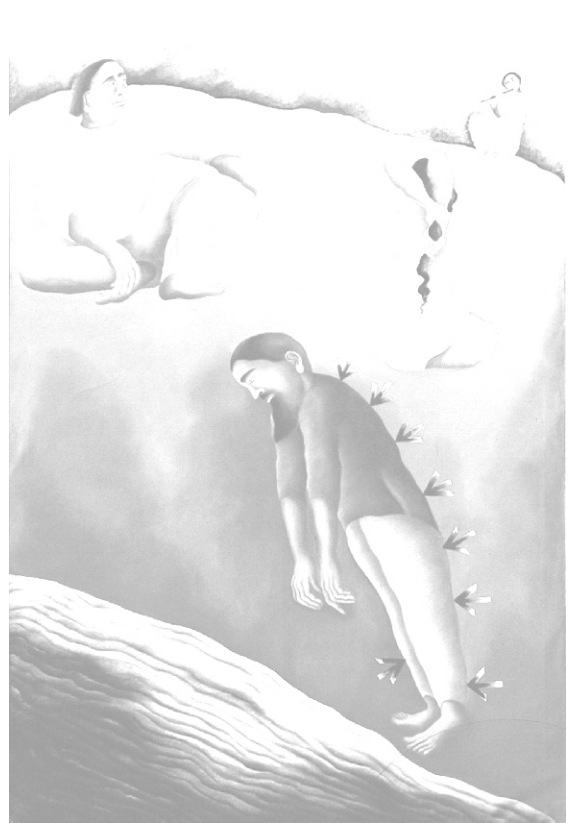
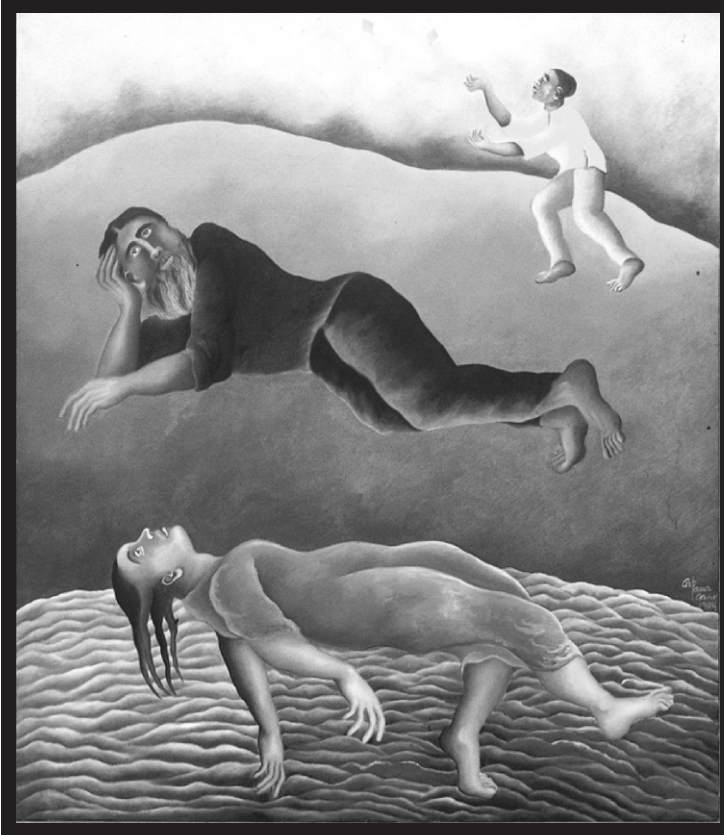
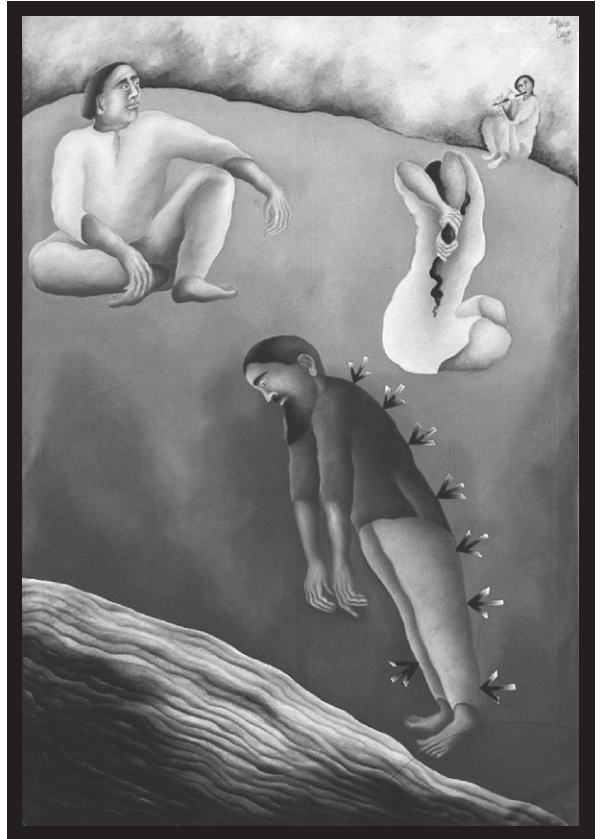


