

EMAMI ART

Soma Das
Portfolio of select works

Paintings
Drawings

Stupa - II
Gouache on Nepali paper pasted on canvas
29 x 23 in. (74 x 58.5 cm.)
2020
Kolkata



Brief Description

Soma Das is a contemporary Indian painter based in Kolkata. A graduate of Rabindra Bharati University, she explores in her paintings the everyday life of ordinary workers, mostly housemaids from low-income suburbs, seen from a unique womanly perspective.

Born into a conservative, lower-middle-class family, she spent most of her time with women members of the family. Her childhood experiences later contribute to shaping her worldview as an artist. Although her paintings speak of the life of ordinary people, she is inspired by the courtly traditions of miniature paintings in our country. The use of aerial view, multiple perspectives, realistic detailing, ornamentation and vibrant colours show how deeply she has studied miniature paintings and also her remarkable inventiveness in using them to create a unique, easily recognisable personal style. Besides exploring the domestic spaces – the series of drawings and paintings she did during the Covid-19-induced lockdowns make up a significant part of her artistic oeuvre –there are significant paintings about homosocial spaces, such as the lady's compartment in the train and bathing steps at a pond.

A keen observer, she carefully studies the gestures and appearances of ordinary men, women and children, as well as their emotions, dreams and desires. Indeed, a tragic poetic mood unites her extensive body of work. But, instead of magnifying it, she places it in the mundane context of everyday life, making us aware of the life of the ordinary, both exclusive and integral to the life we live.

Paintings

Towards Destination III

Gouache on Nepali paper pasted on
canvas

23 x 49 in. (58 x 124.5 cm.)

2020

In *Towards destination* the artist illustrates one of the common hazards of the prolonged lockdown that impacted numerous lives, specially of migrated labourers. Against the rich yellow background dominating the compositional space, the long line of people struggling to make their way to the train entrance, depicted through an empathetic yet ironical gaze.



Painting

From Roof at Morning

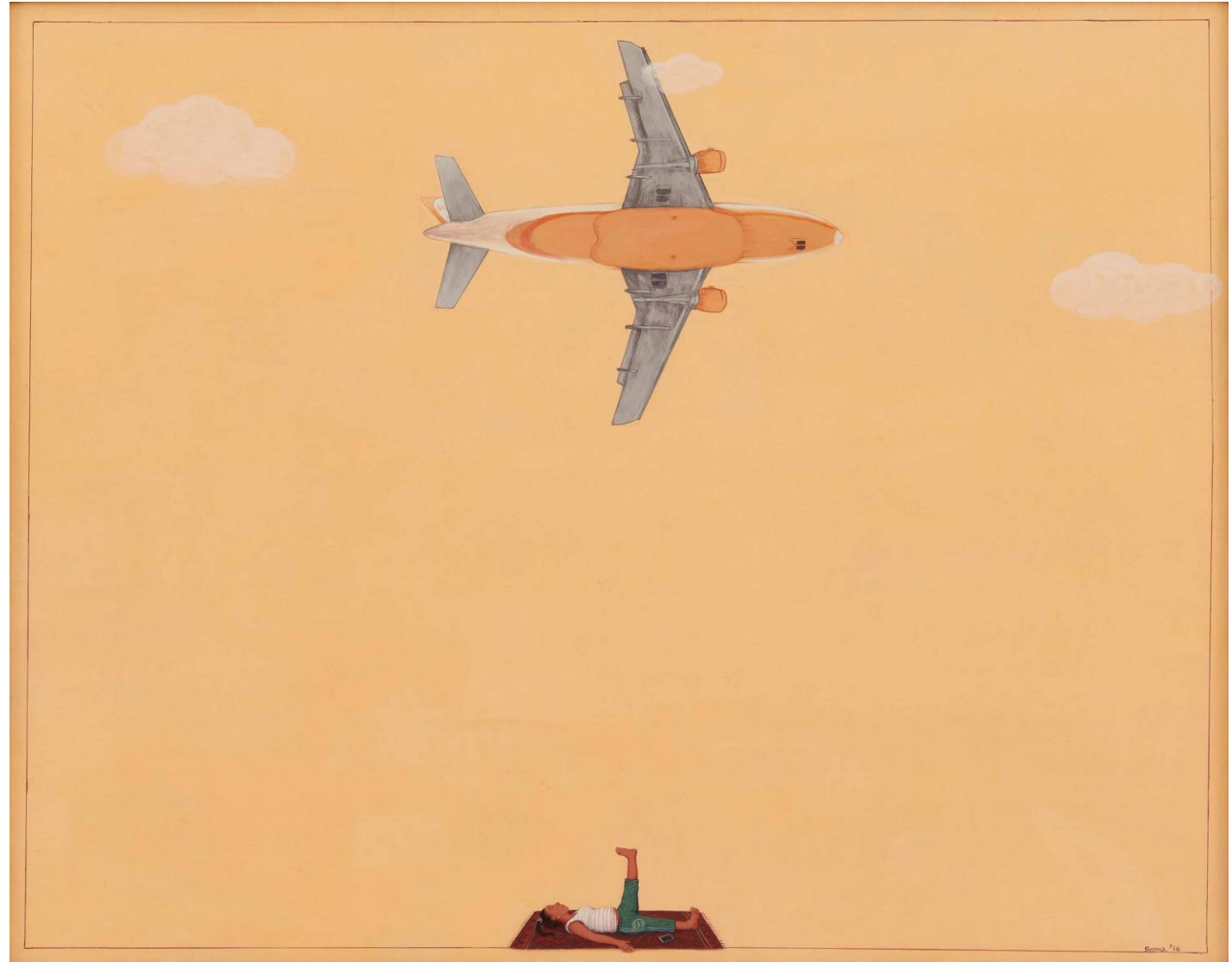
Gouache on nepali paper pasted on canvas

