



TWO PERFUMES CREATED BY
CHANDRA SHUKLA
FOR THE KINGDOMS OF
ELGALAND &
VARGALAND

ELGALAND

A lighthearted yet smoky leather / cuir blend with notes of ambergris, musk and civet along with elements of sandalwood, styrax, rose and herbacious middle notes.



VARGALAND

A golden flury with notes of frankincense, rose and sandalwood combined with the exotic overtones of oud, florals and green chyper notes,



Chandra Shukla - *Elgaland and Vargaland Perfumes, 2023*

I am first and foremost a musician, composer and an artist, yet I am an explorer of many different curiosities and offer different titles whether hobby or role such as graphic designer, cook, traveler and record label boss. My journey into scents, perfume making and olfactory arts comes from my inclination as someone who practices esoteric and sacred arts to produce incense and perfume for particular occasions. The idea of scent to me is very important in anointing my sacred rituals and manifesting specific results with intention. Therefore, I took it upon myself to explore this journey into an often ignored and underestimated sense that we have as mammals and scent-oriented beings. Scent defines more in our life than we account for. It can be enjoyed as the aroma of a glorious meal, trigger a memory or set the stage of what attracts us to other things in our immediate universe whether a lover or an object of desire. XAMBUCA Olfactory is my yet to launch perfume and incense company.

The Story Behind Perfumes

Because they are only ever mentioned together, *Elgaland-Vargaland* as a single perfume would've been an obvious choice to produce and present. Yet I wanted to challenge myself to encapsulate, distinguish and single out the two personalities of this powerful, joint micronation, Kingdom while also giving the user the choice to wear them together. I wanted to develop two separate fragrances as unique and separate entities that not only complement each other, but also contrast each other just like like its Kingdoms. Feasibly, these are separate perfumes or they can be worn together

as *Elgaland-Vargaland*, hence the two separate bottles with the respective names separated. The perfumes are done in a homemade formula which involves the immersion of essential oils in vodka. They need to be shaken before they are atomized. This helps demonstrate the symbolism of division and unity within this vast, borderless Kingdom. As in many royal perfumes found around the world, both utilize one of the most expensive, wonderful and grotesque substances that the world has to offer which is *ambergris*: a type of sperm whale excrement that is formed from the indigestion of cuttlefish beaks and cured over many years by salt and sun only to be beached up. Often defined as 'liquid gold' because of its expensiveness.

Elgaland (Perfume)

The name *Elgaland* denotes 'elegance' to me so I was naturally inclined to make something elegant: sophisticated and royal yet 'holy' which is essentially what *elga* on its own could denote, but also something unusual that stood out. There is some nod to traditions here as *Elgaland* from a perfume category standpoint is a traditional 'leather' but with other nuances. There are elements in here that contain what *Elgaland* as a separate entity could entail. The formula is the same as the ones used to scent the gloves of royals before specific ceremonies such as a knighting, coronations, imperial state crowning and changing of the guards. It's all in there. From leather to floral. King and Queen.

Composition: frankincense, thyme, ambergris, jasmine, saffron, leather, musk, styrax, rose, ambroxan, rectified birch tar (immersed in vodka)

Vargaland (Perfume)

Vargaland is something that could denote many meanings. In Hungarian *varga* means 'cobbler' or 'shoemaker' yet in Sanskrit as *vargā* it could also denote the meaning of 'square' in countless contexts, from military to astrology. But the old Swedish meaning of 'wolf' is of notable context here'. What could be more powerful than the scent abilities of a canine as powerful as a wolf? To make a perfume to appease its olfactory desires. *Vargaland* is something in that vein. I wanted to explore the depth of this name and what essentially this 'kingdom of wolves' could denote. The result was this complex musk in the form of a 'golden flurry'. In a sense the scent of a noble wolf king comes to mind and this is the result.

Composition: ambergris, lemon, frankincense, mandarin, white oud, sandalwood, lemon verbena, green notes (immersed in vodka)

Text by Chandra Shukla, March 8, 2023