



Fluid Boundaries

Curated by art historian & critic, Nanak Ganguly

Bholanath Rudra | Debasis Barui | Snehasish Maity
Suman Dey | Tapas Biswas

Nov 6 – Dec 15, 2020

Foreword

It gives me great pleasure to present *Fluid Boundaries*, our first physical exhibition after months of suspension due to the pandemic. We have all passed through a hard time and, in the last few months, Emami Art has pivoted and shifted to online activities, hosting a wide range of innovative digital programmes, including art talks, documentary film festival, fundraisers for the Amphan victims and virtual exhibitions. The battle against the virus has not yet been won, but we are slowly getting back to normal, and the present situation has remarkably intensified our self-growth. I am very much excited to see what the artists have come up with during the pandemic.

Fluid Boundaries has brought together the work created by five committed contemporary artists of Bengal: Bholanath Rudra, Suman Dey, Snehasish Maity, Tapas Biswas and Bebasis Barui, whose extraordinary range of practices encompasses the ambiguities, complexities and contradictions of our time to which a thorough, critical formulation of contemporaneity could give rise. I would like to thank the artists and also say a big thank-you to Nanak Ganguly for curating such a wonderful, thought-provoking show.

Art plays a vital role in our lives and I hope that the exhibition will excite many of us who have been craving the irreplaceable feeling of being face-to-face with a work of art.

Richa Agarwal
CEO, Emami Art

Fluid Boundaries

As we are overwhelmed by the sense of an outsider in a presence, exacerbated by never knowing the proper accent, the space here at Emami Art is filled to capacity with the hierarchies that prevail, the resulting subjugations, the dogmas of prescribed thinking, the inequality of gender, the violence and resulting chaos of life in the Indian sub-continent, depravation resulted from discrimination before we lapse into the metaphor of purity of signs, the dreadful notion of contamination, behind the walls of unreasoning logic, a retreat to our own narcissism.

In the sphere of culture and the arts, new reflections and alternate practices manifest themselves as a series of questions, about how to rediscover domestic/indigenous spaces without disengaging the world system. Cut edge artists of the present reason out proposition for locating the subversion of art practice in the interstices of urban spaces and beyond. Aspects of culture, in the wider sense, which were previously distinguished in a hierarchical manner are rendered equivalent as simulation. They are replete with visual texts retrieved from the times and spaces these artists travel inwardly and intensely with almost indiscriminate abandon, unconfined; spewing gut-level reactions in their treatment of subjects and material, balancing between the subjective and emotive. For the modernists it was the question of scrutinizing the living reality, which is diverse, but direct and different position of art have confronted the viewer in an overwhelming and dizzying fashion-exciting that it contrasts the work of major artists with widely disparate styles. What our contemporary artists desire is a renewal of a visual language, and the return of its object to the richness and range of experience. All that is of the essence here, further quest is useless, unnecessary.

The works here confront our traditional experience of sound, of light, of setting-these are wrenched out of context, re-ordered and returned to a new, subtle questioning role of reflecting the artist's choice of subject. Our existence is marked by a tenebrous sense of survival, living on the borderlines of the present and 'Fluid Boundaries' shall address such concern. That of the artist's struggle with inhibitions, contradictions, disillusionment, subalterneity, political and personal isolation. Each new step, each new possibility retreats into old solutions and is discarded. But it would be impossible to stop- one has to create the text in spite of the odds, for example the sculpture/installations of Tapas Biswas or in the paintings of Suman Dey. A recurrent issue today most often is the plight of the individual in a highly technological world as in the works of Bholanath Rudra or Snehashish Maity. However, you will find the works of 'Fluid Boundaries' are ultimately optimistic although bristling with images of hope, aggression, human relations, confrontation, displacement, there is a sense, achieved through ironic focus, that beyond lies something more hopeful but first it is necessary to overturn what we have and create the neutral space from which new things shall grow by creating un/usual interactions between visual art, architecture, and the materials of everyday, popular and media cultures as we get to view in Debasis Barui's installations. It will also be all about physical, metaphoric and psychological connotations that are almost always intertwined and represented in socio-linguistic patterns.

Isn't it that dialogue is a continuous process: it has little to do with past concepts of edification but emerges as a vital process, a landscape where we become familiar with the changes influencing our lives. This group show is comprised works by, a representative fraction of a region, which has contributed enormously in the making of our contemporary visual text. What is also important for us that works in this show need to be seen in the context of its current concerns, practices and expectations provide a sort of crucible of the art of the moment- a shifting weave of memory that takes place, gaze that is intimate and penetrating. Viewings at Emami Art will result not in familiarity but fresh discoveries.

