EMAMIART

THE SALTS OF MANY SEAS

ALI AKBAR PN

OVERVIEW

Born in Koolimuttam, Central Kerala, Ali Akbar P N is a contemporary artist whose thematic preoccupations traverse the delicate terrain of memory, myth, mobility, and heritage. He employs a sophisticated blend of archival research, site-specific investigations, and scholarly inquiry in his practice. 'The Salts of Many Seas' is an inquiry into his recent and ongoing practice, around some of the historically important spaces and their significance to understanding past and present times. Imagined as a study lab or museum space with objects, maps, and archives, the works in the show include paintings, digital prints, sculptures, a book, and a video.

Ali Akbar's artistic practice and worldview are profoundly intertwined with the maritime domain, emblematic of his upbringing in a coastal village on the periphery of the venerable port city of Muziris. The sea, a salient motif of his work, not only resonates as a geographical entity but also as an ideological choice that permeates the sociocultural and politico-economic substrata of his formative milieu. Rooted in the coastal ethos of Kerala, the sea assumes multifarious roles, serving as both a locus of communal interaction and a reservoir of cultural heritage. Paradoxically, within the prevailing hegemonic cultural framework, the sea assumes an ambivalent status, simultaneously present in lived experience yet conspicuously absent in the dominant discourse. This dialectical tension between the sea's pervasive influence on local socio-cultural dynamics and its marginalization within the broader cultural paradigms underscores Ali Akbar's work, which critiques the 'blind spots' and 'amnesia' in cultural representation and erasure inherent within the broader societal constructs. Ali Akbar P N was born in 1996 in Koolimuttam, Central Kerala. He completed MVA in Painting from Maharaja Sayajirao University, Vadodara, Gujarat, in 2020 and BFA in Painting from the Government College of Fine Arts Thrissur, Kerala, in 2018.

Ali Akbar was selected by an eminent jury for the first award at the annual all-India open call awards and exhibition, *IMAGINARIUM 2.0* at Emami Art Kolkata 2022, and he participated in the *IMAGINARIUM 3.0 Residency* at Emami Art in 2024.

He has participated in many exhibitions, including *All That is Hidden: Mapping Departures in Landscape, Terrains and Geographies*, Emami Art, Kolkata, 2024; *Fault Lines: Visual Symptoms of Discordances in Indian History* at Conflictorium, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, *Embark*, 2023, Baroda; *India Art Fair* 2023; *Baroda Anuelle* 2023, Gallery White Vadodara; Architecture Digest Design Show in December, Mumbai, 2022; *From Where All That Sweat?*, Trivandrum 2022; *The Flying Goat Show*, Goa 2022; Open Studio, Baroda 2021; Untitled III Online Exhibition, Priyasri Art Gallery Mumbai 2020; *Nasreen Mohammedi Studio Display*, MSU Baroda 2019 – 2020; *Prologue 18 Final Display*, Govt. College of Fine Arts Thrissur 2018; *Kala Mela Art Exhibition*, Lalit Kala Academy, New Delhi 2018; Group Show in Onyx Art Gallery, Kochi 2017; *Charcoal Group Art Exhibition*, Calicut 2017; *Kasthuri Sreenivasan Trust Annual Show*, Coimbatore 2017.



He currently resides and works in Vadodara, Gujarat, India.







Alluvial Plain - 1 Acrylic on canvas, teak wood and bronze and archival inkjet print on archival paper Overall dimension variable A - 19.56 x 21.06 in. (49.7 x 53.5 cm.) B - 21.45 x 17.91 x 3.54 in. (54.5 x 45.5 x 9 cm.) 1.27 kg. approx. C - 9.76 x 22.44 in. (24.8 x 57 cm.) print size 11.8 x 23.62 in. (30 x 60 cm.) sheet size Edition of C - 1/2 Suite of 3 works 2024, Baroda



Relics - 2

Acrylic on paper, archival inkjet print on archival paper, clay and silicone

Overall dimension variable A - 5.62 x 8.26 in. (14.3 x 21 cm.) print size 6.96 x 9.44 in. (17.7 x 24 cm.) sheet size B - 5.62 x 8.26 in. (14.3 x 21 cm.) print size 7.08 x 9.44 in. (18 x 24 cm.) sheet size C - 5.62 x 8.26 in. (14.3 x 21 cm.) print size 7.08 x 9.44 in. (18 x 24 cm.) sheet size D - 9.44 x 12.51 in. (24 x 31.8 cm.) E - 5.78 x 8.18 in. (14.7 x 20.8 cm.) F - 3.14 x 4.92 x 2.08 in. (8 x 12.5 x 5.3 cm.), 0.460 kg. approx. G - 9.56 x 15.35 in. (24.3 x 39 cm.) print size 11.81 x 16.53 in. (30 x 42 cm.) sheet size Edition of A, B, C & G - 1/2 Suite of 7 works 2024, Baroda

















