

Anjan Modak

Portfolio of selected works

- Paintings
- Drawings

The Song of Burning Bones
Watercolour, ink and graphite on acid-free paper
29.50 X 21.50 in.
2021
Kolkata

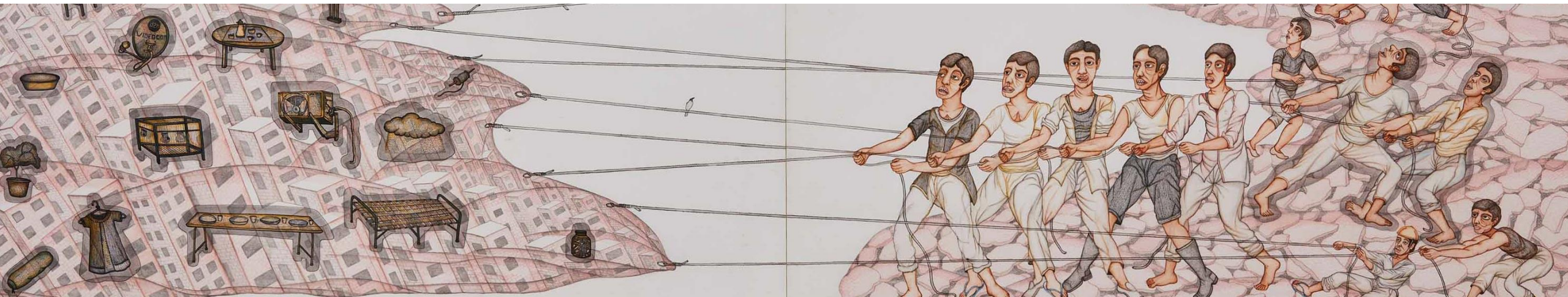


Artist Statement

Anjan Modak is a contemporary painter based in Kolkata, India. A graduate of Rabindra Bharati University, he has been working for over a decade on the life of manual workers, such as the migrant construction labourers in the big city. Without taking any fixed ideological position, he depicts their life in a highly metaphorical visual language, expressing their dreams, despairs, and struggles.

Modak prefers paper to a more convenient canvas, even when doing large-format work. His paintings show his mastery of drawing, minimal use of colours, and dense linear texture, which give them deep, sensual feelings. The paper's white background, which enhances the graphic quality of the works, also appears like a blank space occupied by those denied any place in history. Modak's preference for the life of the oppressed, working-class people as his paintings' sole subject matter has its roots in his childhood. Growing up in the migrant labourers' community in Delhi, he saw their life closely as an insider, gradually becoming aware of the complexity of the subaltern mentality. This complexity, not the mere empirical truth of their life, informs Modak's paintings.

Drawing on elements from sources as diverse as art history, puppetry, and textbook illustrations, he has created a powerful language, blending realism with absurdity, the plain statement with irony and satire. What is significant about his work is that while capturing the broad emotional spectrum of the subaltern life, punctuated by injustice, insecurity and anomie, he does not turn victimhood into an identity, allowing power discourses to manifest themselves through the very physicality of their body and material culture.