Artists

Bholanath Rudra (b. 1984)

Born in Kolkata, West Bengal, Bholanath Rudra graduated from Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata in 2013. Rudra's major solo-shows include *The Mechanical Libido*, at Academy of Fine Arts, Kolkata, 2013 and *States of Mind.....water colours* at the Society of Contemporary Artists, Kolkata, 2018. He was also the part of residency conducted by Lalit Kala Akademi in 2013-14. The artist lives and works in Kolkata.

Debasis Barui (b. 1975)

Born in Kolkata, West Bengal, Debasis Barui earned his Diploma in fine art from Indian College of Art. He has exhibited at Birla Academy of Art and Culture, 1997; Jehangir Art Gallery, 1998; Aryan Art Gallery, 2004; Galerie 88, 2006; Aakriti Art Gallery 2006, 2007; Anant Art Gallery, Kolkata, 2008; Emami Art, 2009, 2010, 2014; All India Art Exhibition, 2002; CIMA Awards Show, 2015; among others. He was a recipient of Junior Fellowship, Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India, 2011-12. He lives and works in Kolkata.

Snehasish Maity (b.1972)

Born in Durgapur, West Bengal, Snehasish Maity earned his Bachelor's in Visual Arts from Govt. College of Art and Craft, Kolkata and Master's in Visual Arts from M.S. University of Baroda. His solo/group shows include the CIMA" Award Show, Kolkata, 2016, a group show organized by Emami Art, Kolkata, 2015; *Net Work*, a site specific installation in Kolkata, 2014; *Dialogue*, a site specific installation in Chander Haat Kolkata; *Urban Narratives*, curated by Nanak Ganguly, Tokyo, 2013. The artist lives and works in Kolkata.

Suman Dey (b. 1981)

Born in Kolkata, West Bengal, Suman Dey is a self-taught artist. He has been the subject of solo-exhibitions at Taj Bengal, Kolkata (2011, 2014); ECA Art Walk, Kolkata (2011) and Chemould Art Gallery, Kolkata, 2008. His works have also been shown in the duet and group exhibitions at Emami Art, Kolkata, 2020; Academy of Fine Arts, Kolkata, 2009, 2015, 2017; Shilpi Art Gallery, 2008; Birla Academy of Art & Culture, Kolkata (2018, 2016). He was the recipient of the Certificate of Merit Award, in Emami Art Annual Exhibition, 2017. The artist lives and works in Kolkata.

Tapas Biswas (b.1972)

Born in Kolkata, West Bengal, Tapas Biswas completed his Bachelor's from Govt. College of Art and Craft, Kolkata in 1998 and Master's from Benaras Hindu University in 2000. He has exhibited at the galleries in Kolkata, Hyderabad, New Delhi and also Sweden, France and Singapore. He has participated in various symposiums and camps that includes Penza, Russia, 2015; International Sculpture Symposium in Baroda, 2010; Thimpu, 2009; Kala Bhavana, Santiniketan, 2006; among others. The artist lives and works in Kolkata.

Nanak Ganguly, Curator

Nanak Ganguly is an independent curator and critic based in Kolkata. He has written extensively for *The Statesman*, *Asian Age*, *Deccan Chronicle*, and others. He was appointed the Commissioner of VIIIth Pan Asia-Pacific Art Biennale by Lalit Kala Akademi in 1997. He has curated shows in New York, Tokyo, Singapore, New Delhi, Bombay, London, Kolkata, Hyderabad (CCMB) that include an exhibition titled 'Urban Narratives' at Espace Louis Vuitton, Tokyo (2013) and Charles D'Oyly's Calcutta, Early Nineteenth Century at Victoria Memorial Hall, Kolkata. (2014). He has been on the selection committees of various international projects including SITU-I, ELV, Paris, Munich and Tokyo.

He has few books to his credit including *Somnath Hore* (ed.) published by Lalit Kala Akademi and contributed in *Akbar Padamsee, Work in Language* (Marg Publications).



Bholanath Rudra
You're under CCTV Surveillance
Watercolour on paper
58.6 x 72 inches
2020, Kolkata
C5330



Bholanath Rudra
Press Conference
Watercolour on paper
58.6 x 72 inches
2020, Kolkata
C5331



Bholanath Rudra
Plantation
Watercolour on paper
138 x 324 inches
2020, Kolkata
C5332



Snehasish Maity
A Young Astronaut
Oil on canvas
80 x 60 inches
2020, Kolkata
C5738



Snehasish Maity
In between
Oil on canvas
40 x 48 inches
2018, Kolkata
C5739



Snehasish Maity
Beyond it, the Blue Air
Oil on canvas
82 x 64 inches
2020, Kolkata
C5740



Snehasish Maity
Power, Memory, Architecture
Oil on canvas
90 x 72 inches
2020, Kolkata
C5741



