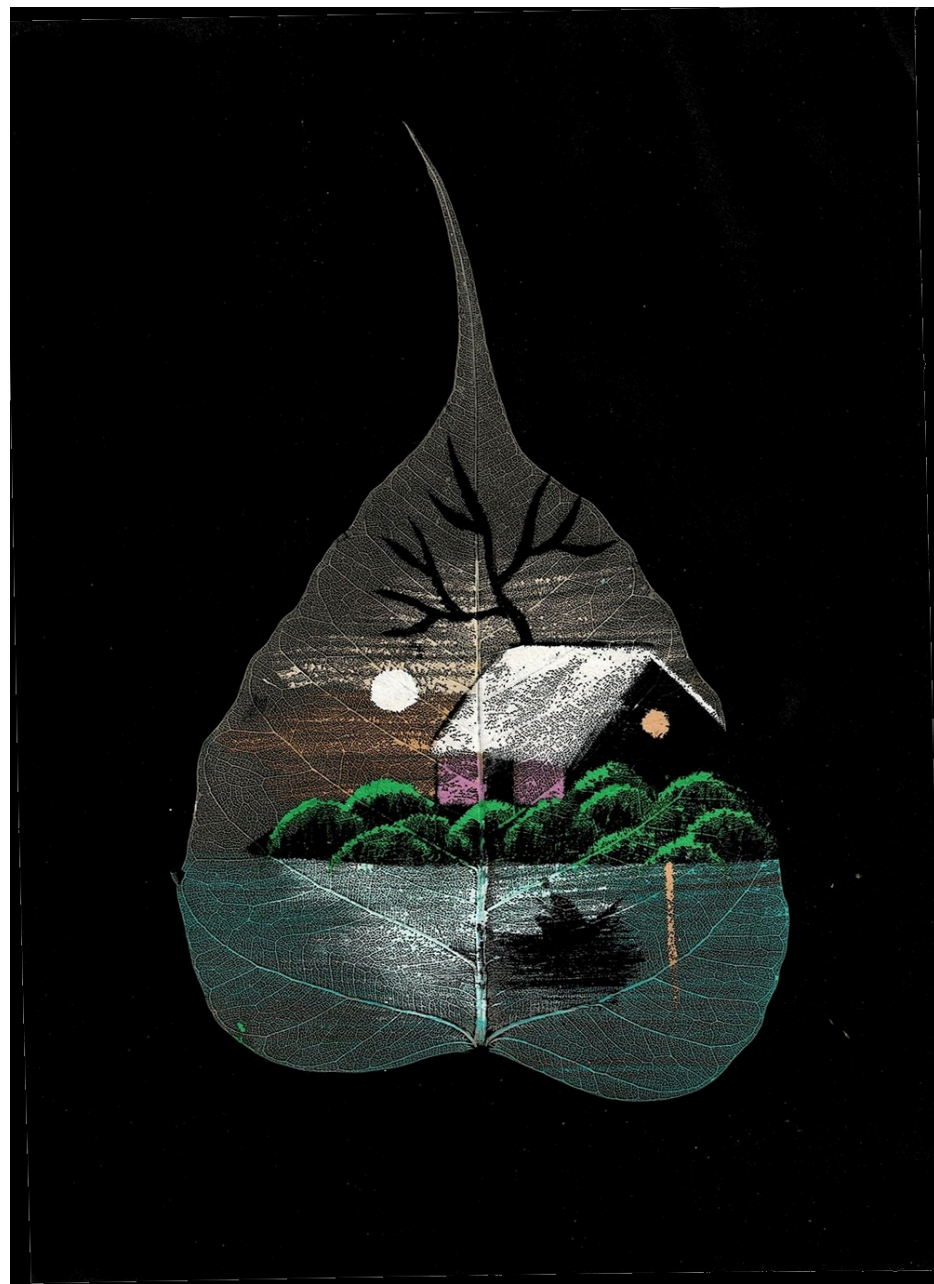
Artwork PL-0144

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0145

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



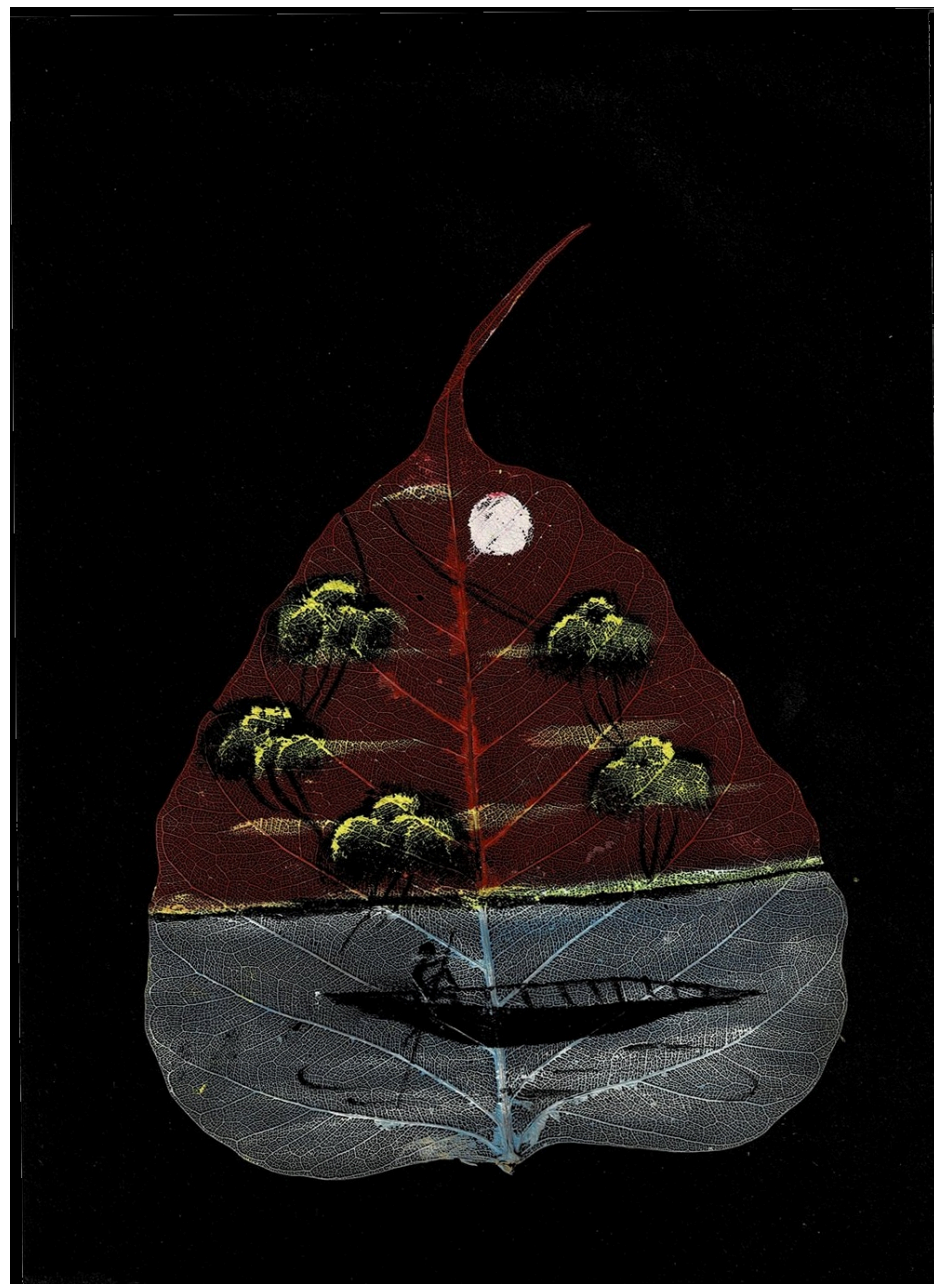
Artwork PL-0146

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0147

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0148

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



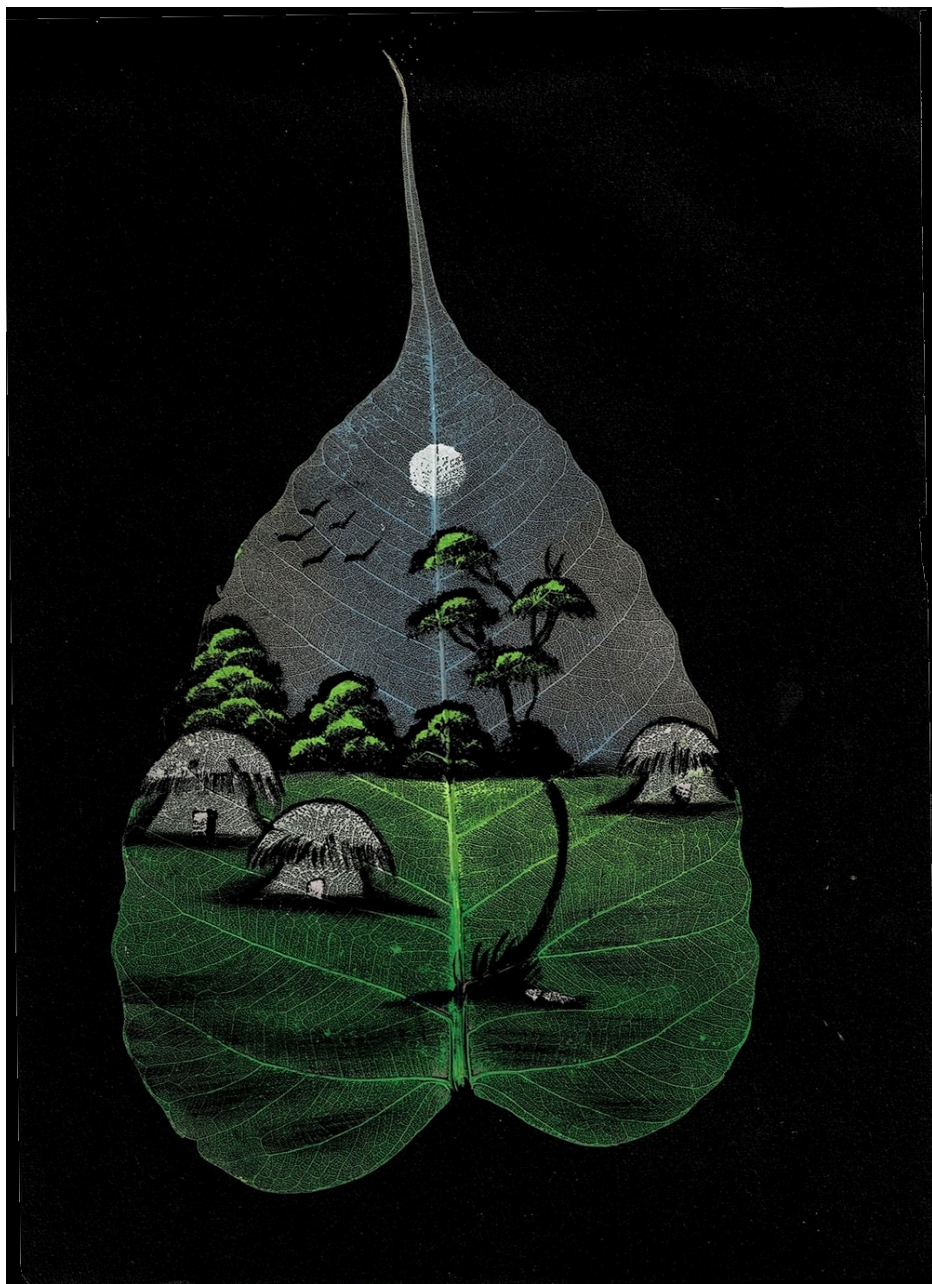
Artwork PL-0149

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0150

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