24 X 30 in. (61 x 76 cm.)

2016

Kolkata

Dominated by a cream coloured sky the painting depicts a human and a flying plane against each other. From an unlikely perspectival point, we see a woman possibly getting some exercise and we also see the large underbelly of an aeroplane. Here The artist splits the two dimensional pictorial space in multiple viewpoints effortlessly merging with each other.



Painting

The Roof Top Party

Gouache on Nepali paper pasted on canvas

36 x 30 in. (92 x 76 cm.)

2021

Kolkata

The Roof Top Party is a scene of communal celebration, a theme recurring in Das's works. The composition is centred around a larger than life pot of Biryani that adds a sense of humour to its symbolic presence as the common food source shared by the community.



Painting

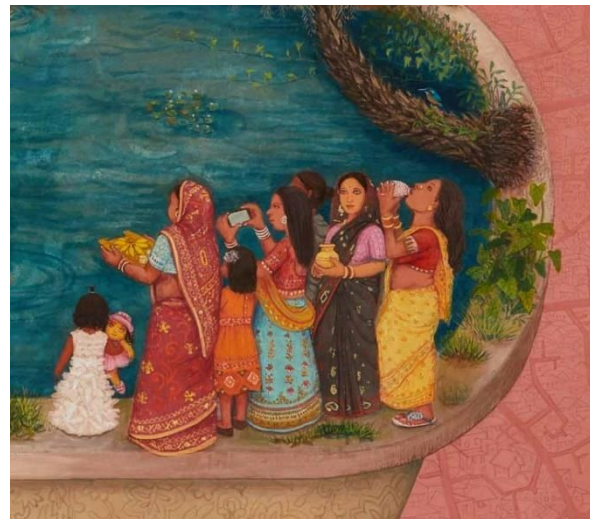
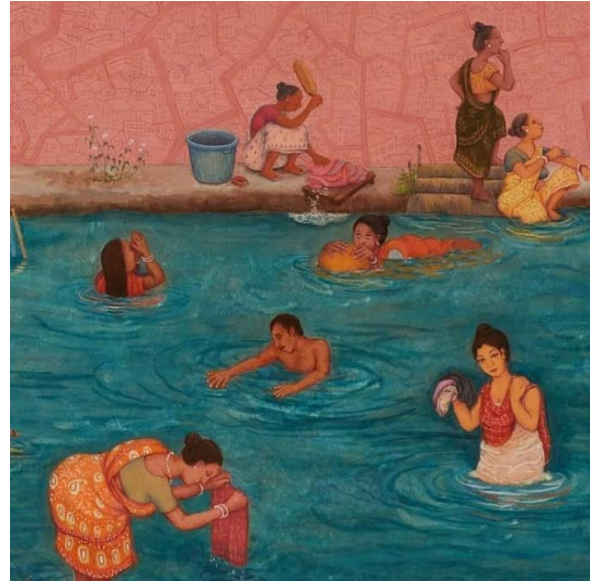
The Pond - 2

Gouache on Nepali paper pasted on canvas
48 X 47.5 in. (122 x 121 cm.)

2020

Kolkata

The Pond depicts a witty juxtaposition of two different realities. While the bath tub is associated with the individualism of the economically affluent, for the underprivileged, the pond symbolises as a communal place. With her meticulous rendition and eye to the details, Das brings this contradiction to a point of unusual harmony.



Gouache and natural clay on nepali paper
pasted on canvas
35 x 49 in. (89.5 x 124 cm.)
2020
Kolkata

35 x 49 in. (89.5 x 124 cm.)

2020

Kolkata

The courtyard depicts a witty juxtaposition of two different realities. While the elaborate sofa is associated with the economically affluent, for the underprivileged the courtyard is a space of communion shared by many. With her meticulous rendition and eye to the details, Das brings this contradiction to a point of unusual harmony.



