

## A DAILY PRACTICE

Satyendra Pakhalé is constantly sketching, using whatever materials are at hand – perhaps his favourite Apsara 6B graphite pencil, or the watercolour kit he made for himself. The Satyendra Pakhalé Archives contain several elaborately drawn portraits in pen and ink as well as several spontaneous studies made on restaurant paper mats and napkins. He started drawing as a child and has never stopped.

When he set up his studio, Pakhalé also began a daily practice of painting a watercolour on handmade cotton paper using just one brush. Within these self-imposed limits – basic tools, a paper size of 12.5 × 17.5 cm and a single truncated brush – the idea is to focus on the practice of ‘thinking through abstraction’. In his watercolour sketches, we can follow a process of free exploration, watch the realm of ‘poetic analogies’ taking shape, and (sometimes) glimpse the form of a specific project emerging from them. The selected watercolours on the following pages illustrate Pakhalé’s daily habit of letting go of the control of the rational mindset and surrendering instead to intuition and unconscious foresight.