

# Artist Statement

## Clear Light: Full Circle

For the past 45 years, my art practice has been a continual search for self-expression, culminating in this exhibition.

While my earlier work reflected an external perspective, this collection represents an internal exploration: the answers sought were hidden within.

IAN DE SOUZA 2025



**Clear Light does not present a linear narrative; instead, it invites the viewer to suspend ordinary perception and enter a space of pure sensory awareness. Each piece evokes an emotional resonance rather than a defined interpretation, revealing what is often unseen, the 'invisible' self.**

The concept of Clear Light is drawn from *The Tibetan Book of the Dead*, later reinterpreted for contemporary audiences in *The Tibetan Book of Living and Dying* by Sogyal Rinpoche. It first emerged as the title of Ian de Souza's 2019 solo exhibition *Clear Light*, at The Private Museum, Singapore.

Now, *Clear Light: Full Circle* marks the homecoming of this body of work, archived in Singapore until recently due to pandemic freight restrictions. This exhibition embodies a lifetime of learning and exploration of the human form, expressed through contrast, coloured marks against white paper, dark tones against light, and the interplay between intention and accident. These dualities align with both Buddhist and Chinese philosophical perspectives, offering layered interpretations.

One of the defining works within this journey, *The Transformation: The Passion of Christ, His Crucifixion, Death, and Resurrection* (2007), encapsulates the fusion of Asian heritage with artistic practice. Ink bleeds through successive layers of rice paper, mirroring the veil of Veronica, each delicate layer peeled back to reveal the transition from the manifested to the un-manifested. A finalist in the 2007 *Mandorla Contemporary Religious Art Award*, this piece became the genesis of the Clear Light creative process.

Ultimately, *Clear Light: Full Circle* is both a return to the artist's cultural origins and a journey home to his self. It marks a new beginning, one of clarity, intimacy, and playful ambiguity. As Ian creatively plays with colour and light, he invites the viewer to let go of interpretation, to simply experience, and to feel.

**"i am making light," i say. "it is the light i am seeking."**

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