Painting

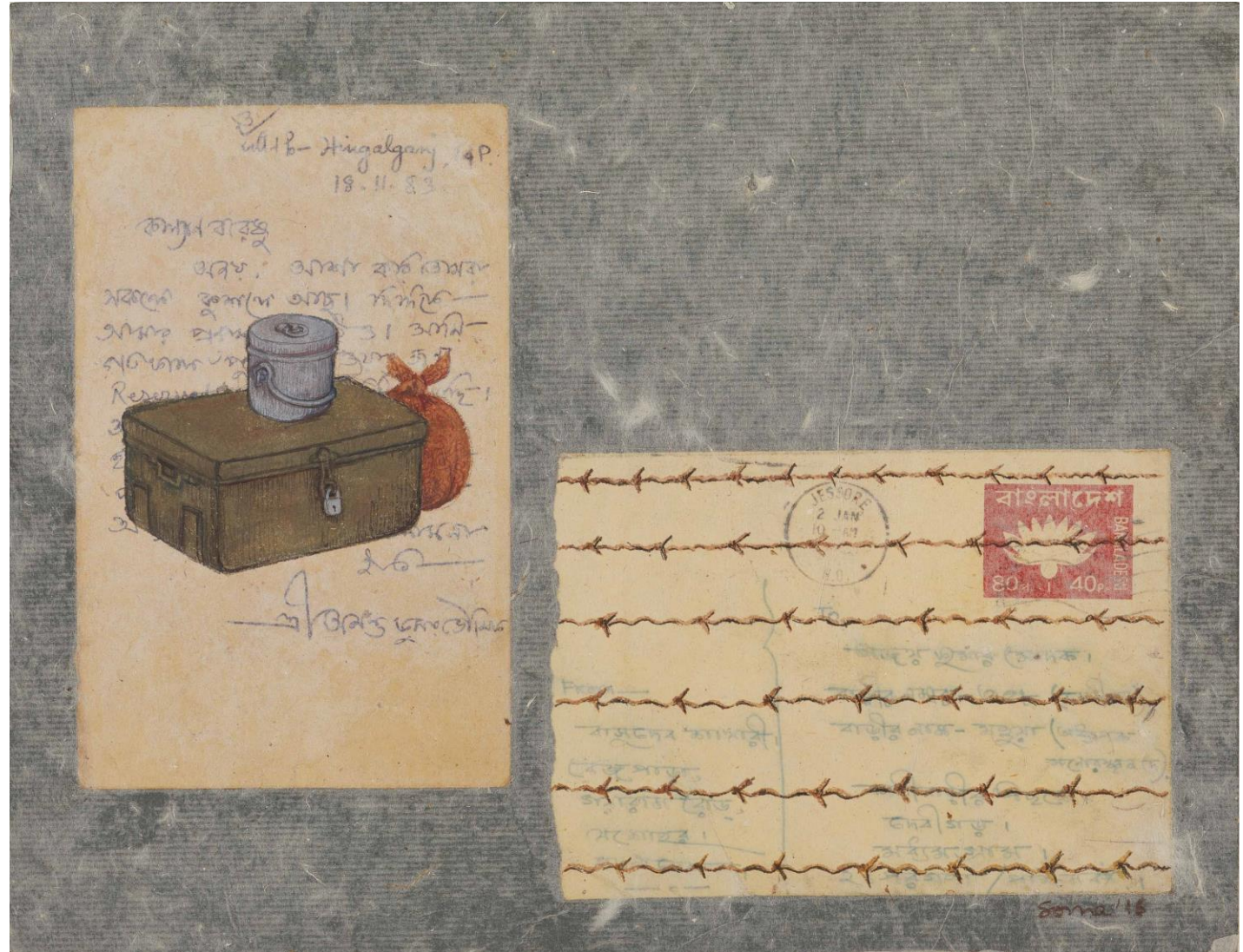
Untitled

Gouache and Nepali paper on postcard
pasted on board

8 x 10 in. (19.5 x 25 cm.)

2016

Kolkata



Painting

Untitled

Gouache and clay on Nepali paper pasted
on board

11 x 8 in. (28 x 20 cm.) each

2020

Kolkata

A keen observer, Das studies daily life with a microscopic lens. In this painting the subject is painted during the performance of a mundane task. Through the extreme centralisation of her subjects standing in alienation, Das turns the common woman to a protagonist through her works.



Painting

Untitled

Gouache and clay on Nepali paper pasted
on board

7 x 7 in. (18 x 18 cm.) each

Suite of 7 works

2019

Kolkata



A keen observer Das's study of everyday objects attempt to reveal their concealed history reflecting on the way of life they belong to. Here simple objects become a symbolism for the cultural nuances of the community they represent.

