

**INDIAN EXHIBITION
SINGAPORE
1948**

Catalogue of
**DRAWINGS AND PAINTINGS FROM BENGAL
1900-48**

Exhibited By
The Director of Industries, West Bengal
Price 25 c

FOREWORD

When the Ministry of Commerce asked me to collect the work of Bengalee Artists for the Singapore Exhibition, I hesitated at first, because I am neither an artist nor an art critic. I also knew that in the very short time available I could not contact the many artists, collectors and organisers, without whose assistance no comprehensive collection could be made. On second thought, however, I agreed, because it seemed a pity that the art of Bengal should not be represented in the Exhibition. As I have already stated, there was no time to consult every one who should have been consulted. I, therefore, approached Mr. Atul Bose, Principal of the Government School of Art, Calcutta. Mr. Bose was as diffident as I was about undertaking this task at short notice. He was, however, prevailed upon to undertake the collection as a part of his official duties. I am most grateful to him.

The limitations of air transport involved the exclusion of sculptures and pictures of any large size. Many pictures are already dispersed in various exhibitions now taking place in India and many more have already been promised for other exhibitions due to take place in the near future. We could, therefore, collect only those pictures on which we could readily lay our hand. We are sorry that it was not possible to secure the work of many artists. Our sincerest thanks are due to those artists and collectors who have so kindly lent the exhibits at such short notice.

But the exhibits collected, though few in number, still represent the development of pictorial art in Bengal during the last half a century. Many of our Masters and some of our younger Artists are here represented, though not necessarily by their best work. The various trends of the Art Movement in Bengal and the many influence which have acted as power-

ful leaven are evident here—the naturalism of the West, the revival of the ancient art forms of India, the conscious adoption of the simplicity of folk-art, the influence of the Chinese and Japanese Schools and the very modern experiments in new ways of expression. I hope, therefore, that this collection along with Mr. Bose's notes will help to interpret our art to our friends and neighbours in South-East Asia.

KARUNAKETAN SEN

Directorate of Industries,
West Bengal,
Calcutta,
The 20th January, 1948.

NOTES ON DRAWINGS AND PAINTINGS FROM BENGAL <1900-48>

It has been endeavoured to make this collection as representative as possible by including works of typical exponents of various trends and approaches in pictorial art that have been evident in the art-world of Bengal for the last 50 years.

The beginning of this century shows the reaction of Bengal to the naturalistic mode of approach into art, which had considerably influenced her as a result of her contact with the West. A growing consciousness of the cultural heritage of India led to a movement for reviving the technique and approach of forgotten Indian schools of different periods. Abanindra Nath Tagore (Nos. 45, 46, 47, 48) and his disciple Nandalal Bose (No. 8) have been leading exponents of this school while his brother Gaganendra, although a believer in revivalism, was attracted by the modernistic tendencies of the West (Nos. 50, 51).

The revivalist movement, gaining great popularity, continued to dominate the art-world of Bengal, for nearly the next twenty years, although there still were some who held on to the naturalistic style. Prominent among them is J. P. Gangooly (No. 20) followed by some others, such as H. Mazumdar (No. 28), Satish Sinha (No. 41), B. Ganguly (No. 18), Atul Bose (No. 7). Gradually, however, there appeared a tendency to experiment in eclectic modes of expression adopting styles of painting from other oriental countries as well as newer expressions from the occidental ones as evident in Nos. (3, 4, 6, 13, 15, 16, 17, 21, 25, 26, 29, 30, 31, 35, 36, 37, 39, 44, 49, 52, 58, 59, 60). Mention may

be made of artists in this group such as Saroda and Rānada Ukil, Deviprasad Roy Chowdhury, Ramendra Nath Chakravorty, Sudhir Khastagir, Samar Gupta, Binode Mukerjee, Mrs. Sheila Auden and others. Surendranath Kar (No. 26), Mukul Dey, A.R.C.A. (No. 17), L. M. Sen, A.R.C.A. (Nos. 35, 36, 37), Asit Halder (No. 25), Rathindranath Tagore (Nos. 58, 59, 60), Sunayani Devi (Nos. 15, 16) fall also within this group.

Attempt to maintain the traditions of revivalism is traceable in Nos. 5, 9, 10, 22, 23, 24, 33, 34. Kshitindranath Mazumdar, Satyendranath Banerjee (No. 5), Mani Bhusan Gupta (Nos. 22, 23), are renowned artists of this School, while artists of Nos. 1, 2, 11, 14, 19, 27, 32, 38, 40, 43, show their preference for the naturalistic style, within the wider fold of which they are developing a school of their own. Among the young artists, Safiuddin Ahmed (No. 2) has already made a name in India and abroad.

The Pictures of Rabindra Nath (Nos. 53, 54, 55, 56, 57) stand in a class by themselves in spite of their reminding one of western modernistic tendencies, while Jamini Roy (No. 42) stands for reorienting and vitalising the indigenous art forms of Bengal.

ATUL BOSE

Principal, Govt. School of Art,
Officer-in-charge, Art Section, Indian Museum
and

Keeper, Govt. Art Gallery, CALCUTTA.

LIST OF DRAWINGS AND PAINTINGS.