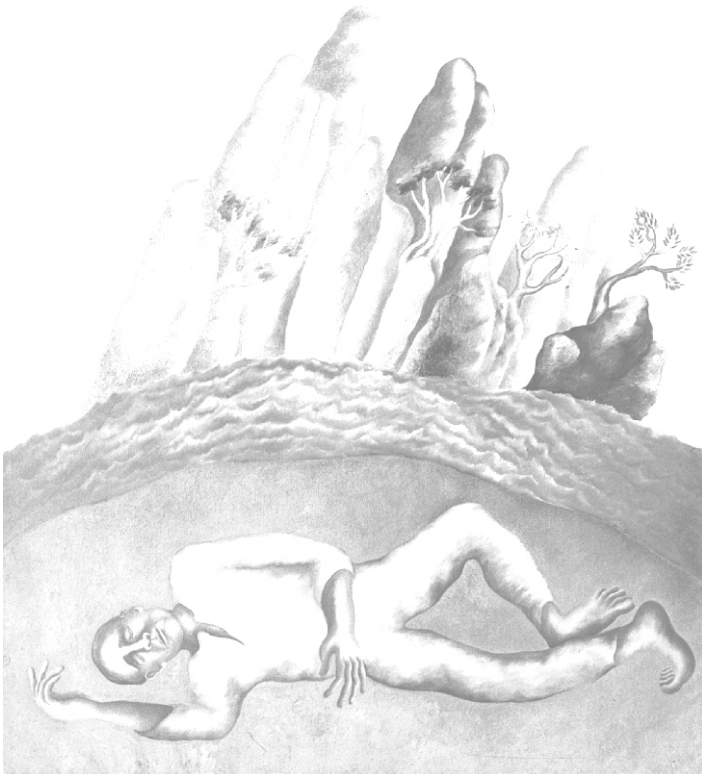
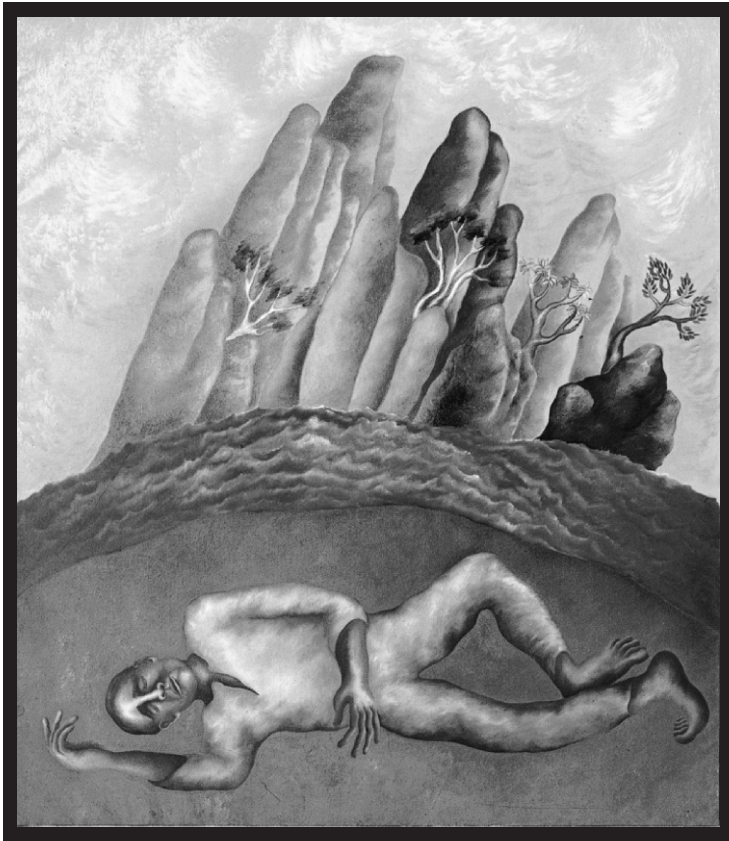
## Wounds still linger