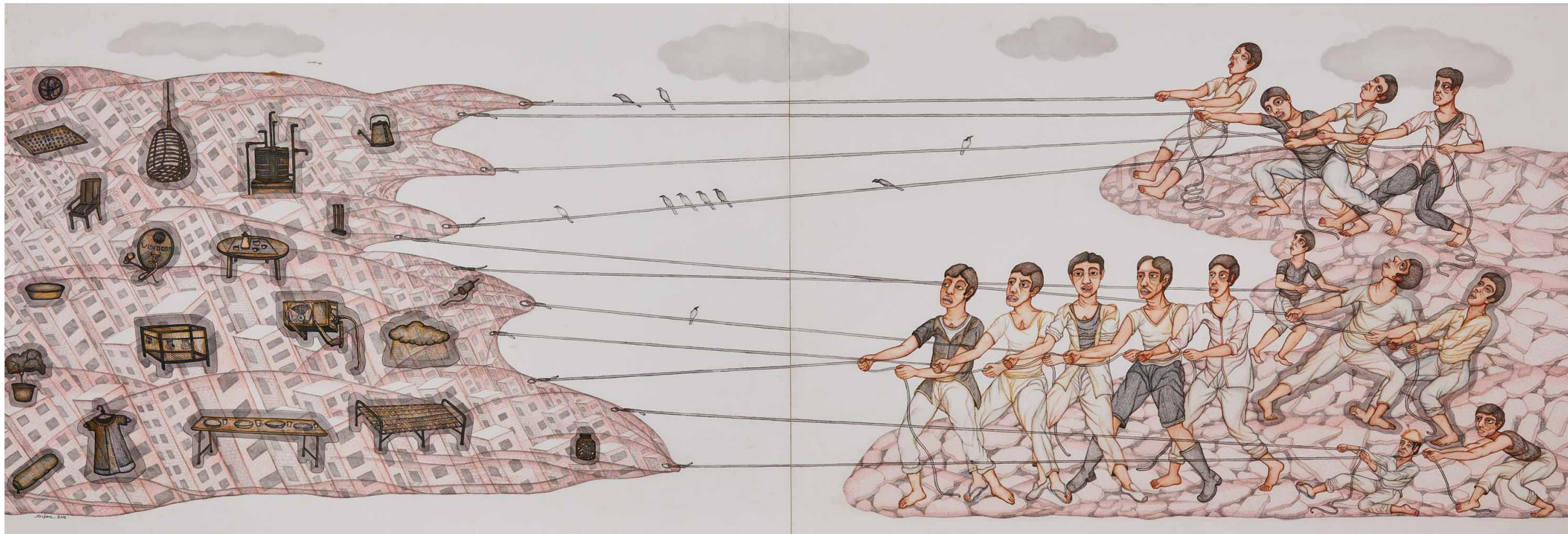


Canopy Over The Geography

Watercolour, ink, graphite on acid free paper

29.50 X 86.50 in.

2016



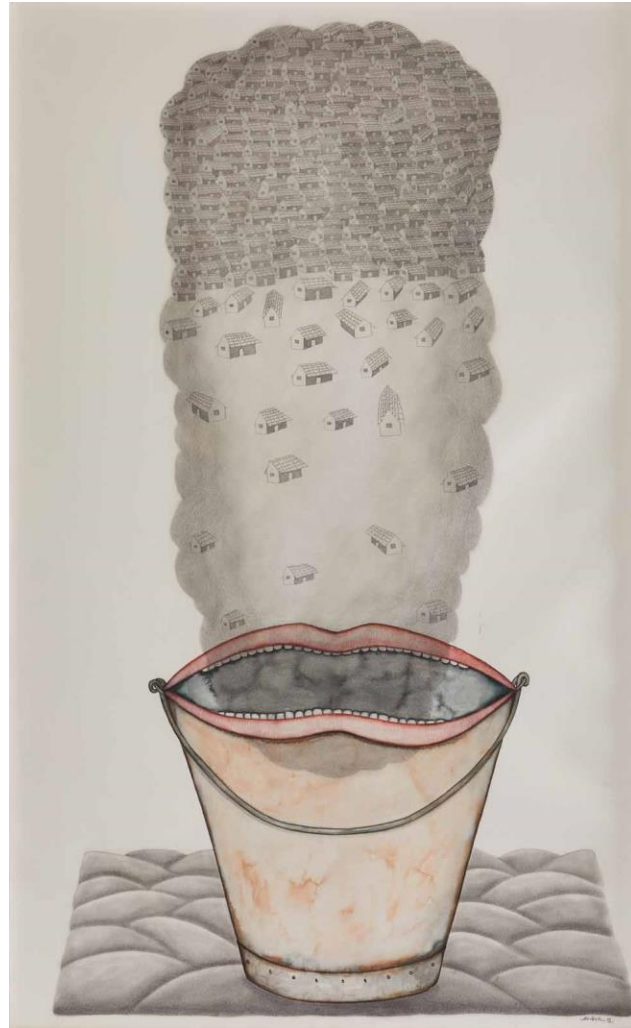
Life in Slum

Watercolour and graphite on acid-free
paper

43.00 X 81.00 in.

2015

Kolkata



The Ephemeral Shelter

Watercolour and graphite on acid-free paper

29.50 X 21.80 in.

2020

Kolkata



Untitled

Watercolour and graphite on acid-free paper

9.00 X 12.00 in.

2015

Kolkata



Uncertain Journey

Watercolour and graphite on
acid-free paper

29.50 x 43.00 in.

