

Emami Art Hosts 'Feminine Facets'

An online exhibition of small-format works that reveals the feminine worlds as seen and imagined by six eminent artists from Bengal

Kolkata, 25 June, 2021: Emami Art, one of India's leading contemporary art galleries based in Kolkata is hosting an online exhibition '**Feminine Facets**' focusing on the playfulness and delicacy of small-format works. This exhibition features images of woman, mostly faces, done by six widely known and celebrated modern artists from Bengal: KG Subramanyan, Rabin Mondal, Jogen Chowdhury, Lalu Prasad Shaw, Ramananda Bandyopadhyay, and Arunima Choudhury.

The images of woman dominate the oeuvre of each of the artists. But they do not share the same outlook in depicting her in their work. The two works by Jogen Chowdhury in the exhibition show his trademark brush and ink style, the calligraphic rhythm of which captures the organic elegance of the female form. Ramananda Bandyopadhyay is also known for his mastery of lines. His powerful drawings, enhanced by the touches of colours, combine the elegance of classical art with the simplicity and rustic innocence of the folk art of Bengal. The two portraits by Lalu Prasad Shaw are dissimilar both in style and mood. The woman with a mirror in hand seems to have emerged straight from one of his famous "Babu-Bibi" paintings, which speaks of the quintessential emotions and sentiments of the married, middle-class Bengali couple. The scent of regionalism is not so strongly felt in the work of KG Subramanyan and Rabin Mondal. While Subramanyan represents women, as he does men and animals, as an integral part of his complex narrative vision, Rabin Modal is more interested in the bold, iconic, unsophisticated and primitivistic forms. Only female painter of the show, Arunima Choudhury works meticulously using botanic colours on handmade papers which she makes herself with womanly care and patience. The organic medium gives a unique palpability and tenderness to her portrayal of woman.

"The exhibition is an invitation to explore how the artists imagined the woman, not so much as a model, but as a matrix to capture the wide range of aesthetic sensibilities that course through our body and society. The small format work not only attracts wider audiences but is also preferred by many of these artists given the eloquence, freedom and informality it allows them to enjoy" said Ms Richa Agarwal, CEO, Emami Art.

The online exhibition is on from 25th June to 31st July 2021 and can be viewed at www.emamiart.com

Artist Profiles

Ramananda Bandyopadhyay (b.1936)

Born in 1936 in West Bengal, Ramananda Bandyopadhyay, a noted artist and student of Nandalal Bose, studied art in Kala Bhavana, Santiniketan, from where he graduated in 1957.

In his long artistic career spanning almost five decades, Ramananda has exhibited his work widely in India and abroad. The retrospective exhibition of his work was held at the Academy of Fine Arts, Kolkata in 2003 and Birla Academy of Art & Culture, Kolkata in 1993. He held solo shows in Sri Aurobindo Ashram, Pondicherry (2005) and Kala Bhavana, Santiniketan (1969) and participated in the group shows at Gallery Sanskriti, Kolkata (2007); Academy of Fine Arts, Kolkata (1971, 1975, 1981, 1986); All India Fine Arts and Crafts Society, New Delhi (1972);



among others. He has received many awards, including the Abanindra Puraskar by the Government of West Bengal in 2000 and the National Academy Awards by Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi (1961, 1972, 1978, 1980).

Ramananda Bandyopadhyay lives and works in Kolkata.

Jogen Chowdhury (b.1939)

Born in Faridpur, Bangladesh, in 1939, Jogen Chowdhury studied painting at Government College of Art & Craft, Kolkata and later, Ecole des Beaux-Arts, Paris between 1955 to 1965. Internationally renowned contemporary artist, he is known for his powerful figurative imagery and ornamental exuberance of line-work. He has been the subject of solo exhibitions "Reverie and Reality" at Emami Art, Kolkata; "Compelling Presence: A Retrospective Exhibition" at National Gallery of Modern Art, Bengaluru; "Abahaman: Flowing Lines, at Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi; at Bose Pacia Modern, New York; Pundole's Art Gallery, Mumbai; among many others. He has participated in the historic exhibitions on contemporary Indian art "Pictorial Space" (1979) and "place for people" (1880) at Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi and in the Triennale India (1971,1974,1977).