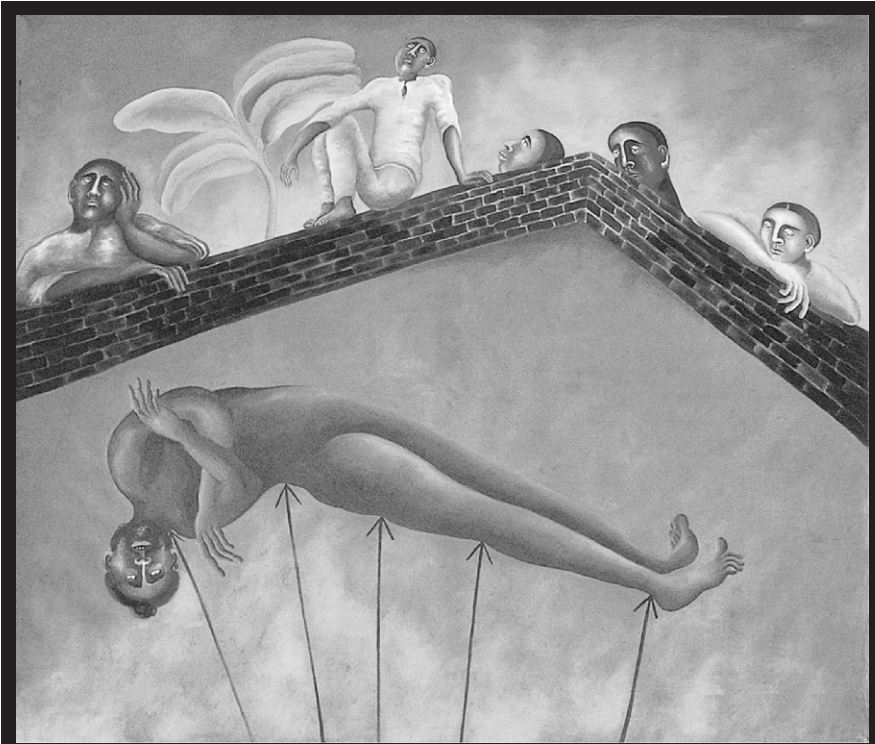
*The 1984 series: Works by distinguished Indian painter, Arpana Caur*

"The 1984 series was exhibited in 1985 at the Art Heritage Gallery, Delhi, and the Cymroza Art Gallery, Mumbai, and in 1986 at Kolkata's Academy of Fine Arts. It was difficult to paint death, and such violent deaths, so meaningless and cruel. The first few canvasses were direct, flaming figures, heaps of corpses, bleeding heads (figure 5). I had to find a symbol. I chose the drowning figure, ignored by those around who do not reach out to help. Water became an image of death, reversing the Christian symbol of water as life (figures 1, 2, 3). The human tragedy is set against the vast backdrop of nature, mountains and trees from Punjab hill miniatures (figure 4). Or from mythology, like Bhisham Pitamah lying on a bed of arrows and others just looking on from behind a wall.

"The wounds still linger, as in the 10 foot x 6 foot diptych from the Kapany collection in San Francisco shown at the Smithsonian in Washington in 2004. The way Christ opened his garment to show his wound, this old Sikh shows his wound to us, crying for justice which has evaded us for 25 long years because the murderers walk free as is the tradition here."







**Arpana Caur**