Screw Pine in the Salty Wind Archival inkjet print on archival paper and teak wood Overall dimension variable A - 10.55 x 15.35 in. (26.8 x 39 cm.) print size 11.69 x 16.53 in. (29.7 x 42 cm.) sheet size B - 10.55 x 15.35 in. (26.8 x 39 cm.) print size 11.69 x 16.53 in. (29.7 x 42 cm.) sheet size C - 5.51 x 42.7 x 1.25 in. (14 x 108.7 x 3.2 cm.), 0.37 kg. approx Edition of A & B - 1/2 Suite of 3 works 2024, Baroda





Relics - 1
Acrylic on paper, bronze and archival inkjet print on archival paper
Overall dimension variable
A - 6.29 x 22.44 in. (16 x 57 cm.) print size
7.48 x 23.62 in. (19 x 60 cm.) sheet size
B - 5.03 x 9.40 in. (12.8 x 23.9 cm.)
C - 7.28 x 4.33 x 1.96 in. (18.5 x 11 x 5 cm.), 2.55 kg. approx.
Edition of A - 1/2
Suite of 3 works
2024, Baroda









Bank of Vatrak Acrylic on paper and archival inkjet print on archival paper Overall dimension variable A - 14.96 x 33.97 in. (38 x 86.3 cm.) B - 10.35 x 15.66 in. (26.3 x 39.8) print size 10.90 x 16.22 in. (27.7 x 41.2 cm.) sheet size Edition of B - 1/2 Suite of 2 works 2024, Baroda







Reincarnation of Myth - 2 Acrylic on paper Overall dimension variable A - 22.44 x 33.85 in. (57 x 86 cm.) B - 7.08 x 10.19 in. (18 x 25.9 cm.) C - 9.44 x 12.51 in. (24 x 31.8 cm.) Suite of 3 works 2024, Baroda







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Ali Akbar P N (b.1996)

Hijron Ka Khanqah Acrylic on paper Overall dimension variable A - 21.65 x 24.80 in. (55 x 63 cm.) B - 9.44 x 12.51 in. (24 x 31.8 cm.) Suite of 2 works 2024, Baroda





Reincarnation of Myth - 1 Acrylic on paper and archival inkjet print on archival paper Overall dimension variable A - 10.23 x 7.08 in. (26 x 18 cm.) B - 7.08 x 6.69 in. (18 x 17 cm.) print size 9.37 x 7.87 in. (23.8 x 20 cm.) print size C - 9.44 x 12.59 in. (24 x 32 cm.) D - 7.08 x 9.44 in. (18 x 24 cm.) B - Unique edition Suite of 4 works 2024, Baroda

Detail Of Reincarnation of Myth - 1

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Procession of Mourners - 2 Acrylic and archival inkjet on paper Overall dimension variable A - 7.28 x 10.27 in. (18.5 x 26.1 cm.) B - 10.94 x 14.68 in. (27.8 x 37.3 cm.) C - 8.26 x 11.61 in. (21 x 29.5 cm.) D - 10.90 x 14.60 in. (27.7 x 37.1 cm.) Suite of 4 works 2024, Baroda

Detail Of Procession of Mourners - 2



Hate Hymn Acrylic on paper and clay Overall dimension variable A - 9.44 x 7.08 in. (24 x 18 cm.) B - 7.08 x 9.44 in. (18 x 24 cm.) C - 15.15 x 7.87 x 1.85 in. (38.5 x 20 x 4.7 cm.), 3.88 kg. approx. Suite of 3 works 2024, Baroda

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Reincarnation of Myth - 3 Acrylic on paper Overall dimension variable A - 7.08 x 10.23 in. (18 x 26 cm.) B - 9.05 x 12.91 in. (23 x 32.8 cm.) C - 7.08 x 9.44 in. (18 x 24 cm.) D - 7.08 x 9.44 in. (18 x 24 cm.) Suite of 4 works 2024, Baroda





Chonakakkuthira - II Acrylic and inkjet print on archival paper A - 26.7 x 29.9 in. (67.8 x 76 cm.) B - 15 x 29.7 in. (38 x 75.4 cm.) Suite of 2 works 2023, Baroda

Detail Of Chonakakkuthira - II



With a Number of Exceptions from Earlier - 1 Acrylic, archival print and charcoal on acid free paper 25 x 49 in. (63.5 x 124.5 cm.) 2022, Baroda

The Time Imagining From Now Digital video Dimension variable Duration - 3:02 minutes Single-channel black-and-white video with no sound Unique work 2024, Baroda and Kolkata

<u>Video</u>

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KOLKATA, INDIA

Emami Art, Kolkata, is a leading contemporary art gallery and space for cultural production. Based in Kolkata, India, the gallery focuses on a future-forward, complex, multi-dimensional approach. It is steadfast in advocating for emerging, mid-career and established artists and engaging with contemporary and historical material. The gallery also 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.

Artists represented by Emami Art:

- Ali Akbar PN .
- Anjan Modak
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- Arunima Choudhury
- Bholanath Rudra .
- **Debashish Paul** .
- Ghana Shyam Latua .

- Janhavi Khemka •
- •
- •
- Shilpi Sharma •
- ٠
- •
- Suman Dey •

To know more about the artist, please click below: https://www.emamiart.com/artists/



- Prasanta Sahu
- Santanu Debnath
- Sibaprasad Karchaudhuri
- Soma Das
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