



Celebrating 86th Birth Anniversary of Shri Soumitra Chattopadhyay Through A Retrospective Exhibition

~ Smt. Mamata Banerjee, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal inaugurates the Exhibition ~

~ A joint collaboration by The Soumitra Chatterjee Foundation, Emami Art and Mukhomukhi ~

~ Exhibition to feature Film Posters, Lobby Cards, Booklets, Manuscripts, Letters, Film Costumes, Unseen Images and Paintings done by the late actor. The exhibition will also stage dramas, recital sessions, along with screening of his films and documentaries ~

Kolkata, 14th January, 2020: In remembrance of the late legendary actor **Shri Soumitra Chattopadhyay**, a **Retrospective Exhibition** has been jointly organised by **The Soumitra Chatterjee Foundation, Emami Art** and **Mukhomukhi** to celebrate the late actor's 86th birth anniversary, which falls on 19th January. Spanning over a period of two weeks, the exhibition, curated by Shri Jyotirmoy Bhattacharya, will be held at **Emami Art**, located in Kolkata Centre for Creativity.

Smt. Mamata Banerjee, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal, inaugurated the exhibition today in the august presence of **Shri Jogen Chowdhury**, eminent painter; **Smt. Deepa Chatterjee**, wife of the late actor; **Shri Sougata Chatterjee** and **Smt. Poulomi Bose**, son and daughter of the late actor; **Shri Jyotirmoy Bhattacharya**, curator of the exhibition; **Shri Nav Ratan Jhavar**, Vice President, The Soumitra Chatterjee Foundation; **Shri RS Goenka**, Founder and Jt. Chairman, Emami Group; **Shri Aditya Vardhan Agarwal**, Director, Emami Group; and, **Smt. Richa Agarwal**, CEO- Emami Art and Chairperson, Kolkata Centre for Creativity. Noted dignitaries of Kolkata from various fields and professions also graced the occasion.

Born on 19th January, 1935 at Krishnanagar, West Bengal, Soumitra Chatterjee had entered the world of acting first under the aegis of noted thespian Sisir Kumar Bhaduri and later grew to be one of the finest actors of Indian cinema largely under the mentorship of noted filmmaker Satyajit Ray. His portrayal of 'Apu' in 'Apu Sansar', the last of Ray's Apu's Trilogy series established him in the hearts of the Bengali film lovers. Gradually he built up a rich repertoire of some of the finest celluloid creations which won the hearts of cine-lovers across the nation and even beyond boundaries. Not only acting in films and theatre, with his powerhouse of talent, Soumitra Chatterjee effortlessly traversed many other creative genres like theatre direction, composing of poetry and prose, recitation and narration,



painting and much more. This brought him many national and international awards and recognitions, the few notable being *Dadasaheb Phalke Award*, *Padma Bhushan* and *Knight of Legion of Honour* from the Government of France. The Retrospective Exhibition at Emami Art will celebrate this huge canvas of his multifaceted creative personality and showcase Film Posters, Lobby Cards, Booklets, Manuscripts, Letters, Film Costumes, Unseen Images and Paintings done by Shri Soumitra Chatterjee. The exhibition will also stage dramas, recital sessions, along with screening of his films and documentaries.

Speaking on the occasion, **Smt. Richa Agarwal, CEO- Emami Art and Kolkata Centre for Creativity** said, *"It is a great honour for Emami Art to celebrate the 86th birth anniversary of Shri Soumitra Chatterjee, a cultural icon, acting legend, director, playwright, writer, poet and painter par excellence. The exhibition project at Emami Arts includes paintings, memorabilia, some exemplary cinematic works as well as other events that shed light on Soumitra da's incredible journey and immense contribution. The Joint Chairpersons of Emami Group, Shri R S Agarwal Ji and Shri R S Goenka Ji, have always believed in giving back something lasting and valuable to their beloved city of Kolkata where they had started their business in a humble way around fifty years ago. Hence, hosting this project aligns with Emami Arts focus on fostering dynamic and collaborative relationships that uphold and honour our rich cultural heritage."*

Shri Jogen Chowdhury, a noted painter and one of the main convenors of The Soumitra Chatterjee Foundation said, *"This is the first public exhibition by The Soumitra Chatterjee Foundation celebrating the 86th birth anniversary of the legend. Most of us know him as a film and theatre personality, but there were many others facets to his creative personality. In this exhibition, we have tried to capture this multi-faceted creativity of Soumitra Chatterjee of which his paintings needs a special mention. Soumitra da started painting long time back but it was in later years when he got more serious about it. Being encouraged, he did his first exhibition in 2013 in Kolkata. Later on, two more exhibitions of his artworks were organised in Baroda and Ahmedabad which also received quite a positive response from the art lovers. Next plan was to go for Bangladesh which however could not be done. Today we are celebrating his birth anniversary and we feel nothing could have been a better tribute than an exhibition like this which showcases the artist in him in totality."*

Smt. Poulomi Bose, daughter of the late actor said, *"When I lost my father in November 2020, the sense of loss and emptiness left me bereft, hurt and aching. The only way to come to terms with this devastating loss was to keep his memories alive and what better way to do that than to carry forward his legacy and preserve his works for his countless admirers and his loved ones – a thought that led to the formation of THE SOUMITRA CHATTERJEE FOUNDATION with few of us, who have been very closely associated with him and his work, getting together and pledging to carry forward his legacy and preserve the work that he has left behind. We have started our work already and his 86th birthday celebration in collaboration with Emami Art is our first step in this direction."*



Shri Jyotirmoy Bhattacharya, who have curated this exhibition said, *“The Bengali icon Soumitra Chatterjee was not only a great film actor but also a rare talent with multi-faceted creative excellence. Not many know that Soumitra Chatterjee had been an impressionist painters who always followed the thought and legacy of Rabindranath Tagore. Through this exhibition, we will showcase a consolidated journey of his life, thoughts and works.”*

he Exhibition is open for public from 15th – 31st January, 2021 (except on Mondays and National Holidays) between 11 am – 7 pm.
