

Art Expo

25th - 27th September 2009

K.G. Subramanyam, Akbar Padamsee, Jogen Chowdhary, Jagannath Mahapatra, Alok Bal, Chirag Patel, Hrushikesh Biswal, Anusaya Mahapatra, Uday Mondal.

K G Subramanian

KG. Subramanian is among the few artists who have explored the possibilities of modern art from a different perspective, giving new dimensions to the human figure by making them appear more as characters from various myths and traditional narratives, populating a composition quite the contrary. A prolific writer, scholar, teacher and art historian, Subramanian uses his in-depth knowledge of various artistic traditions to create fantastical images of wit and eroticism that are universal in their appeal, yet coupled With iconic symbols drawn from Indian legends and folklore. Subramanian has time and again aimed at blurring the boundaries between art and the artisan. Born on 15 February, 1924, in Kerala, Subramanian studied under the tutelage of Benode Behari Mukherjee, Nandalal Bose and Ramkinkar Baij at Santiniketan. He graduated from Kala Bhavan, Visva Bharati University, there in 1948 after receiving his Bachelor's Degree in Economics from the Presidency College in Chennai, In 1955, he received a British Council Research Fellowship to the Slade School of Art at the University Of London. Since his graduation, Subramanian's work has been exhibited in over fifty solo shows, the most recent including those presented by Seagull Foundation for the Arts in collaboration with Nandan Gallery at Kala Bhavana, Kolkata, in 2009; 'The Painted Platters' at the Guild Art Gallery, 'Drawing an act Of Art 'Priyasri +Art Gallery 2006; Mumbai, in 2007; and 'The Magic of Making' at the Seagull Arts and Media Resource Centre, Kolkata, and Rabindra Bhavan, Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi, also in 2007. A private collector will be showcasing his collection of KG Subramanian at Priyasri Art Gallery Mumbai, 2010. Subramanian lives and works in Baroda.

Akbar Padamsee

Though very meticulous in his method, master colourist Akbar Padamsee's drawings and paintings pulsate with throbbing energy. His formal education was in the fine arts — Padamsee graduated from the Sir J.J. School of Art in 1940, With diploma in painting and series of sculpture classes behind him. The most familiar works from his extensive oeuvre are the metascapes and mirror images, and the figures and heads, which he keeps oscillating between. The figure is treated not as an individual, not even in the heads where the association with portraiture is even stronger. The only occasion when he has handled portraits of known people, was in 1997, with his Gandhi series of works on paper in watercolour and charcoal.

Born in Mumbai in 1928, Akbar Padamsee has exhibited his works in several solo exhibitions, including most recently, 'Sensitive Surfaces' at Galerie Helene Lamarque, Paris, in 2008; 'Metascape to Humanscape' at Aicon Gallery, New York and Palo Alto, In 2007; and 'Photographs (2004-06)' at the Guild Art Gallery, Mumbai, in 2006. From 1994 onwards, Padamsee has held several solo shows at Pundole Art Gallery ,Mumbai, including 'Tertiaries', 'Compugraphics', 'Imaging Gandhi', 'Female Nudes', and 'Mirror Images'. His first solo exhibition was held in Paris in 1952 at Galerie Saint Placide. The artists has participated in several group exhibitions including Drawing an Act of Art', 2006 & 'Indian Portraiture' 2009 at Priyasri Art Gallery. The artist will be holding a sob show with the Pundole Art Gallery, Mumbai in 2009 & Priyasri Art Gallery, Mumbai in 2010. The artist lives and works in Mumbai.

Jogen Chowdhury

Jogen Chowdhury is known for his ability to successfully marry traditional imagery with the zeitgeist of contemporary painting, in a skillful blend of an urbane self-awareness and a highly localized Bengali influence. During his college days, Chowdhury took part in leftist literary Circles. "My background is relevant," he once remarked in an interview, explaining that his life in Calcutta was "quite disturbed with political movements. This has a definite influence on my work. The Bengali business class worshiping the icon, and their corruption, how they degenerate just like'. The famine, the Partition, and the food movement all cast a pall over his formative years, and a quality of darkness may be seen to inhere in Chowdhury's work. Yet as well as an indicator of sadness, this darkness can be understood to evoke an aura of mystery Speaking on contemporary art, Chowdhury maintains the necessity of a uniquely Indian approach to art, as opposed to the blind aping of Western trends, 'To be global you do not have to do something that is imitative of America, Australia or England. It has to have an authenticity, which is not what blind imitation allows for. " Born in 1939 in Faridpur, Bengal, Chowdhury studied at the Government College Of Art and Crafts, Kolkata, from 1955-60, followed by a stint at L'Ecole Nationale Superior des Beax- MS, Paris, in 1965-57 on a French Government Scholarship. His recent solo exhibitions include' Drawing an Act of M,2006 at Priyasri Art Gallery Mumbai, 'A Calligraphy Of Touch and Gaze' , presented by Kalakriti Art Gallery at ICIA, Mumbai, in 2008; and 'Abahoman: Flowing Life' at Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi, in 2007. 'Indian Portraiture' 2009 at Priyasri Art Gallery, Chowdhury has also had solo exhibitions at Gaiah Gallery, Singapore', Gallerie Foundation for Indian Artists, Amsterdam; and the Fine Art Resource, Berlin. In 1966, Chowdhury was awarded the Prix le France de la JeunePeinture in Paris, and, in 1986, received an award at the Second Biennale of Havana, Cuba. He was presented the Kalidas Sanrnan by the Government of Madhya Pradesh in 2001. The artist lives and works in Santiniketan.

