About the Cover Artist

Preetika Rajgariah. Layers, watercolor on paper, 32×40, 2011

Using a variety of culturally significant materials, Rajgariah creates multimedia works that participate in a discussion about the perceptions and portrayals of culture in Indian and American societies. Influenced by her personal narratives and memories, Rajgariah explores the complexities and contradictions that arise when cultures intersect and collide, and she challenges sociopolitical structures that do not necessarily include a queer Indian American woman like herself.

This particular series of paintings explores migration, diaspora, and identity. They depict ephemeral landscapes, moving between abstraction and figuration, taking the viewer on a journey into a realm populated with masses of people and cultures, gathering, converging, and unifying.
Meridians

great circles of earth passing through the geographical poles at any given point on the earth’s surface;

any of the lines of longitude running north and south on a globe or map, representing such a circle or half circle;

the highest apparent point reached by a heavenly body in its course; zenith, apex, culmination;

places or situations with their own distinctive character;

in Chinese medicine, the major channels carrying the life force through the body.