

Bholanath Rudra

Portfolio of selected works

- Paintings

Evening light
Watercolour on paper
44 x 59.5 in.
2020



Artist Statement

Bholanath Rudra is a contemporary Indian painter known for his large-format watercolours representing humanity's deep crises from the destruction of nature and ecological balance. A graduate of Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata, he has developed his signature style by adapting his painting to the possibilities offered by the medium of watercolour. Using the hues of colour, layer and layer, to explore watercolour's soft, luminous and transparent quality gives his work a compelling presence. The work of Abanindranath Tagore and Shyamal Dutta Ray inspired him. Like the two great watercolourists, he treats the painting process not just as a matter of skill – a means to an end – but as a means of penetrating the surface appearance of reality to capture its essence.

Bholanath's recent work is concerned with the crises of the Anthropocene era. Issues like deforestation, the rapid growth of urban civilisation and man's increasing violence toward nature are common themes he explores in his paintings. However, they do not appear directly like a poster; the vast desolate space, the spread of fluid and bright colours and scattered, often symbolic imagery across the picture plane give his work an exalted quality of the sublime. While carrying grim contents, his paintings do not appear as shocking images but as surrealistic, dream-like spectacles that captivate us.



Image of an Image

Watercolour on paper

30 x 39 in. (76 x 98.5 cm.)

2022

Kolkata



Enlightenment (i)

Watercolour on paper

32.5 x 44 in. (83 x 112.5 cm.)

2022

Kolkata



Untitled

Soil dust with watercolour medium on paper

22 x 28.5 in. (56.5 x 72.5 cm.) overall

Quadriptych

2022

Italy



Untitled

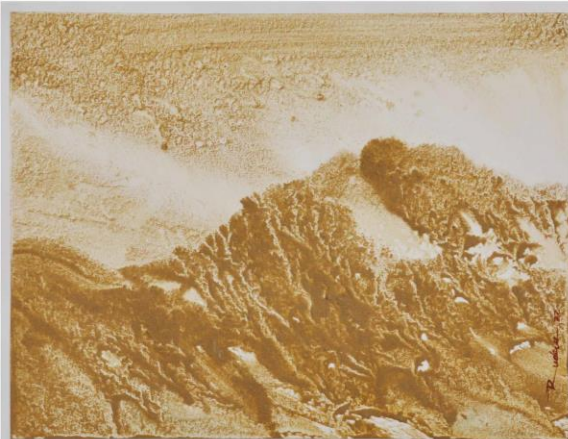
Soil dust with watercolour medium on paper

22 x 28.5 in. (56 x 72.5 cm.) overall

Quadriptych

2022

Italy



Untitled

Watercolour on paper

26.96 x 44.68 in. (68.5 x 113.5

cm.)

2021



Plantation

Watercolour on paper

92.5 x 324 inches

2020



Detail



Exhibition view



Untitled

Watercolour on paper

43.3 x 58.5 in.

2020



Detail



You're under CCTV Surveillance

Watercolour on paper

58.6 x 72 inches

2020



Beautification

Watercolour on paper

48 x 72 in

2019



Transformation

Watercolour on paper

44 x 59 in.

2019



Selfie

Watercolour on paper

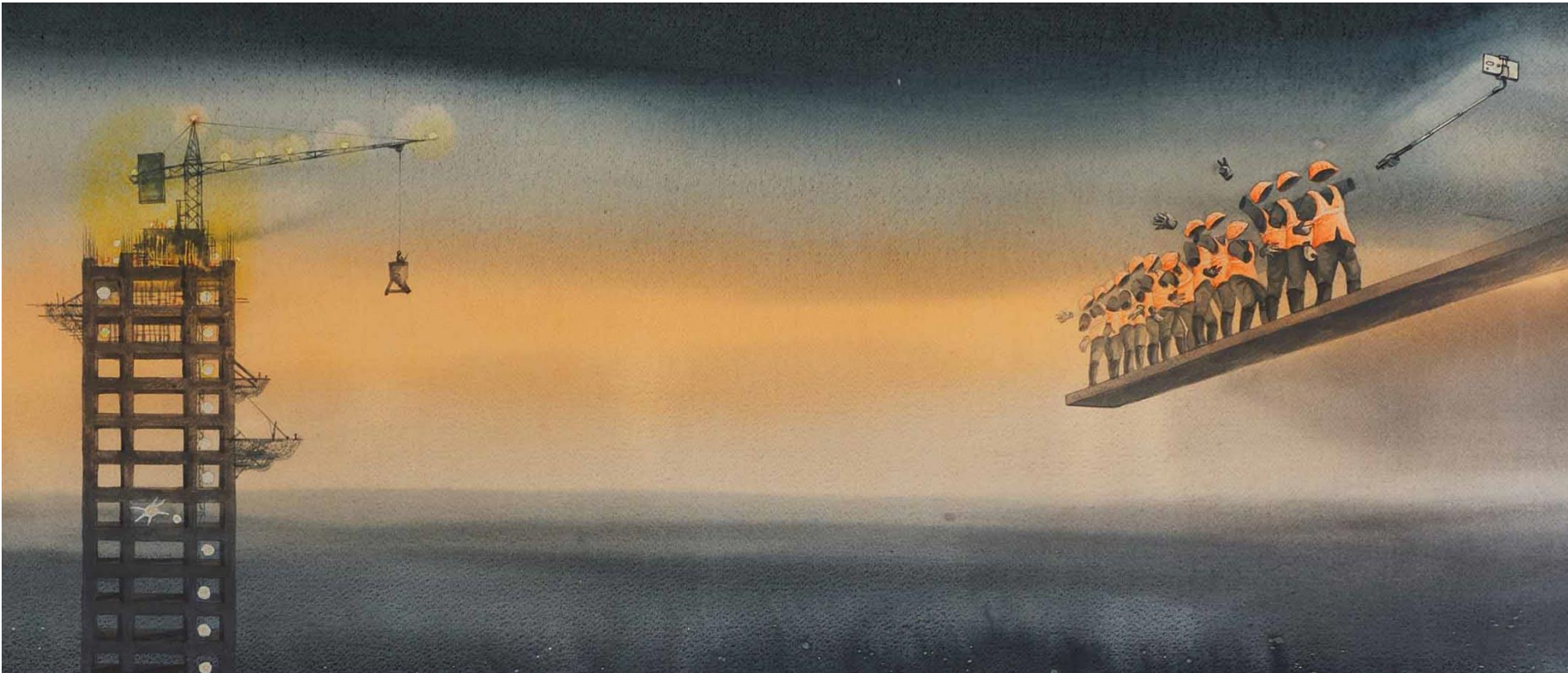
44.00 X 44.00 in.