Jagannath Mohapatra

Jagannath Mohapatra follows his inner instinct, and remains faithful to his style and subject instead of resorting to gimmicks in his works. This is probably why he has managed to hold the attention of art critics and connoisseurs in spite of his maintaining a low-profile. The artist, born in 1969 at Bhadrak, Orissa. completed his B. F.A. in 1999 from Kala Bhavana, Santiniketan, Visva Bharati University, and M.F.A (2001) from M.S. University, Baroda. He has done his B.A (History) from Utkal University, and has also studied music. In a short span of time, he has gained in prominence, resulting in a string of solos and group show participations at leading art galleries like Birna Academy, Kolkata; Priyasri Art Gallery, Mumbai; CIA Gallery Mumbai; Sarjan Art Gallery, Baroda, Gallery Kaleidoscope, Baroda; ABS Bayer Gallery, Baroda; Chitrakoot Art Gallery, Kolkata; Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai; Son Et Lumiere Gallery, Mumbai, and Nazar Art Gallery, Baroda. First Solo show " Indian Red at Priyasri Art Gallery. An online show of his works, titled 'The City lost its innocence' , was hosted by The Arts Trust a few years ago. The artist lives and works at the AW Priyasri artist studio in Baroda.

Alok Bal

Alok Bal studied Fine Arts at the Faculty of Fine Arts, M.S. University, Baroda. At the onset of his career one could see that Bal was very much influenced by the British Pop-Artist and their American counterparts, but since then he has found an idiom that is very much his own, Bal's works represent man's innate instinct to dominate nature, for instance man's desire to trim trees to look like lollipops, planting flowering shrubs around fountains. Bal uses irony and skill to express his fascination and disillusionment with life in a metropolis. Born in Orissa 1969, B.Com (Sanbalpur University, Orissa), 1989, B.A. Fine Arts, 1998 & Post Diploma in Painting 2001. Faculty of Fine Arts, M.S. University, Baroda, Bal has participated in various group shows, 2002 Nazar Art Gallery, Baroda; 2003 Jehangir Art Gallery, 2004 Bayer Art Gallery Baroda, Tao Art Gallery, Mumbai, 'Transgress' Priyasri Art Gallery Mumbai; 2005 'Use and Throw' Installation Show at Sara Arrakal Gallery Bangalore, Drawing and Act of Art, Priyasri Art Gallery; 2006 Sanan Art Gallery, Baroda, The Air Gallery, London, Artkonsult Dehli, Solo Show 'Football Fever' and 'Black Landscape' at Priyasri Art Gallery 2006 Solo show at Anant Art Gallery, Dehli 2008 Barren landscapes pervaded by a strange silence. Endless vistas of grey-black save for a solitary structure, its walls stained with years of use. Alok Bal's landscapes are the terrains of dreams... nightmares... reality The artist lives and works at the AQ@Priyasri Art Studio in Baroda.

Chirag Patel

B.F.A (Painting), Faculty of Fine Arts, Baroda. Solo Show at Maneland Resort, Sasan Gir, Gujarat. Group show with Alok Chohan at Artkonsult, New Delhi, 2008; Art within Reach, Samsara Art Gallery, Mumbai, After Images, Faculty Gallery, Baroda, Artists of Baroda. Artworld, The Fine Art Gallery, Chennai, 2007; Feb Group Show, Red Earth Galleries, Baroda, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006,

2007; Group Show, Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai, 2003. These fresh and energetic painterly narratives perhaps take their inspiration from the story telling capacity of late Bhupen Khakkar, who in his paintings had created a narrative, which now we attribute with contemporary mythological status. Amongst the New Gujarat Contemporaries, Chirag is the only artist who resorts to the narrative style but with a difference. Art historically speaking, this is an artist's effort to align himself with the narrative legacy of the Baroda Narrative School. However, there is a formal rejection of the conventions and expansion of concerns in Chirag's works. There is something typical of Gujarat ethos in his works, which perhaps would not be able to emulate by artists from the other states. Chirag has been visiting Gir Forests every year and his narratives are based on these visits. Like in a contemporary fable, the lions and other animals assume the roles of the cultural icons of our times including Michael Jackson and Gabbar Singh (Amad Khan). The artist will have his first solo show at the Priyasri Art Gallery "Tribute to Michael Jackson" by the end of this year. The artist worked at the AQ@Priyasri for a brief period and now lives and works in his studio at Baroda.

Hrushikesh Biswal

HRISHIKESH BISWAL portrays the innate savage stories of desire through his paintings. Reference to sexuality in art, unswervingly or obliquely is getting more and more tabooed in the contemporary Indian society. However, the innate instinct of the popular psyche appears to be worshipping it, as evident from the mass media. Hrushikesh's involvement with the subject of eroticism should not be perceived as a mode of titillation but as an expression of pacifying the psychological trauma initiated from a childhood apparition. Hrushikesh reaffirms his roots in eastern India. 2004 - BEA, Painting Dauli College of Arts and Crafts Bhuvaneshvar, Orissa. 2006 - M.VA. Masters in Graphic, M.S. University, Baroda. He has participated in group shows at the ABS Art Gallery Baroda, Dhoomimal Art Gallery, Delhi and three shows at Priyasri Art Gallery, Mumbai. His first solo show will commence in 2010 at the Priyasri Art Gallery. The artist lives and works at AQ@Priyasri Mist Studio in Baroda.