2016

Kolkata



The Bed of Nightmare

Watercolour and graphite on paper

48 X 60 in. (122 x 152 cm.)

2019

Kolkata



Tiger Without Ring Master I

Watercolour on paper

11.81 x 87.40 in. (30 x 222 cm.) overall

Suite of 5 works

2021

Kolkata

Detail



Dream of Reality - 2

Watercolour, lead and graphite on
acid-free paper
21.50 X 29.50 in.
2020
Kolkata



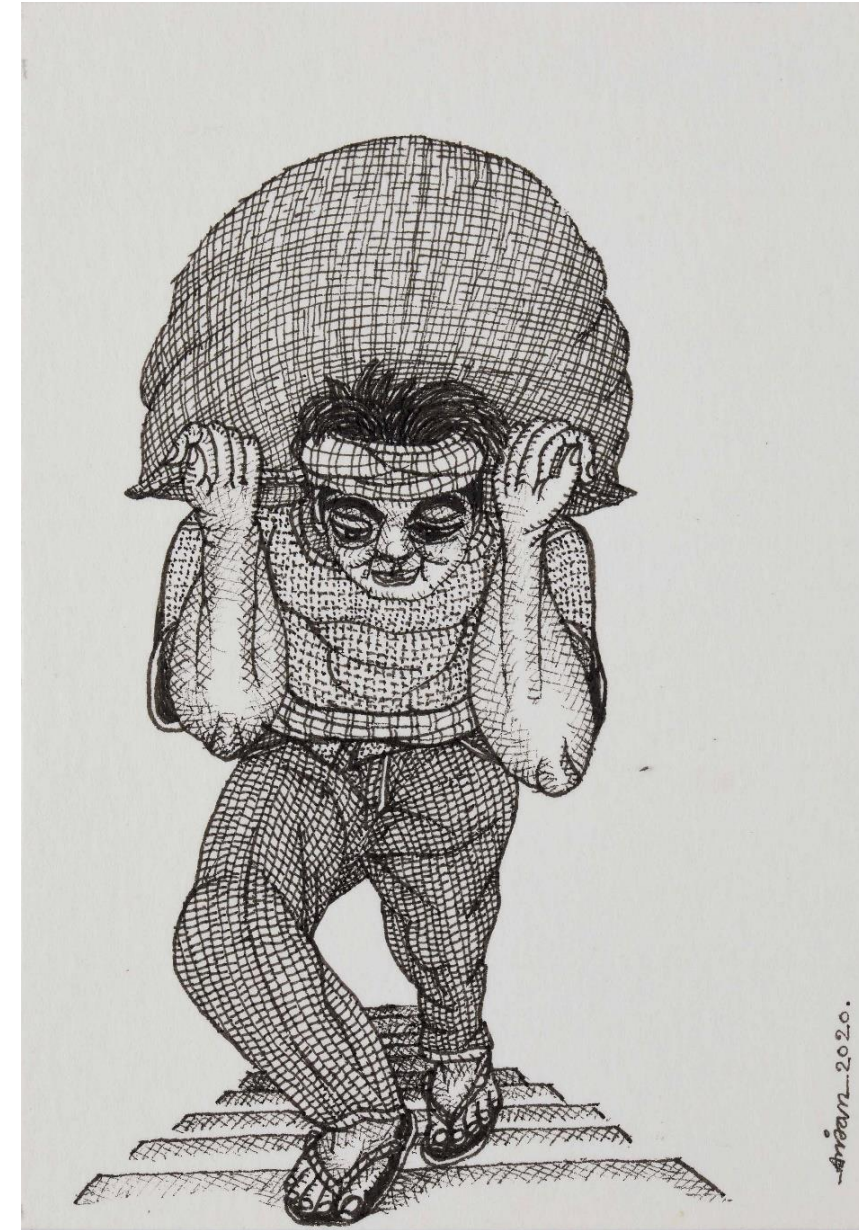
Daily Observation I & II

Archival ink on paper

3.7 x 2.5 in. (9.5 x 6.5 cm.)

2021

Kolkata



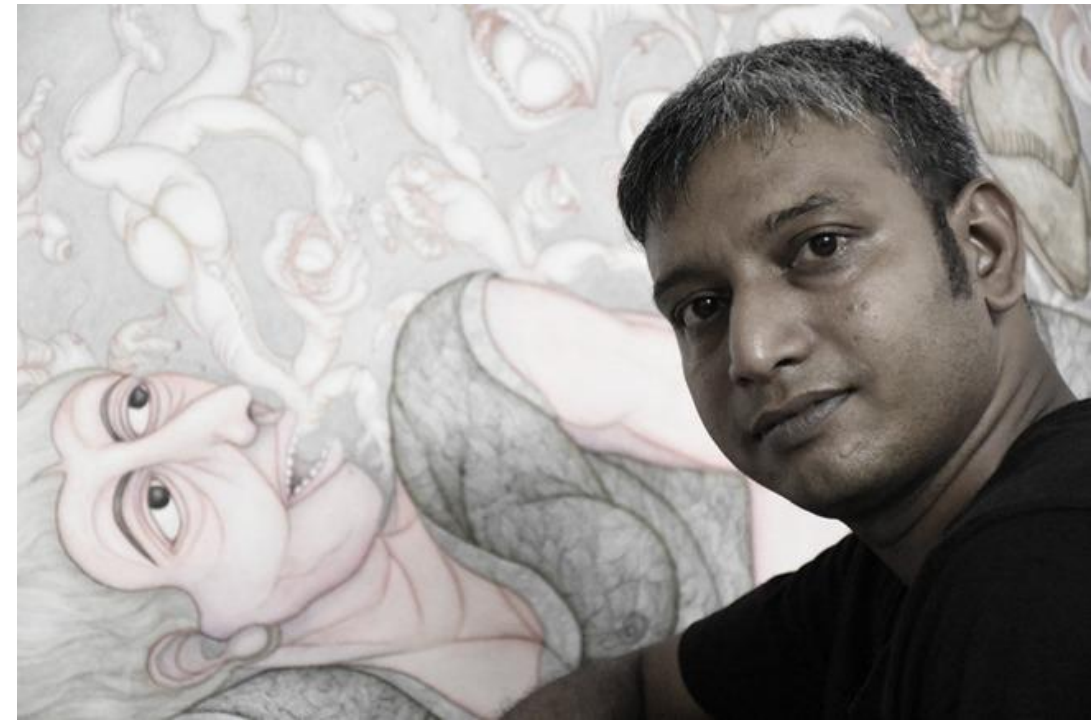
Brief Bio

Born in 1982 in West Bengal, India, Anjan Modak is a noted contemporary painter based in Kolkata. He studied painting at Rabindra Bharati University, graduating in 2009. He has been the subject of two solo shows, 'Fragmented Life' (2020) and 'Black, White and More' (2016), held at Emami Art, Kolkata and a duo show, 'Between the Self and Silhouettes', curated by Adip Dutta at Emami Art (Kolkata, 2022). In addition, his work has been featured in numerous significant group exhibitions at Emami Art (Kolkata, 2021); Tamarind Art Gallery (New York, 2008, 2010); Habitat Foundation (New Delhi, 2008); CIMA Gallery (Kolkata, 2017, 2019); ICCR (Kolkata, 2014); among many others.