2018

Kolkata



Detail



Limited Horizontal
Watercolour on paper
44 x 59 in
2016



"5:24 AM - 5:18 PM"

Watercolour on paper

44.00 X 44.00 in.

2016

Kolkata



Artist at work



Brief bio

Born in 1984 in Kolkata, Bholanath Rudra studied painting at Rabindra Bharati University, graduating in 2013. He is a member of the Society of Contemporary Artists, Kolkata, which he joined in 2019.

He was the subject of the solo shows States of Mind at Society of Contemporary Artists, Kolkata, 2018 and Mechanical Libido at Academy of Fine Art, Kolkata, 2013. His work has been featured in many group exhibitions including Hub India – Maximum Minimum at Artissima (Torino, Italy, 2021); Fluid Boundaries and Insights at Emami Art, Kolkata (2020); Annual Art Exhibition of Society of Contemporary Artists (2023, 2020, 2019, 2017); Annual Art Exhibition at Birla Academy of Art & Culture (2014, 2016, 2018, 2023); CIMA art gallery, Kolkata (2017); at Rajya Charukala Parshad, Kolkata (2017-19); in the International exhibition of Manab Jamin (2012-15); at AIFACS, New Delhi (2017); the State Art Gallery, Hyderabad (2019); at Karnataka Lalit Kala Akademi (2017); Kolkata Centre for Creativity (KCC) (2018); in the Annual Exhibition at Emami Art (2015, 2017); among others.

Bholanath has participated in many art residencies and been selected as an artist in residence at the Kira A. Princess of Prussia Foundation, in collaboration with Emami Art Residency (Sept-Oct, 2022).

He was felicitated with many awards, including the State Gallery of Art Award, Telangana Government (2019), Birla Academy Annual Exhibition Award (2018), Rajya Charukala Parshad Annual Award (2017), National Exhibition Award, Lalit Kala Akademi, Karnataka (2017) and All India Watercolour Exhibition Award, AIFACS (2017). His works were shown in the India Art Fair, New Delhi (2020).

Bholanath Rudra lives and works in Kolkata.



CV and Personal details

Artist Residency Participation:

Artist in residence at Kira A. Princess of Prussia Foundation in collaboration with Emami Art Residency, (Sept-Oct, 2022)

Awards

State Gallery of Art Award (2019)
Telangana Government (2019)
Birla Academy Annual Exhibition Award (2018)
Rajya Charukala Parshad Annual Award (2017)
National Exhibition Award
Lalit Kala Akademi, Karnataka (2017)
All India Watercolour Exhibition Award and AIFACS (2017)

Education

B.F.A from Rabindra Bharati University, 2005 - 09

M.F.A from Rabindra Bharati University, 2011 – 13

Solo Shows

States of Mind at Society of Contemporary Artists, Kolkata, 2018

Mechanical Libido at Academy of Fine Art, Kolkata, 2013

Group Shows

India Art Fair, New Delhi (2022)

Art Centrix Space presents 'Brink', (2022)

Artissima Art Fair Italy (2021)

India Art Fair, New Delhi (2020)

Fluid Boundaries at Emami Art, Kolkata (2020)

Insights at Emami Art, Kolkata (2020)

Annual Art Exhibition of Society of Contemporary Artists (2022, 2020, 2019, 2018)

Annual Art Exhibition at Birla Academy of Art & Culture (2014, 2016, 2018)

State Art Gallery, Hyderabad (2019)

Kolkata Centre for Creativity (KCC) (2018)

CIMA art gallery, Kolkata (2017)

Rajya Charukala Parshad, Kolkata (2017-19)

International exhibition of Manab Jamin (2012-15) in the AIFACS, New Delhi (2017);

Karnataka Lalit Kala Akademi (2017)

Annual Exhibition at Emami Art (2015, 2017)

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.

