

# EMAMI ART

## Emami Art

presents

## Soliloquy

Solo exhibition presenting the recent watercolours and prints by Indrapramit Roy

**Kolkata, 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2023:** Emami Art, one of India's leading contemporary art galleries, presents *Soliloquy*, a solo exhibition of noted Indian artist Indrapramit Roy. The show, which consists of over fifty watercolours and prints, will open on February 24, 2023, on Gallery's fifth floor, and is on view through April 15, 2023.

Done in 2020 during the covid-19 –induced lockdowns, the works – a solitary conversation of the artist with himself – bear the marks of the time. Locked at home and separated from the outside world, the lockdown phases offered the artist a space for introspection, contemplation, and inspiration for creating new kinds of work. *Soliloquy* is a unique body of work in Indrapramit Roy's entire artistic oeuvre.

The exhibition has three watercolour series– quarantine diary, quarantine drawings and cacti – and large independent watercolours and prints. They show how remarkably ordinary objects and phenomena like rippling water, clouds, unfinished building construction and cacti turn into extraordinary, powerful visual images, revealing evocative and poetic use of the medium. Instead of painting ideas, Indrapramit Roy depicts what is visible and present before us. But, unlike realistic paintings, his work aims to capture psychological and spatial transient moments. For this, he finds watercolour more suitable than other mediums. Many of the pieces emerged from his daily habit of drawing and reading.

Text used in the painting is often used as the works' titles. But they do not signify the content. They instead run parallel to the visual image creating third meanings or texts. Therefore, the image-text dialogue is one crucial aspect of the works in the exhibition.

“The works in *Soliloquy* were mostly done or at least started during a time when the whole world was in the throes of a cataclysmic contagion. A time that forced me to contemplate the human condition in the relative safety and isolation of my studio. The bombardment of terrible news punctuated with laughable political shenanigans, the steady stream of information mixed with disinformation created a peculiar mental state that veered from anxiety to panic and swung between clarity and clutter alternatively.

I cannot paint ideas but only what is 'paintable'. Perhaps, that is one of the reasons why text plays such an important role in this body of work – creating a third text when seen together with the visuals. There are 54 watercolours belonging to three different suits of different sizes and two prints in this exhibition. The show has traveled from Baroda to Delhi and now at Emami Art Kolkata in its third and final iteration. I am very excited to show my most recent works in the city of my birth after a hiatus of six years.” **Indrapramit Roy, Artist**

“I am delighted that we are presenting renowned contemporary artist Indrapramit Roy's solo exhibition, which consists of over fifty watercolours and prints done chiefly during the pandemic in 2020. The works, the artist's solitary conversation with himself, bear the marks of the hard times, revealing a sense of silence, solitude and keen observation of water, cacti and twilight scenes of the city limits. What attracted

# EMAMI ART

me is the intense gaze that transforms what is ordinary into something extraordinary and the evocative use of the watercolour medium. I hope the city's art lovers will enjoy the exhibition.” **Richa Agarwal, CEO Emami Art.**

## **About the Artist**

Indrapramit Roy is an artist, teacher and occasional writer who studied at Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan and the Faculty of Fine Arts of M.S. University of Baroda, followed by an MA in Painting at the Royal College of Art, London.

Indrapramit has shown widely in India and abroad. He has been the subject of 19 solo exhibitions and has participated in numerous group exhibitions. He has shown his works in critical international venues, such as Berlin, London, New York, San Francisco, Palo Alto, Cairo, Macao, Sydney and Bangkok. In 2014, he executed a large 26 X 12 feet work for the New Terminal-2 of Mumbai International airport.

He is a recipient of many awards and fellowships, including the Inlaks Scholarship, the Erasmus Exchange Scholarship to spend a term at HdK Berlin and Cite des Arts, Paris, the Fulbright fellowship to USA and Artist-in-Residence at The Siena Art Institute, Italy.

One of the founding members and a trustee of the Foundation for Indian Art & Education (FIAE), Indrapramit Roy, has been teaching at MS University for over two decades. He lives and works in Baroda.

## **About Emami Art**

**Emami Art** is a contemporary art gallery based in the green purpose-built Kolkata Centre for Creativity building in Kolkata, India. Promoting emerging, mid-career and established artists and engaging with contemporary and historical material, the gallery produces exhibitions of modern, contemporary and cutting-edge art as well as commissioning artists to create site-specific pieces.

The gallery programme includes a regular lineup of talks, seminars, panel discussions and conversations with artists, curators and key partners. The gallery delivers its commitment to providing a long-term supportive environment for emerging talent through free access to mentorship programs, workshops, residency opportunities and innovative educational activities that facilitate artistic development. It also stages events across the cultural spectrum, such as concerts, performances, symposiums, publications, collaborative projects, film screenings, and learning-orientated incubator programmes.

The gallery is open for the visitors from Monday to Saturday (11:00 a.m. - 7 p.m.). To know more visit <https://www.emamiart.com/>