

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

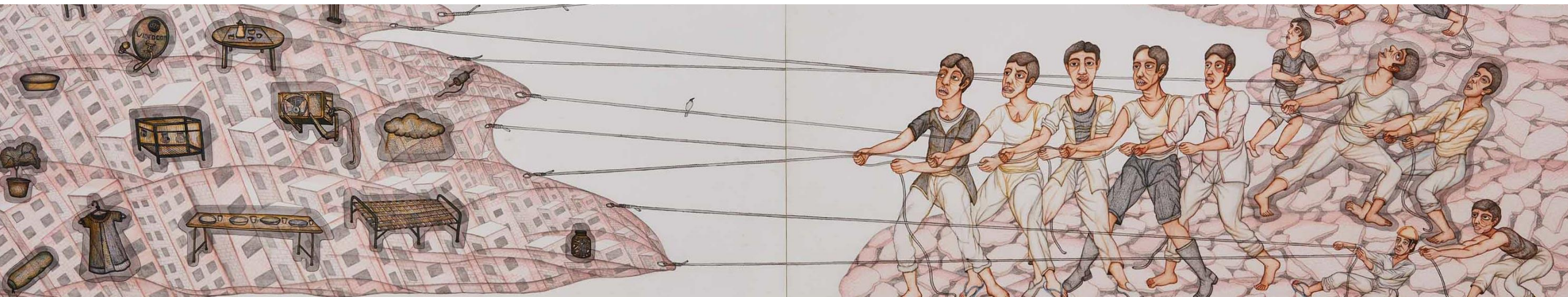


Artist Statement

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.