Painting

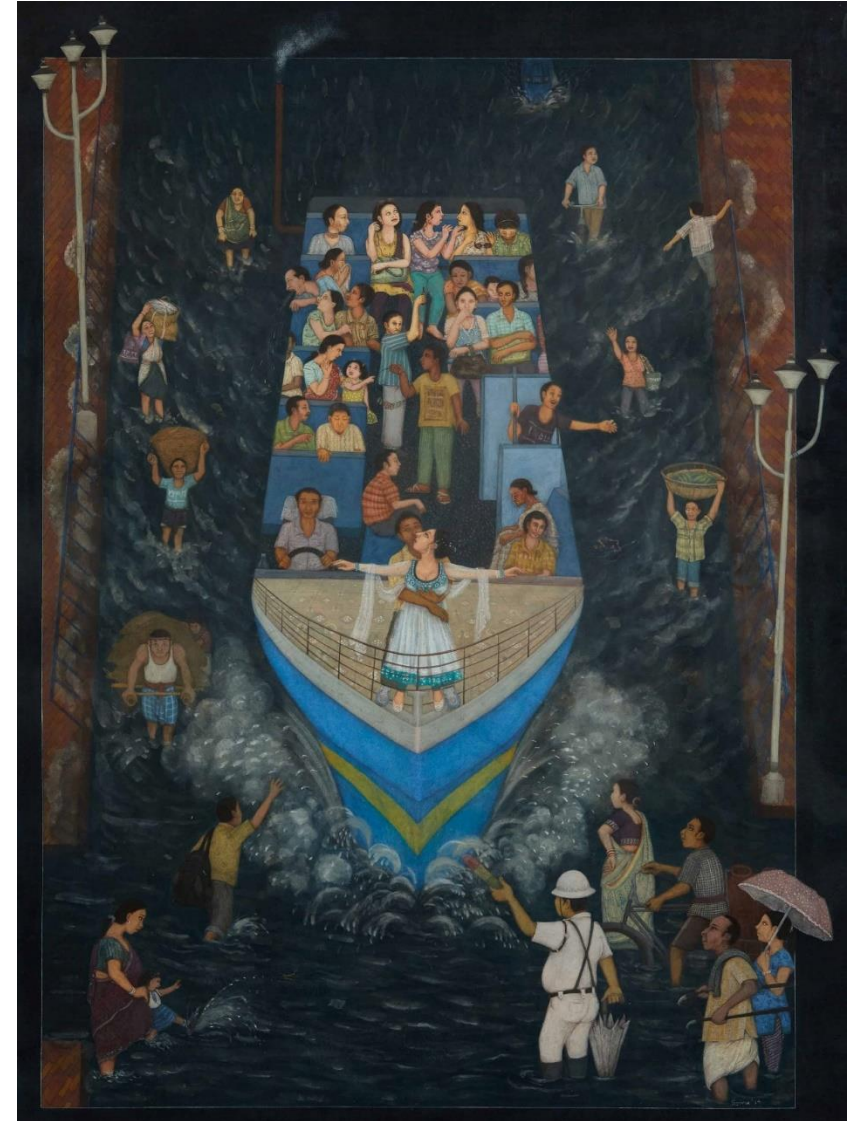
Floating City

Gouache on Nepali paper pasted on canvas

42.50 X 32.00 in.

2014

Kolkata



Painting

A Food Loving Couple

Gouache on paper

29.50 X 21.50 in.

2019

Kolkata

L

Mid-Day in the Summer

Gouache on Nepali paper pasted on canvas

41.00 X 23.80 in.

2016

Kolkata

R



Painting

Made for Each Other

Gouache, cotton thread, paper cutting,
stitched on acid free paper

26.50 X 8.50 in.

(Suite of 5 works)

2020

Kolkata



Painting

Celebration

Gouache and cotton thread on Nepali
paper pasted on canvas
35.40 X 41.80 in.
2020
Kolkata



Painting

Social Distance II

Gouache on acid free paper

21.25 X 29.13 in.

2020

Kolkata



Painting

Couple II

Gouache on acid free paper

21.25 X 29.92 in.

2020

Kolkata



Painting

Andor Mahal (Inner Apartment)