Sl. No.	Artist's Name	Title of the Exhibits	For Sale in Rupees
1.	Abedin, Zainul	Through the Sal Trees.	200/-
2.	Ahmed, Safiuddin	Sontal Maidens.	75/-
3.	Ash, Gobardhan	A Monk.	50/-
4.	Ayan Dutta, Ranen	Surya.	80/-
5.	Banerjee, S. N.	Rup—Katha.	300/-
6.	Bhattacharya, Anil K.	Head of a Girl.	350/-
7.	Bose, Atul	Wintry Sunshine.	1,000/-
8.	Bose, Nandalal	Sati (Courtesy—Art Section, Indian Museum).	Not for sale.
9.	Bramha, Dhiren	A Solemn Oath (Ramchandra and Sugriva).	500/-
10.	Bramha, Dhiren	Offer of Devotion (Buddha and Sujata).	500/-
11.	Chatterjee, Nilratan	What a Sin?	225/-
12.	Das Gupta, Dilip	Carla Cavus.	500/-
13.	Datta Gupta, Makhan	Toilet.	300/-
14.	De, Biren	Udaigiri Caves.	125/-
15.	Devi, Sunayai	Radha Krishna (Courtesy—Pratima Devi, Santinekatan)	Not for sale.
16.	Devi, Sunayani	Bride's Farewell (Courtesy—Pratima Devi, Santinekatan)	Not for sale.
17.	Dey, Mukul (A.R.C.A.)	Girls Dancing.	Not for sale.
18.	Ganguly, B	Portrait of Mr. Shea.	Not for sale.
19.	Ganguly, Bhagabandas	Head of a Soldier.	Not for sale.
20.	Gangooly, J. P.	View of Plains from Tindharia.	1,200/-
21.	Ghosh, Samar	Kathak-Thakur (Courtesy—Principal, Govt. School of Art, Calcutta).	Not for sale.
22.	Gupta, M. B.	Departure of Buddha.	350/-

Sl. No	Artist's Name	Title of Exhibits	For Sale Price in Rupees
23.	Gupta, M. B	Buddha and his disciples.	350/-
24.	Gupta, Sitesh	Mahisha-Mardini.	400/-
25.	Haldar, Asit K	Fishes.	Not for sale.
26.	Kar, Surendranath	Nepali Girl.	Not for sale.
27.	Mandal, Girish	Bride and Bridegroom.	450/-
28.	Mazumdar, H	A Village Mirror.	2,000/-
29.	Mitra, Rathindranath	Shillong Bazar.	200/-
30.	Mukherjee, Adinath	Still Life.	250/-
31.	Sain, M	"Seracs" (Kanchanjanga Glacier).	2,500/-
32.	Seal, Dhiren K	La Grande Fete Bengale.	200/-
33.	Sen, Amulya Gopal	Siva in Meditation.	200/-
34.	Sen, Amulya Gopal	Buddha and Rahula.	200/-
35.	Sen, L. M. (A.R.C.A.)	Gandhiji.	100/-
36.	Sen, L. M. (A.R.C.A.)	Bullock Cart (Woodcut).	30/-
37.	Sen, L. M. (A.R.C.A.)	Set of three linocuts.	60/-
38.	Sen Gupta, Bibhuti	Bapuji.	100/-
39.	Sen Gupta, Naresh	Humble Cottage.	100/-
40.	Som, B	Martin's Loco-Shed.	200/-
41.	Sinha, Satish	Girl in Grey.	300/-
42.	Roy, Jamini	Offering (Courtesy—Mrs. Deb-jani Bose).	Not for sale.
43.	Roychoudhury, Kamala (Miss)	Kanta.	300/-
44.	Roy, Jyotirindra	Pigeons.	350/-
45.	Tagore, Abanindranath	Buddha and Sujata (Courtesy—Art Section, Indian Museum).	Not for sale.
46.	Tagore, Abanindranath	Character from Rabindranath's Drama (Courtesy—Pratima Devi, Santinekatan).	Not for sale.
47.	Tagore, Abanindranath	Head of a Girl (Courtesy—Pratima Devi, Santinekatan).	Not for sale.

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Sl. No.	Artist's Name.	Title of the Exhibits.	For Sale in Rupees.
48.	Tagore, Abanindranath.	Lady with a bag (Courtesy—Pratima Devi, Santinekatan).	Not for sale.
49.	Tagore, Gaganendra Nath.	Kanchanjangha (Courtesy—Mrs. Gouri Chowdhury).	Not for sale.
50.	Tagore, Gaganendra Nath.	Evening Star (Courtesy—Mrs. G. N. Tagore).	Not for sale.
51.	Tagore, Gaganendra Nath.	Meeting at Stair-case (Courtesy—Pratima Devi, Santinekatan).	Not for sale.
52.	Tagore, Gaganendra Nath.	Himalayas (Courtesy—Pratima Devi, Santinekatan).	Not for sale.
53.	Tagore, Rabindranath.	A Portrait (Courtesy—Atul Bose).	Not for sale.
54.	Tagore, Rabindranath.	Portrait of Boy in Pen and Ink (Courtesy—Pratima Devi Santinekatan).	Not for sale.
55.	Tagore, Rabindranath.	Portrait of a Bearded Gentleman in Black and White (Courtesy—Pratima Devi, Santinekatan).	Not for sale.
56.	Tagore, Rabindranath.	Landscape with Tree in Fore-ground (Courtesy—Pratima Devi, Santinekatan).	Not for sale.
57.	Tagore, Rabindranath.	One line Drawing in Ink (Courtesy—Pratima Devi, Santinekatan).	Not for sale.
58.	Tagore, Rathindranath.	The Brook (Courtesy—Pratima Devi, Santinekatan).	Not for sale.
59.	Tagore, Rathindranath.	Flowers in Vase (Courtesy—Pratima Devi, Santinekatan).	Not for sale.
60.	Tagore, Rathindranath.	White Lily (Courtesy—Pratima Devi, Santinekatan).	Not for sale.

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