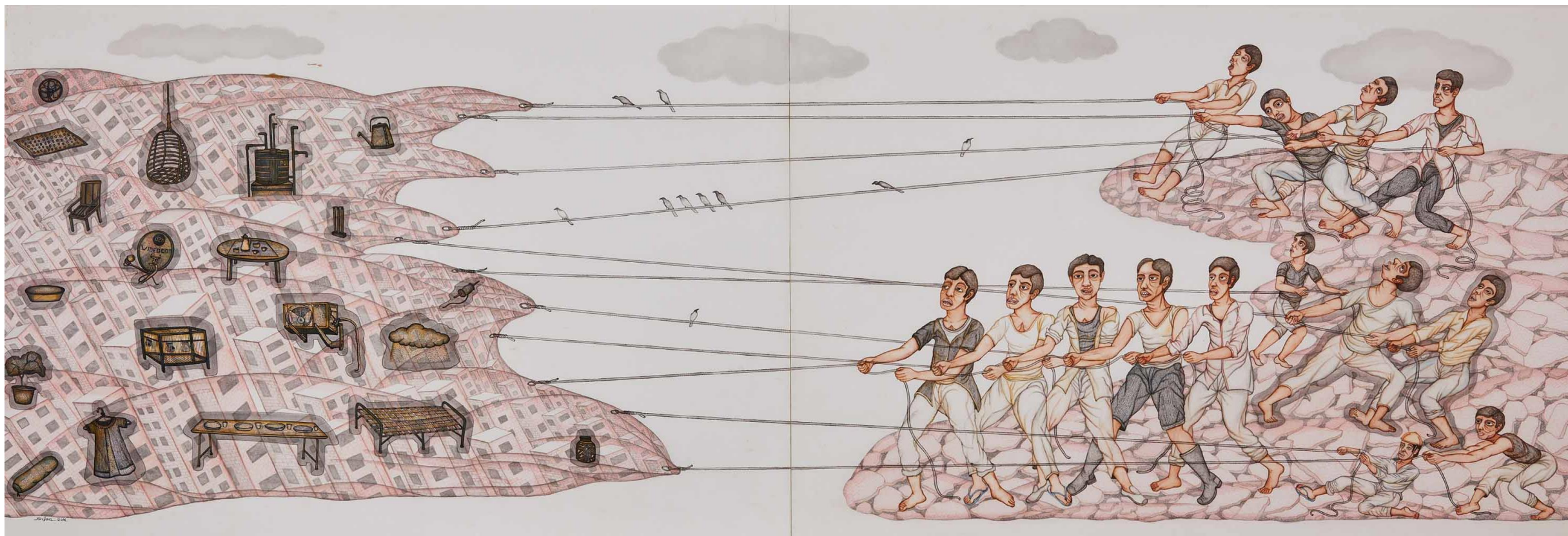


Canopy Over The Geography

Watercolour, ink, graphite on acid free paper

29.50 X 86.50 in.

2016



The Golden Drop

Watercolour, graphite, charcoal, acrylic, gouache,
water-soluble pencil, archival ink and burned paper on
paper

40 x 50 in. (101 x 126.5 cm.)

2022

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



Daily Observation I & II

Archival ink on paper

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

2021

Kolkata



Dream of Reality - 2

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



The Ephemeral Shelter

Watercolour and graphite on acid-free paper

29.50 X 21.80 in.

2020

Kolkata



The Bed of Nightmare

Watercolour and graphite on paper

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

2019

Kolkata



Uncertain Journey

Watercolour and graphite on

acid-free paper

29.50 x 43.00 in.

2016

Kolkata



Untitled

Watercolour and graphite on acid-free paper
9.00 X 12.00 in.