Gouache on Nepali paper pasted
on canvas

29.30 X 23.00 in.

2021

Kolkata



Painting

Untitled

Gouache on Nepali paper pasted on choksi
board

8.50 X 12.00 in.

2016

Kolkata



Painting

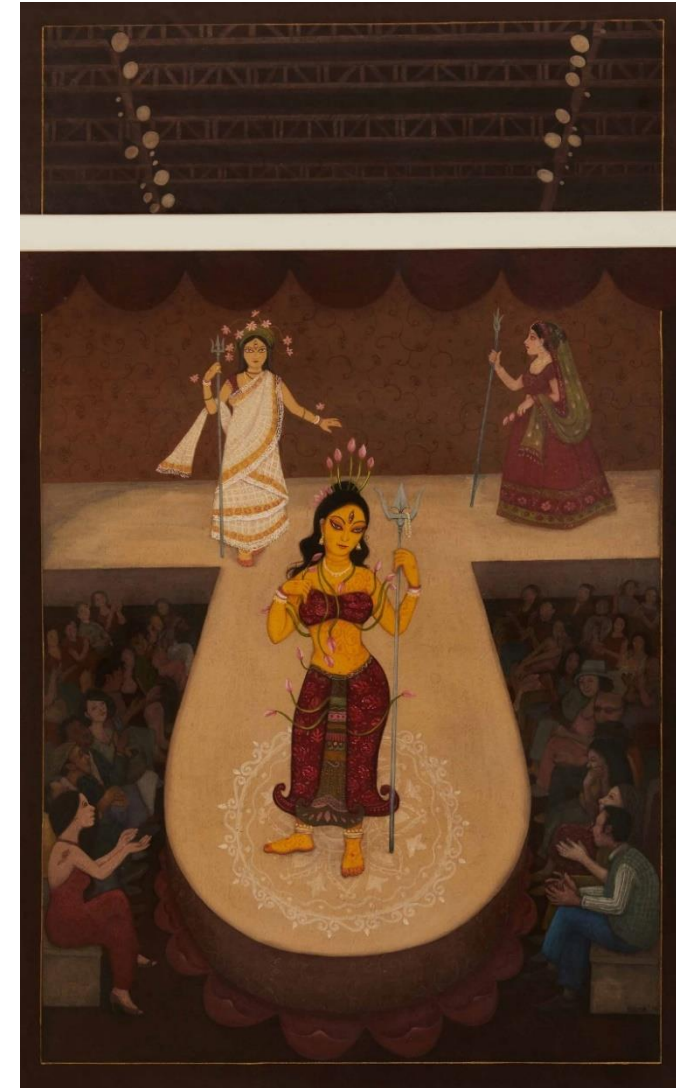
A Divine Fashion Show

Gouache on Nepali paper pasted on canvas

32.00 X 20.00 in.

2014

Kolkata



Painting

The First Touch of Rain

Gouache on Nepali paper pasted on paper

14.5 X 5 in. (37.5 x 14 cm.)

2014

Kolkata

Painted from the bird's eye perspective, *Hawkers in the afternoon* depicts the interaction between a door to door sales person and a woman connected by the long stretch of fabric they are holding. Framed by architectural configuration of a well populated neighbourhood, the central theme brings about a moment of truth, a nostalgia associated with the community.



Painting

Enjoyment in Confined Life II

Gouache on paper
21.5 x 14.5 in. (54.5 x 37 cm.)
2020
Kolkata

L



Privacy II

Gouache on paper
21.5 x 15 in. (54.5 x 37 cm.)
2020
Kolkata

R



Painting

Untitled

Gouache on silk fabric pasted on board

11 x 8 in. (28.5 x 20.5 cm.)

2019

Kolkata

L

Untitled

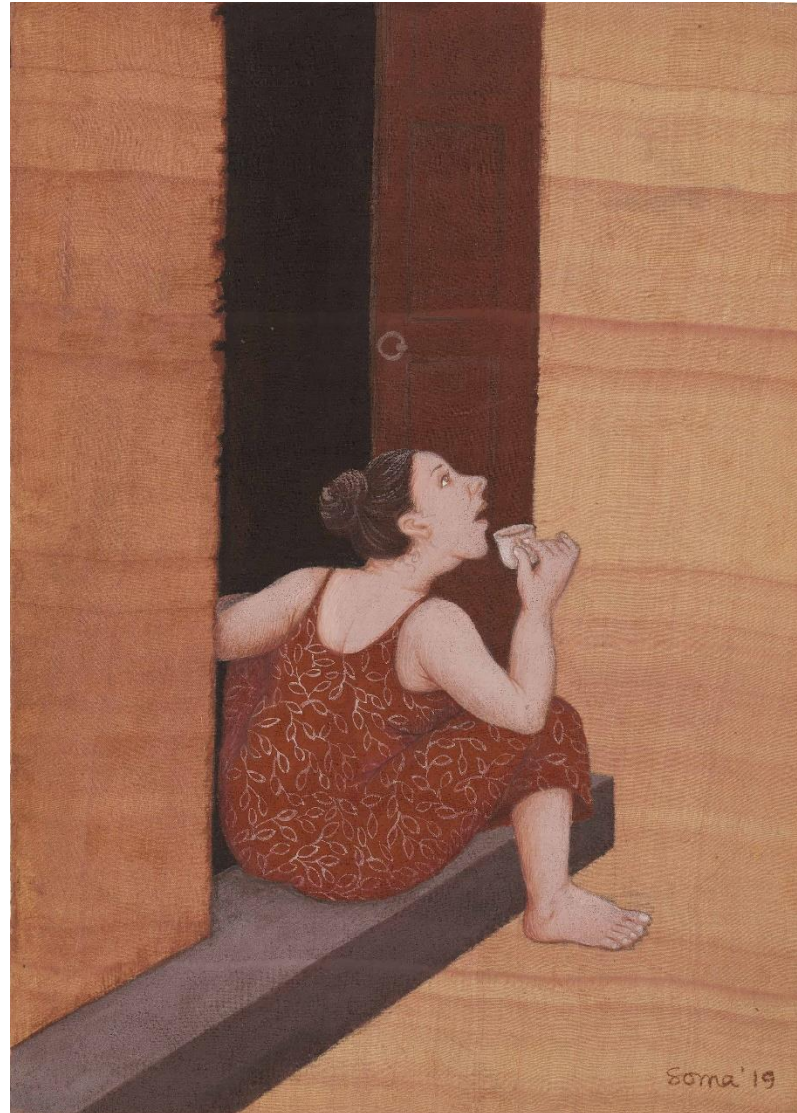
Gouache on embroidered silk fabric pasted on board