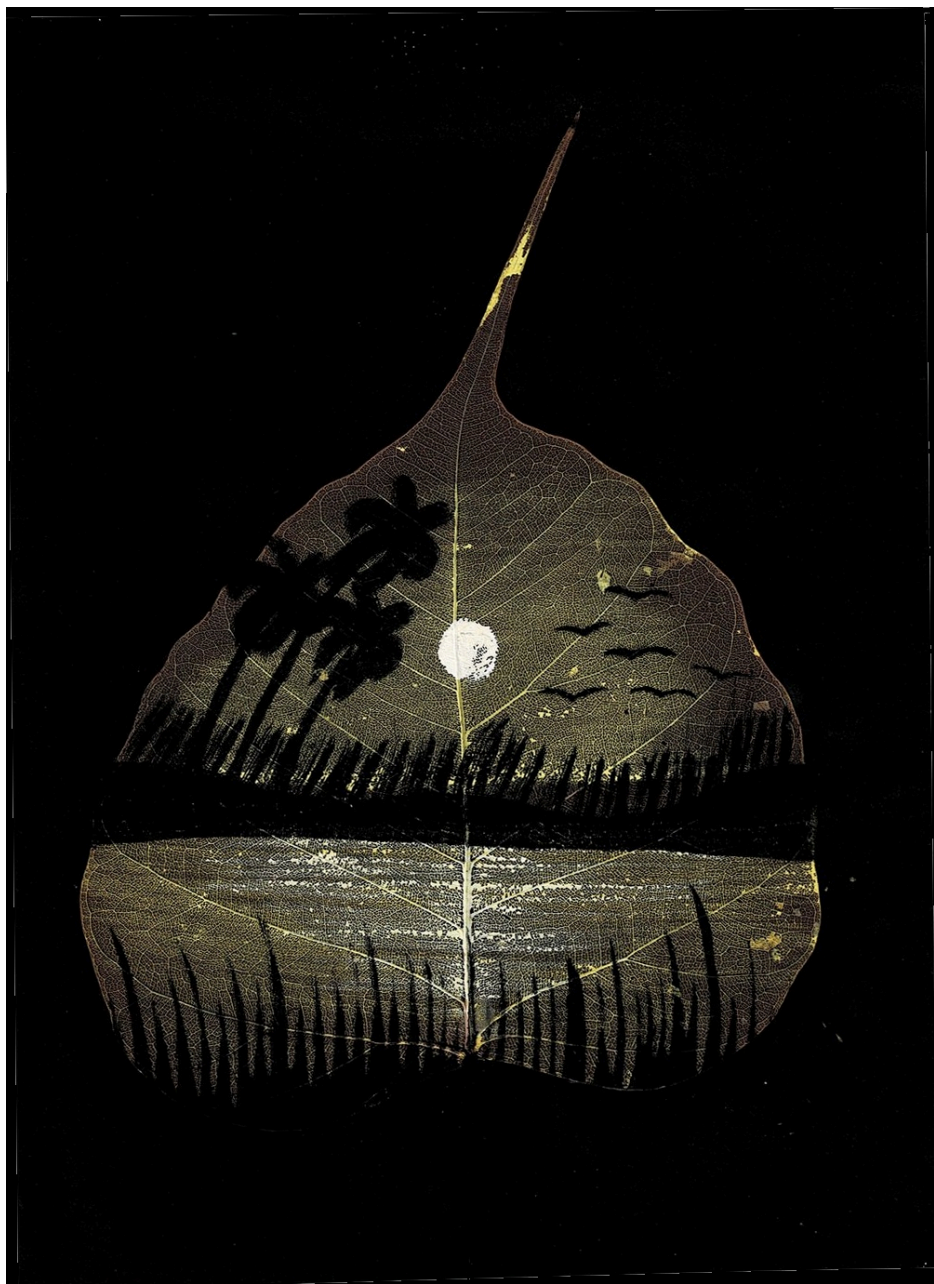
Artwork PL-0151

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0152

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0153

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf

V. Floral & Botanical Subjects

6 artworks • thematic section



Artwork PL-0032

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0051

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0065

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0081

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0114

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0119

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf

VI. Animals & Wildlife

4 artworks • thematic section



Artwork PL-0003

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0006

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0042

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf



Artwork PL-0113

Oil colour on skeletonized peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) leaf

About This Catalogue

This publication represents the documentary record of the Don Bosco Provenance Collection, comprising 153 hand-painted skeletonized peepal leaf artworks and one surviving scan containing two identical accompanying provenance notes.

The project combines archival-minded digital imaging, historical research, systematic cataloguing, and consistent presentation. Its purpose is to preserve the identity of the collection in its present form and to provide a stable foundation for future research.

Future editions may add identified subjects, more detailed descriptions, artist or workshop research, ownership history, conservation observations, and colour-matched derivative images. Such additions should supplement rather than replace the original documentary record.