2015

Kolkata



Man with tiger-III

Water colour on acid-free paper

12.00 X 9.00 inches

2016



Man with tiger-V

Watercolour on acid-free paper

12.00 X 9.00 inches

2016



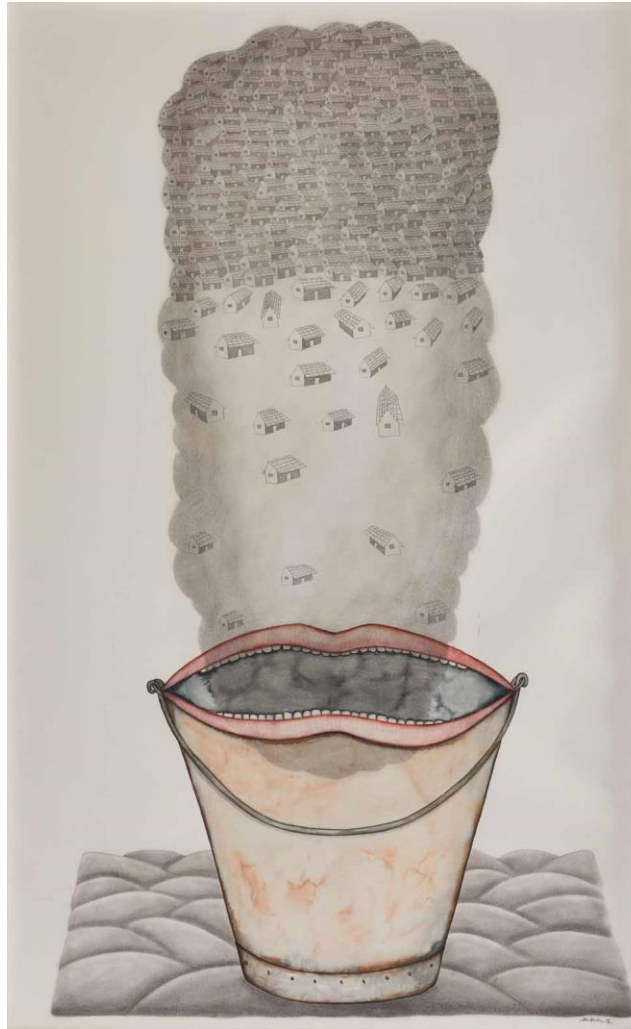
Life in Slum

Watercolour and graphite on acid-free
paper

43.00 X 81.00 in.

2015

Kolkata



The Last Tree

Water colour on acid-free paper

9.00 X 12.00 inches

2015

Detail

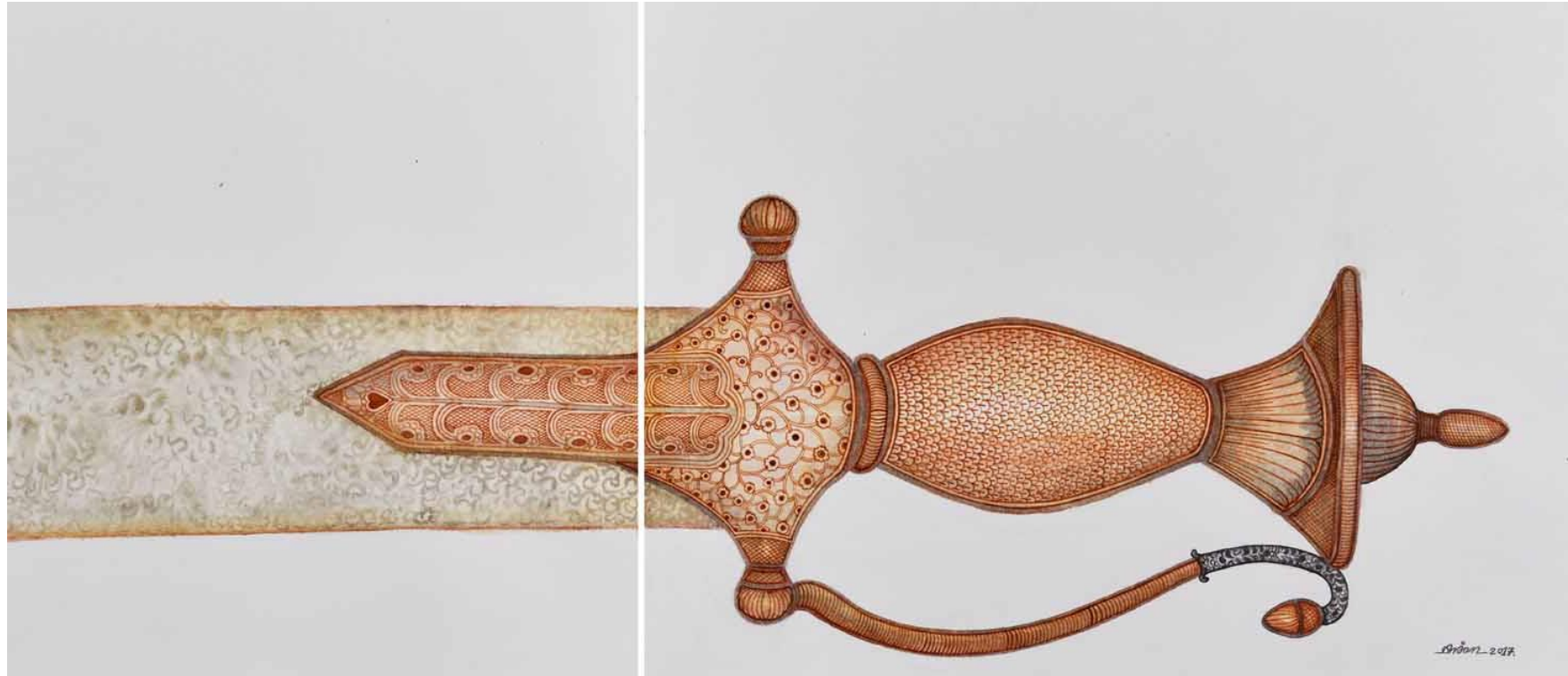


The Mughal wall (4pcs.)