10 x 8 in. (25.5 x 20 cm.)

2019

Kolkata

R



Painting

Untitled

Gouache on Nepali paper and printed
fabric pasted on board

8 x 10 in. (19.5 x 25.5 cm.)

2018

Kolkata



Painting

Untitled

Gouache on Nepali paper pasted on
printed paper

7 x 10 in. (18.5 x 25.5 cm.)

2017

Kolkata



Painting

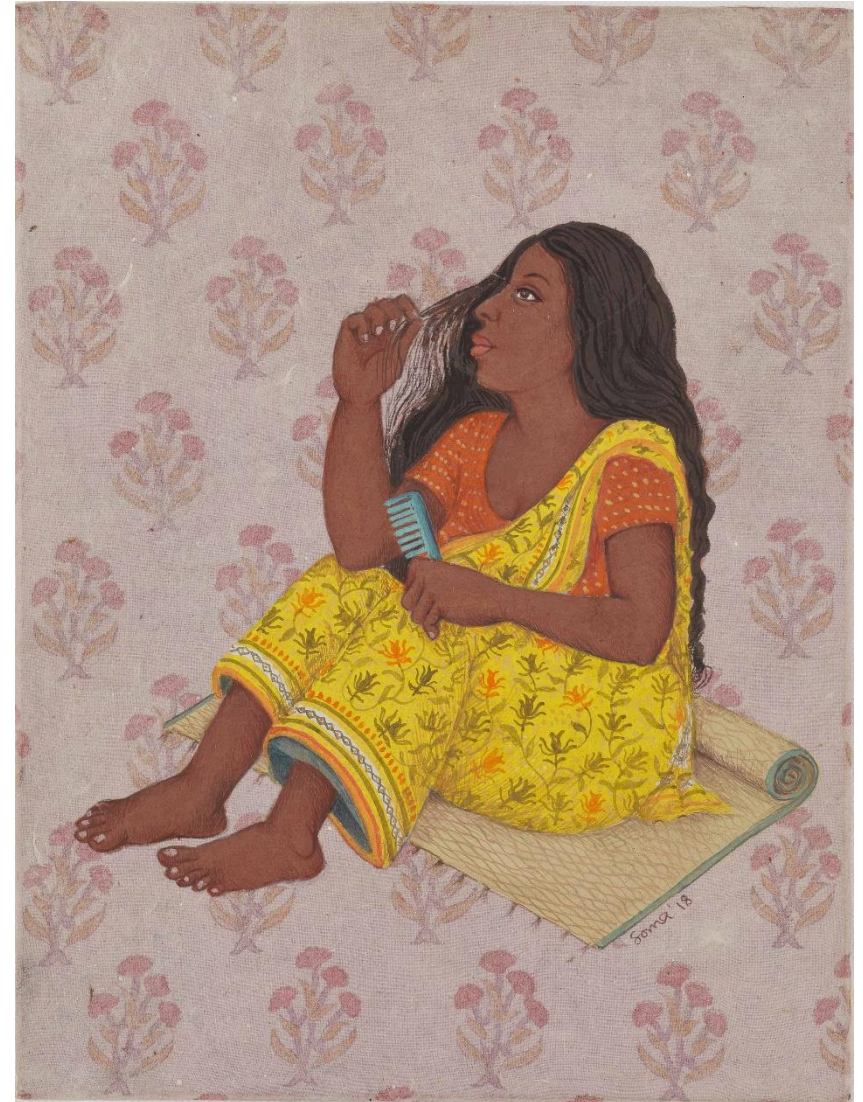
Untitled

Gouache on Nepali paper and printed
fabric pasted on board

11 x 8 in. (27.5 x 21 cm.)