His exhibition of over twenty-five paintings, 'The Common Man,' was shown at the India Art Fair (New Delhi, 2020).

Anjan Modak's works are part of major private collections in India and abroad.

He lives and works in Kolkata.



CV and Personal details

Address

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Kolkata-700090

Anjan.Modak@Gmail.Com

Awards

Rabindra Bharati University Present Creative Award In 2009.

Educational Qualifications:

B.V.A (Painting) From Rabindra Bharati University In 2007

M.F.A (Painting) From Rabindra Bharati University In 2009

Selected Exhibitions:

Participated In Group Show (Assortment) At Emami Chisel Art Gallery In 2015, Kolkata.

Participated In Art Fair At Chemould Art Gallery In 2015, Kolkata.

Participated In “India Art Story” Emami Gallery In Kolkata In 2015, 2016, 2017.

Participated In A Curated Group Show (Fictive) Organized By Gallery Range In Kolkata, 2016.

Participated In Art Fair ,Ganges Art Gallery In 2014, 2015, 2016 Kolkata.

Participated In Art Fair , Gandhar Art Gallery 2016, Kolkata.

Participated In Mumbai Art Fair, Emami Chisel Art Gallery 2016, 2018.

Participated In Jaipur Art Fair, Emami Chisel Art Gallery
2016.

Participated In CIMA Awards Show, CIMA Gallery 2017, 2019 Kolkata.

Participated In Group Show Organized By Ahuja Art Museum 2017, Kolkata.

Participated In Art Fair With Sensorium In Artsacer 2017, Kolkata.

Participated In Group Show Organized By Agapi 2 (Paint Our World) In ITC Sonar , Kolkata 2018.

Participated In Online Group Show With MASH Foundation Collaborated With Emami Art In 2020.

An Online Group Show (Stand With Bengal) Organized By Emami Art In 2020.

A Group Show (Constellation) Organized By Emami Art In 2021.

India Art Fair (Delhi) Represented By Emami Art In 2022.

Dual Show (Between The Self And Silhouttes) Organized By Emami Art In 2022.

Solo Show

Solo Show “WHITE, BLACK AND MORE” Sponsored By Emami Chisel Art In 2016, Kolkata.

India Art Fair (Focus) Represented By Emami Art, Solo 2020.

Online Solo Show Organized By Emami Art (Fragmented Life) 2020.

EMAMI ART

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.

In addition to hosting exhibitions and participating in national and international events and fairs, Emami Art has diverse parallel programming. Emami Art has launched the **EA Locus in Focus** to provide a voice to local and regional communities through ongoing short and long-term projects. **EA Incubator & Learning** integrates both the physical and virtual interfaces. It helps the arts community free access to regular mentorship programs, workshops, residency opportunities and innovative educational activities that facilitate artistic development, help build collaborative networks and provides a supportive environment for emerging talent. As a centre of excellence, Emami Art identifies as a platform rather than just a facility.

Critical discourses, interactions, documentation and exchange are also essential to our mandate. Under the umbrella of **EA Discourse**, we develop and produce original writing, periodicals and catalogues that focus on artistic, creative and pedagogical materials. As part of our knowledge-making and archiving process, our regular lineup of talks, seminars, panel discussions and conversations with artists, curators and key partners is helping to establish a safe space for critical engagement.

Emami Art has adopted the inclusive, symbiotic framework, where profitability supports sustainable resource regeneration and public service. The gallery is a green building and strictly maintains free access to all policy. 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 a catalyst of change, research, innovation and inclusivity.