Water colour on acid-free paper

10.50 X 58.00 inches

2017



Still-life-I

Watercolour, lead on acid-free paper

9.00 X 12.00 inches

2017



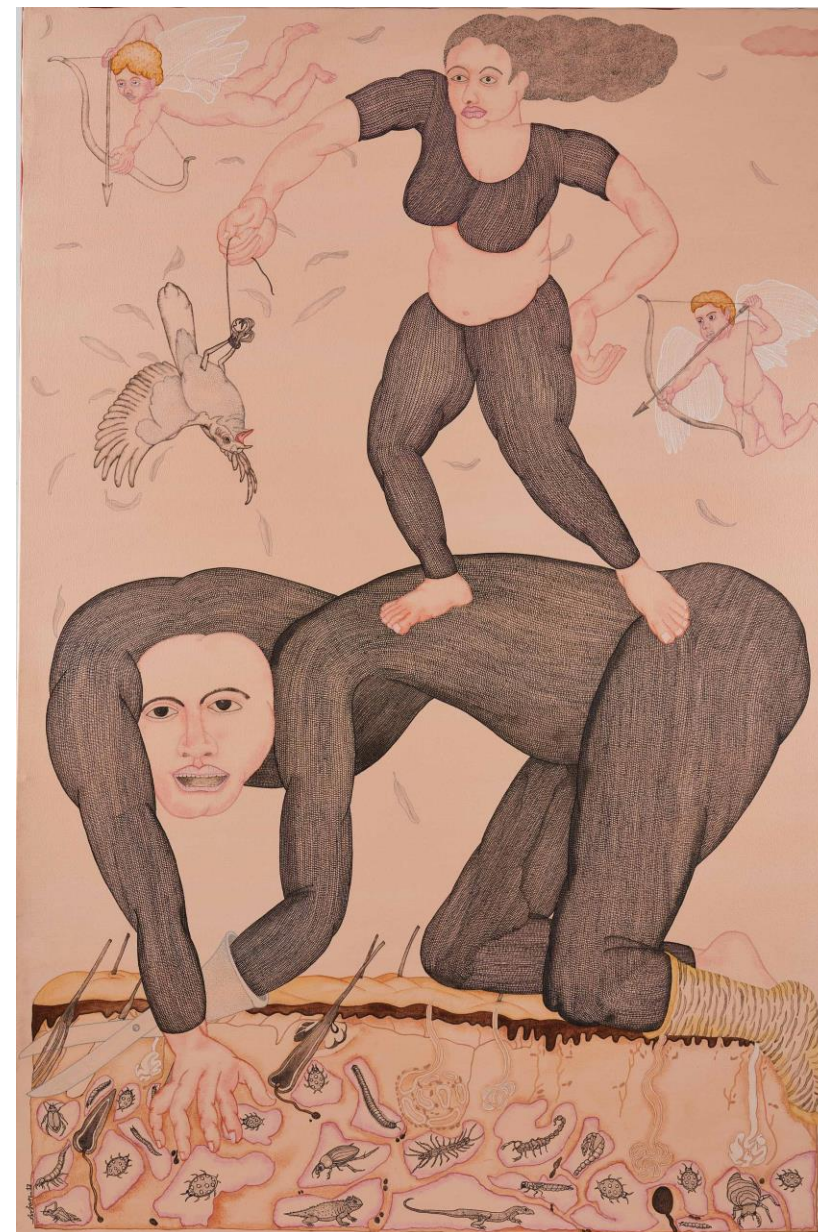
L

Force for Vomiting
Acrylic on canvas
54.00 X 35.80 inches
2012



R

Flesh Eater
Acrylic on canvas
54.00 X 35.80 inches
2013



Pet show

Watercolour on acid-free paper

21.50 X 29.50 inches

2013



Brief Bio

Born in Kolkata, West Bengal, in 1982, Anjan Modak studied painting at Rabindra Bharati University. His recent work is closely associated with the life of working class people, the struggles and survivals of the migrant workers in the big cities of India.

He has been the subject of the group show *Between Selves and Silhouettes* curated by Adip Dutta at Emami Art (Kolkata, 2022); solo show *Fragmented Life* at Emami Art (Kolkata, 2020) and *Black, White and More* at Emami Art, 2016. His work has been featured in group exhibitions at Tamarind Art Gallery, NY, USA (2008, 2010); Habitat Foundation, New Delhi (2008); and Rajya Charukala Parshad, Kolkata (2014-2017); CIMA Gallery, Kolkata (2017, 2019); ICCR, Kolkata (2014); among others.

He was recently shortlisted for the Allegro Prize 2022.

Anjan Modak 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 Silhouettes) 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

About

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.

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Kolkata – 700 107, West Bengal, India
www.emamiart.com