2018

Kolkata



Painting

Drowsy Lady in Evening

Acrylic and gouache on Nepali paper
pasted on board

11 x 10 in. (28 x 26 cm.)

2013

Kolkata



Painting

Preparation for Rainy Day

Gouache on Nepali paper pasted on
printed paper

7.5 x 11 in. (19 x 28 cm.)

2016

Kolkata



Painting

Untitled

Gouache and tea stain on paper

12 x 12 in. (30 x 30 cm.)

2016

Kolkata



Painting

Untitled

Gouache on nepali paper pasted on
printed paper

6 x 7 in. (15 x 18 cm.)

2017

Kolkata



Painting

Untitled

Ink and colour pencil on board

12 x 8 in. (29 x 21.5 cm.)

2016

Kolkata

L

Untitled

Ink and colour pencil on board

12.2 x 8 in. (30.5 x 20.5 cm.)

2016

Kolkata

R



Painting

Untitled

Ink on paper

12 x 8 in. (29.5 x 20.5 cm.)

2021

Kolkata

L

Untitled

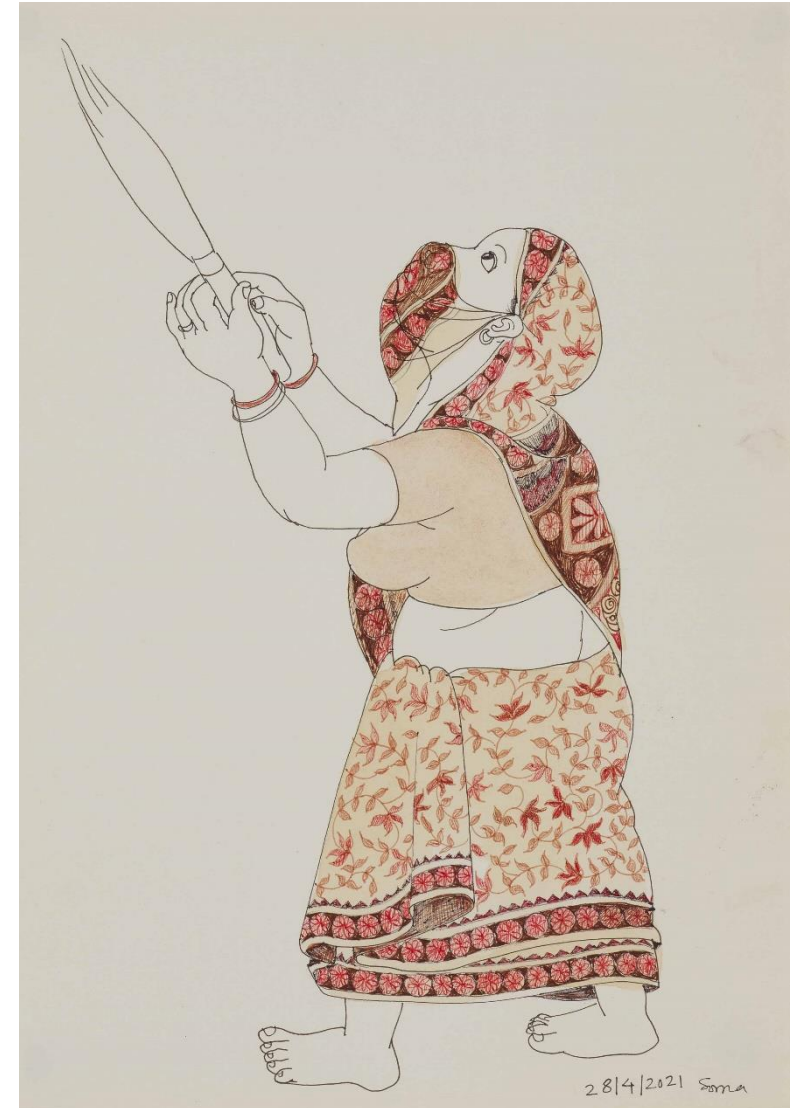
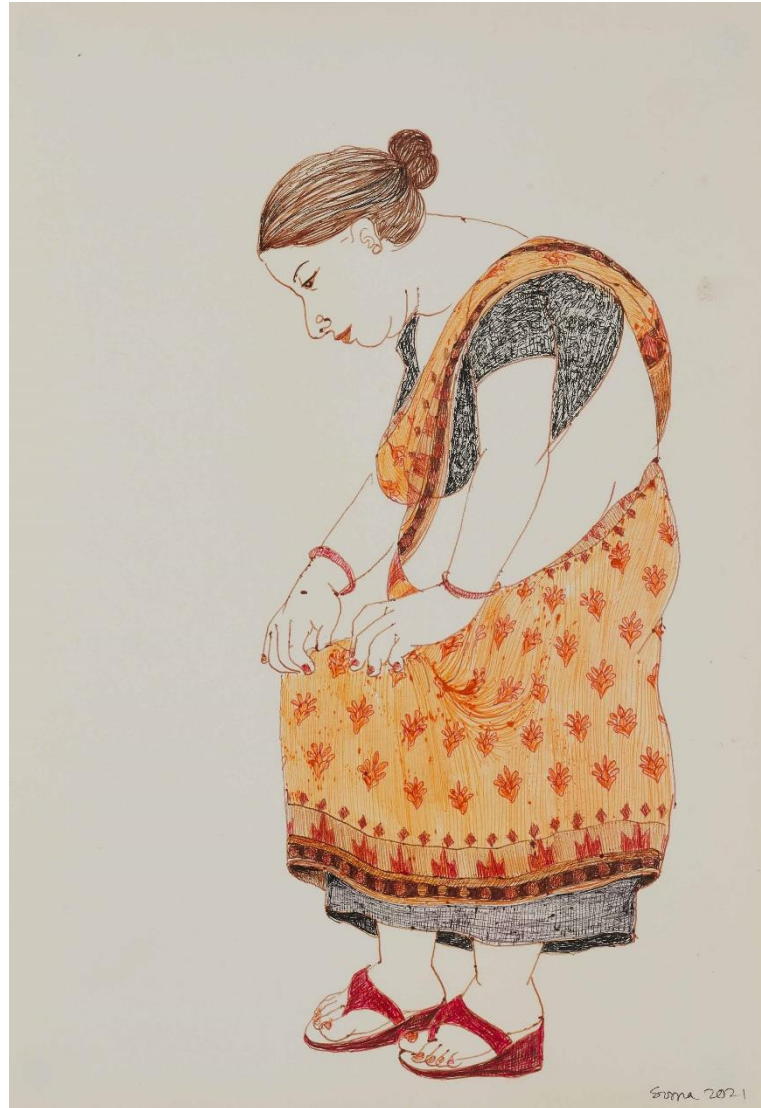
Ink and natural colour on paper