Tapas Biswas
Abandoned
Iron
114 x 14 x 16 inches
2019- 2020, Kolkata
C5742



Tapas Biswas
Flower becomes Fossilized
Copper
54 x 56 x 42 inches
2018, Kolkata
C5743



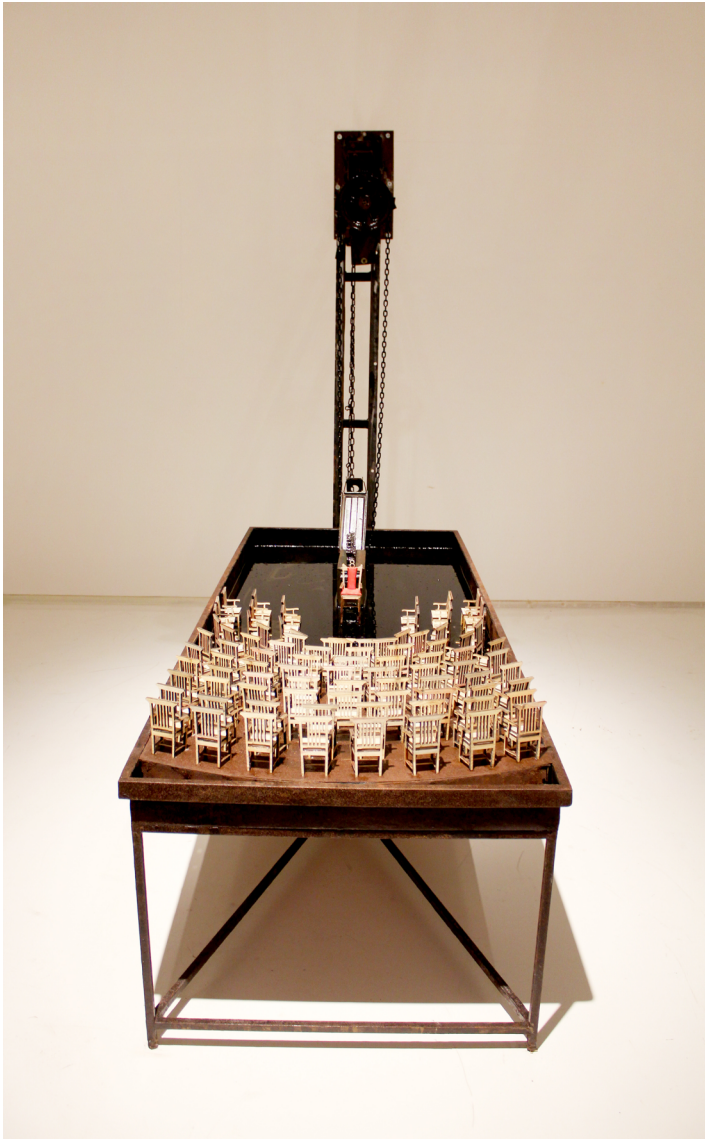
Tapas Biswas
Present Invites Future
Wood and brass
19 x 79 inches dia
2019 - 2020, Kolkata
C5744



Tapas Biswas
Varanasi
Bronze
76.5 x 32 x 7 inches
2020, Kolkata
C5745



Debasis Barui
An Unaccustomed Earth
Iron, china clay, latex and
mechanical gadgets
72 x 28 x 24 inches
2020, Kolkata
C5746



Debasis Barui
Schizophrenia, Material and Desire
Iron, burnt mobil, wood and
mechanical gadgets
84 x 36 x 36 inches
2020, Kolkata
C5748



Suman Dey
Journey II
Acrylic and charcoal on canvas
72 x 114 inches
2020, Kolkata
C5453



Suman Dey
Space and Possibility
Acrylic and charcoal on canvas
72 x 90 inches
2020, Kolkata
C5455



Suman Dey
At the End
Acrylic and charcoal on canvas
60 x 132 inches
2020, Kolkata
C5457



A destination for Modern & cutting- edge Contemporary Art, Emami Art is a one-of-a-kind art space built in keeping with international standards. Positioned as a key destination for artists, visitors and art collectors, the gallery aligns with the Emami Group's mission to support artists & artisans and contribute to society's wellbeing. A regular programme of curated exhibitions, includes the works of new talents and eminent masters of regional, national and international repute, that aligns with the promoters' ideology that while the popular contributes to the academic, the academic uplifts the popular. Spearheaded by Richa Agarwal, Emami Art's new 10,000 sq.ft. art space is located in the Kolkata Centre for Creativity (KCC), a state-of-the-art multi-disciplinary interactive art centre, off Eastern Metropolitan Bypass, Kolkata, India.

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