Jogen Chowdhury is the recipient of prestigious Kalidas Samman, Banga Bibhushan Samman and Jainul Samman. He lives and works in Santiniketan, Kolkata and New Delhi.

Arunima Choudhury (b.1950)

Born in 1950 in Siliguri, West Bengal, Arunima Choudhury studied painting at the Indian College of Art and Draftsmanship and Design and Mass Communication at Chitrabani, Kolkata, between 1970 and 1978. Working primarily with vegetable colours on handmade papers, she is known for her works depicting the languid world of nature and human being, their intimacy and coexistence. She has participated in several important group exhibitions at Emami Art, Kolkata; Hart Gallery, Beijing, China; Chitrakoot Art Gallery, Kolkata; among others. She is the subject of solo shows "Khela" at Seagull Foundation of the Arts and "Nature as I See" at Emami Art, both in Kolkata.

Arunima Choudhury lives and works in Kolkata.

KG Subramanyan (1924-1916)

Born in 1924 in Kerala, KG Subramanyan studied fine arts at Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan and later, the Slade School of Art, London on a British Council Fellowship between 1944 and 1956. He taught painting at MS University, Baroda and Kala Bhavana, Santiniketan, his alma mater.

One of the most revered and versatile modern Indian artists, Subramanyan was the subject of the major retrospective exhibition at National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi (2002) and numerous solo shows at Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad (2014); Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi (2002); Art Heritage, New Delhi (2002); Seagull Foundation for the Arts, Kolkata (1999); Sakshi Art Gallery; and many other major galleries in India and abroad. He has participated in "Art South Asia," Manchester, UK (2002), "Tryst with Destiny: Art from Modern India 1947-1997," Singapore (1998); among many others. He was awarded numerous prestigious awards, including the Kalidas Samman by the Govt. of Madhya Pradesh; Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan and Padma Vibhushan by the Government of India and Deshikottam by Visva-Bharati.

Rabin Mondal (1929-2019)

Born in 1929, Howrah, West Bengal, Rabin Mondal studied art in the evening classes at the Indian College of Arts and Draftsmanship, Kolkata between 1956 and 1958. He was the subject of many solo shows in almost all the major galleries in India since 1961 and a large retrospective of his work "Kingdom of Exile" was organized by the Delhi Art Gallery in 1915-16 in Mumbai and New York. He also participated in "Living Insignia" at Gallery Insighed,



New Delhi (2010); “The root of Everything” at Gallery Mementos, Bangalore (2008) and many other group exhibitions.

A noted member of the Calcutta Painters, Rabin Mondal was awarded the Abanindra Puraskar by the Government of West Bengal in 2001.

Lalu Prasad Shaw (b.1937)

Born in 1937, Suri, West Bengal, Lalu Prasad Shaw studied painting at the Government College of Art and Craft, Kolkata between 1954 and 1957. He has held several solo shows, including “Babu and Bibi” at Gallery 7, Mumbai (2017); “Looking In” at Gallery 88, Kolkata (2011); “Sepia Notes” at Art Musing, Mumbai (2007); and several others in the other major galleries in India. His work has been featured in many group exhibitions, including “Transitions” at CIMA, Kolkata (2014), “Mark of Master II” at Art and Soul, Mumbai (2009); “High on Art” at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi (2007); among others. A noted painter and printmakers, his talent was widely recognized in India and he was awarded the Birla Academy Award for Graphic Art in 1976.

Lalu Prasad Shaw lives and works in Kolkata.

About Emami Art:

Emami Art, one of the most significant art institutions in the eastern part of India, is a key space for cultural production in the region. The organisation is focused on a future-forward, complex, multi-dimensional approach and steadfast in the advocacy of emerging, mid-career and established artists as well as an engagement with contemporary and historical material. The gallery aims to create dynamic, wide-ranging registers of exhibition-making and viewing. Deeply committed to promoting a regional, national and international agenda through innovative and alternative programming, emphasis on community and socially relevant engagements, institutional partnerships and more via a multi-year vision for the future, Emami Art is resolute to be a catalyst of change, research, innovation and inclusivity. Emami Art, Kolkata Centre for Creativity 777 Anandapur off EM Bypass. www.emamiart.com