

During a workshop that Tara Books conducted on Womens' Art of the Everyday, I got to know Sarla Devi and her work. Sarla paints with her entire body, not just with her hand. Miraculously, the sari she wore each day was always in tone with her work. I watched her make her colour paste, choose her spot and place herself within the frame of her design. Her left hand was rooted firmly to the ground, allowing the rest of her body and her painting hand to rotate around this axis. She seemed grounded to the earth, continuously improvising on the forms that she knew. There was an organic unity and a natural flow to her body language, the movement of the right arm balancing the steadiness of the left, making her creation one with her body and the space she filled. I took endless pictures, played around with their arrangement, and finally designed a way of visually presenting my experience in a non-linear sequence. It is a visual story, a poem really, which hopes to take the reader straight into the architectural space of the creative process, without betraying it.

— Andrea Anastasio

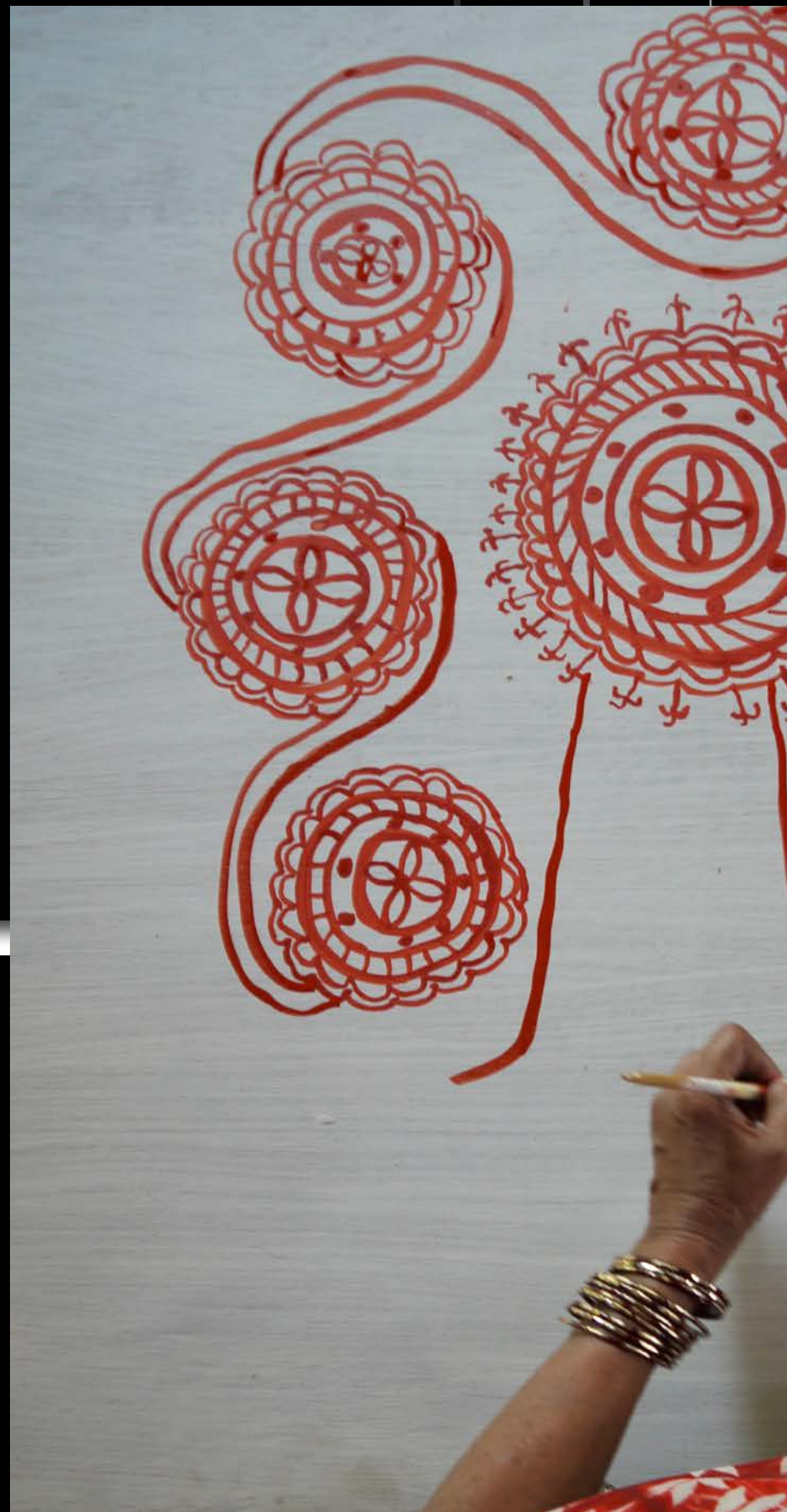
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