

VIKRAM GOYAL



THE SOUL GARDEN



Photo credit | Ali Monis Naqvi

The Soul Garden | Collection

The Soul Garden draws from India's deep reservoir of culture and literature, where animals are revered as divine beings with profound spiritual significance. This reverence has guided their protection and veneration over centuries. Some appear as sacred vehicles; others wander through the fables of the Panchatantra, teaching parables of virtue and folly.

In *The Soul Garden*, each animal is chosen for the depth of its symbolic weight, embodying virtues and stories that span generations: the Tiger (Vyaghra) as power, stealth and protection, the Elephant and the Baby Elephant (Gaja and Karabha) as wisdom, memory and communication, the Tortoise (Kurma) as endurance, patience and cosmic time, the Crocodile (Nakra) as strength, adaptability and primal force. Each transcends form to become a vessel of spirit – a personification of belief.

Scaled with care to inhabit interiors gracefully, the animals stand as manifestations of character and narrative – appearing as sculptural consoles, seating, or tables. The collection is rooted in the lineage of Indian sculptural tradition, enriched by the studio's signature use of repoussé and metalwork.

Each limited-edition sculpture emerges from an exacting process: wooden maquettes evolve into sheet metal, refined through the studio's signature art of hollowed joinery. Patinated surfaces suggest the passage of time, bridging ancient tradition with contemporary form. Within these layers of inheritance, hidden repoussé panels reveal scenes and morals that unfold only to the attentive eye.

The Soul Garden ultimately asks us to see beyond sculpture – to recognize in each animal a keeper of wisdom, a vessel of memory, and a guide into the deeper currents of human imagination. In honoring them, we honor not only India's cultural lineage but also the timeless conversation between nature, craft, and spirit.



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Gaja | The Elephant

From the forests and palaces of India emerges the elephant – a noble being of remarkable power and serene majesty, revered across cultures. In folklore and ritual, it commands respect with its gentle strength, sharp intellect, and enduring grace. Blessed with a keen sense of smell, it navigates its world with profound awareness and intuition. Tales of its courage, cleverness, and selfless devotion have been woven and recounted across time and generations.

The elephantine scale and heft are imagined through a console: steadfast, grounding, and gracefully poised. Its generous surface offers practical space, an invitation to gather, display, or pause in contemplation. Within its sculpted form one encounters the Panchatantra fable of The Elephant and the Hare – where wit triumphs over might, reminding us that true power is often measured by the mind, not the body.

Crafted in brass through a union of hollowed joinery and intricate repoussé, the Gaja the elephant embodies narrative, giving shape to heritage and imagination. Majestic yet tender, it stands as both object and allegory – an enduring companion, a cosmic guardian, a living testament to wisdom and awe.

Limited Edition of 3

MATERIAL	Brass
SIZE	88.5 L x 31 W x 61 H (in) 2248 L x 787 W x 1550 H (mm)
FINISH	Patina
WEIGHT	86 kg



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About | Vikram Goyal

Vikram Goyal is driven by a longstanding personal commitment to the revival of India's craft and cultural heritage. With an intuitive understanding of artisanal traditions and a curiosity for modern expression, he moves fluidly between past and present. His approach has helped reframe Indian craftsmanship as a vibrant, evolving language with global relevance.

Goyal's work is rooted in India's visual and artisanal legacies, yet shaped by personal history. His early years, spent surrounded by art and time in Rajasthan, seeded an instinctive affinity for ornament and storytelling through form, "I grew up in a time of secularism, growing up with great pride in the country. Alongside this, I frequently visited my maternal family's home in Rajasthan. It was filled with inherited and collected artifacts - portraiture, sculpture, and objects. I recall that period as a time of subconscious influence".

With degrees in engineering and development economics from Princeton University, Goyal began his career in finance in the U.S. and Hong Kong. His return to India in 2000 marked a significant shift – both professionally and creatively. He co-founded Kama Ayurveda, a pioneering Ayurvedic beauty and wellness brand that reframed India's indigenous medicinal heritage.

Today, his creative practice spans his eponymous studio, the lifestyle brand Viya, and ongoing cultural and philanthropic engagement. At the heart of his studio is a close and evolving collaboration with master artisans – especially in metalwork. Every piece is handcrafted on-site, enabling a unique degree of innovation, intimacy, and technical dialogue. Through this process, craft becomes not just an act of preservation, but a space of inquiry – one that reinterprets histories and delves into the imaginative.

One such piece is Dreamscape, a 10-foot repoussé mural inspired by old miniature art. "It depicts mythical creatures – symbols of hope and good fortune – set against turbulent waves, which represent the mind," Goyal explains. "It's highly evocative. I want it to move people emotionally, to prompt reflection".

The studio is represented by leading international design galleries including Nilufar Gallery (Italy) and The Future Perfect (USA), and collaborates with design houses such as De Gournay.

Through Viya, Goyal introduces new narratives into the realm of everyday living, extending his explorations of form and function through objects, textiles, and collaborations with platforms such as Cabana and 1stDibs. "With Viya we are more democratic with our designs - we are that much more prolific and it's exciting to see so many things come alive and have people respond to them".

Goyal's first publication, Shringara of Shrinathji, gathers miniature paintings from his grandfather's private collection – a personal archive that continues to influence his visual vocabulary. His second book, a survey of Indian design post-independence, will be published in 2026.

Beyond design, Goyal is a long-standing patron of wildlife conservation, supporting the work of The Elephant Family and their mission to protect the Asian elephant.

His work has been recognized by Architectural Digest India in their list of the 100 most influential architects and interior designers, and he is a recipient of the Elle Decor India Designer of the Year award. His designs have been exhibited at PAD London, Design Miami, and India Art Fair.