12 x 8 in. (29.5 x 20.5 cm.)

2021

Kolkata

R



Drawing

Untitled

Ink on paper

10 x 14 in. (25 x 35.5 cm.)

2020

Kolkata



Drawing

Untitled

Ink on paper

15 x 11 in. (37.5 x 27.5 cm.)

2020

Kolkata

L

Untitled

Ink on paper

14 x 10 in. (35.5 x 25 cm.)

2020

Kolkata

R





Constellations
Installation View, Emami Art, Kolkata

Brief Bio

Born in 1979 in Kolkata, West Bengal, Soma Das studied painting at Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata, graduating in 2009. Working in the detailed, placid styles of miniature painting, she portrays in her work the life of the working people, mostly women from humble economic backgrounds.

She has been the subject of the solo show *Different Facets of Life* at Gallery Nakshtra, Kolkata, 2010. She has participated in group exhibitions such as India Art Fair, 2023; *Bengal-Nama*, curated by Ina Puri at Bikaner House, New Delhi presented by Gallery Art Positive (2022), duo group show *Between Selves and Silhouettes* curated by Adip Dutta at Emami Art (Kolkata, 2022) and her works have been showcased at several major galleries in Kolkata including CIMA Art gallery, Weavers Studio, Aakriti Art Gallery and ICCR. Her work has also been featured in the exhibitions and art fairs in Delhi and Mumbai. She received the State Academy Award in 2008.

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

Soma Das lives and works in Kolkata.



CV and Personal details

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Father's Name: Anil Kumar Das

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Date of Birth: 19.9.1979

Education :

M.F.A 1st Class (2009) (Rabindra Bharati University)

B.V.A 1st Class (2007) (Rabindra Bharati University)

Awards:

State Academy Award in 2008

Certificate of Merit by Academy of Fine Arts In 2009.

Exhibition:

Participated in India Art Fair, 2023, New Delhi

Participated in *Bengal-Nama*, Curated by Ina Puri, presented by Gallery Art Positive, Bikaner House, New Delhi, 2022

Participated In India Art Fair, Delhi, Represented By Emami Art, 2022

Participated In Between Self And Silhouettes, Curated By Adip Dutta, Emami Art, 2022

Participated In Ami Art Festival 2020 In KCC, Kolkata.

Participated In Emami Art Fair In 2019, Kolkata.

Residency & workshops:

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

Participated Art Camp Organised by Tiara Foundation In Goa 2010.

Participated In Art Workshop Freedom And Awakening, Kolkata Centre For Creativity, Kolkata, 2022

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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