

Sowmya R. Iyal
Assistant Professor
Contact: 9994115609 / 9629318151
Email: sowmi3d@gmail.com

A Visual Narrative on "Thirukkural":

An Artistic Journey with Classic Literature

Introduction: Embarking on a creative odyssey, Sowmya initiated a visual narrative on Thirukkural on January 1, 2020. Over 1330 days, she undertook the challenge of translating each of the 1330 couplets into illustrations. This journey, though arduous, proved deeply rewarding as she delved into the timeless wisdom of Thirukkural. Employing various artistic styles such as Art Nouveau, Surrealism, and Minimalism, Sowmya brought each couplet to life through pen and ink, watercolor, and poster color on Watercolor Papers.

Major Divisions of Thirukkural Couplets:

Total No. Thirukkural Couplets	No. of Artworks Completed
Aram (அறம்)	380
Poru! (பொருள்)	700
Inbam (இன்பம்)	250
Total: 1330	1330

Sowmya successfully completed this monumental task on August 22, 2023. To commemorate this achievement, she organized a live painting event for the final Kural, where the public could witness and participate in the painting process at the Madras Literary Society.

Articles about the project:

Thanthi TV: [Link](#)

The Hindu: [Link](#)

Times of India: [Link](#)

About the Artist: Sowmya, a Tamil Nadu native, holds a Master's degree in Electronic Media from Pondicherry University. Her artistic journey, spanning from January 1, 2020, to August 22, 2023, involved painting one Thirukkural couplet per day. Through her interviews featured in various publications and television channels like The Hindu and BBC Tamil, Sowmya's passion for art and dedication to her project have garnered widespread recognition.

Artistic Journey: Drawing inspiration from the profound teachings of Thirukkural, Sowmya's artwork serves as a visual interpretation of its timeless wisdom. With a keen eye for detail and a mastery of various artistic techniques, she breathes new life into each couplet, inviting viewers to explore its depth and complexity.

Significance for the Tamil Community: Sowmya's project holds cultural significance for the Tamil community, serving as a bridge between tradition and modernity. By translating Thirukkural into visual art, she preserves and promotes Tamil culture, while also inspiring pride and connection among Tamil individuals worldwide.

In conclusion, Sowmya's artistic endeavor not only enriches the cultural landscape but also celebrates the enduring legacy of Thirukkural, ensuring its teachings resonate with future generations.