



Press Release

## Emami Art Hosts 'Constellations'

### An exhibition that brings together eight contemporary artists from Bengal addressing diverse concerns

**Kolkata, 12 February, 2021: Emami Art**, one of India's leading contemporary art galleries based in Kolkata is hosting an exhibition 'Constellations', which will present a range of practices by eight renowned artists from Bengal, Jogen Chowdhury, Shuvaprasanna Bhattacharya, Arunima Choudhury, Chandra Bhattacharjee, Arindam Chatterjee, Anjan Modak, Tamal Bhattacharya and Soma Das who will display their recent works. The exhibition will open on 12th February and will be on till 13th March, 2021.

The artists presented through this Constellation exhibition, address themselves to diverse concerns, exploring meanings, implications and politics of our anxious time. In the work of Chandra Bhattacharjee, the forest in the night is shown as a zone of conflict between wilderness and the expansionist pressure of modern civilization, while in Arindam Chatterjee's work, the agony of lockdown migration is read allegorically as an epic event that recurs throughout the human history. The adverse effects of the pandemic-induced lockdown on the ordinary people of the society are clearly visible in the work of Soma Das, Tamal Bhattacharya and Anjan Modak in the exhibition. The crises-laden world that mirrors brokenness also mirrors hope. The paintings of the celebrated senior artists in the show like Arunima Choudhury, Shuvaprasanna and Jogen Chowdhury reaffirm the old truth, reassuring us of the eternal aesthetic values that make us feel at home in the age of discordance, drastic change and disappearance.

"Constellations is an exhibition with more than 55 artworks from senior artists to the young contemporary artists of Bengal. The exhibition presents a range of practices. Although no stylistic grouping or common thematic ground holds these artists within the exhibition, the varied practices appear as eight distinct conceptual postures or constellations in the curated space of the gallery. The exhibition is at the venue and the online platform as well." said Ms Richa Agarwal, CEO, Emami Art.

The physical display exhibition will be on from 12th February, 2021 and shall be on display till 13th March, 2021 at Emami Art Gallery, Kolkata Centre for Creativity 777 Anandapur, E.M. Bypass, Kolkata 700107, Contact: 033 6623 2300. The exhibition can be also viewed online on Emami Art's website [www.emamiart.com](http://www.emamiart.com).

#### ARTIST PROFILES

##### **Jogen Chowdhury**

Born in Faridpur, Bangladesh, in 1939, Jogen Chowdhury studied painting at Government College of Art & Craft, Kolkata and later, Ecole des Beaux-Arts, Paris between 1955 to 1965. Internationally renowned contemporary artist, he is known for his powerful figurative imagery and ornamental exuberance of line-work. He has been the subject of solo exhibitions "Reverie and Reality" at Emami Art, Kolkata; "Compelling Presence: A Retrospective Exhibition" at National Gallery of Modern Art, Bengaluru; "Abahaman: Flowing Lines, at Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi; at Bose Pacia Modern, New York; Pundole's Art Gallery, Mumbai; among many others. He has participated in the historic exhibitions on contemporary Indian art "Pictorial Space" (1979) and "place for people" (1880) at Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi and in the Triennale India (1971, 1974, 1977). Jogen Chowdhury is the recipient of prestigious Kalidas Samman, Banga Bibhushan Samman and Jainul Samman. He lives and works between Santiniketan, Kolkata and New Delhi.



### **Shuvaprasanna Bhattacharya**

Born in Kolkata, West Bengal, in 1947, Shuvaprasanna Bhattacharya, a member of the Calcutta Painters' Group, graduated with a diploma in painting from the Indian College of Art & Draughtsmanship and has since exhibited internationally. The city of Kolkata with its histories, melancholy and sordidness figures strongly in his work. Shuvaprasanna have been the subject of many solo and group shows in India, Bangladesh, Germany, Switzerland, France and Singapore. He is the recipient of many major awards including the All India Fine Arts and Craft Society (AIFACS) Award, State Lalit Kala Akademi award and Birla Academy Award. He was honoured with Banga Bibhushan Samman in 2013. He lives and works in Kolkata.

### **Arunima Choudhury**

Born in 1950 in Siliguri, West Bengal, Arunima Choudhury studied painting at Indian College of Art and Draftsmanship and Design and Mass Communication at Chitrabani, Kolkata, between 1970 and 1978. Working primarily with vegetable colours on handmade papers, she is known for her works depicting the languid world of nature and human being, their intimacy and coexistence. She has been participated in several important group exhibitions at Emami Art, Kolkata; Hart Gallery, Beijing, China; Chitrakoot Art Gallery, Kolkata; among others. She is the subject of solo shows "Khela" at Seagull Foundation of the Arts and "Nature as I See" at Emami Art, both in Kolkata. Besides being an artist, she loves gardening, and her love for nature reflects in her work. Arunima Choudhury lives and works in Kolkata.

### **Chandra Bhattacharjee**

Born in Patuli, a village in Burdwan District, West Bengal, in 1961, Chandra Bhattacharjee graduated with painting from Indian College of Art and Draftsmanship, Kolkata, in 1986 and has since exhibited his work widely in India and abroad. A noted figurative painter, Bhattacharjee's paintings are largely based on rural and urban themes. He has been the subject of more than a dozen solo shows "Night Forest" at Art Alive Gallery, New Delhi; at The Gallery in Cork Street, London, UK; Gallery Threshold, New Delhi; Gallery 88, Kolkata; Art Heritage, New Delhi; Sumukha Art Gallery, Bengaluru; among others. He has also participated in many group exhibitions in the major cities of India and also in London, Munich, Tokyo, Hong Kong and Bali. Besides being a painter, Chandra Bhattacharjee is an avid photographer. He received Taj Gaurav Award in 2008 and Gold Medal from Rabindra Bharati University for excellence in fine arts in 1986. He lives and works in Kolkata.

### **Arindam Chatterjee**

Born in Kharagpur, West Bengal, in 1972, Arindam Chatterjee studied painting at Government Collage of Art & Craft, Kolkata and Kala Bhavana, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan and has since exhibited nationally and internationally. One of the prominent contemporary abstract painters in India, he later turned to figurative art to engage more directly with the social and political life of the society. He has been the subject of several solo exhibitions at Tao Art Gallery, Mumbai; Akar Prakar, Chitrakoot Art Gallery and Aakriti Art gallery in Kolkata. His work has been featured in "Remixing Charm: Post Painterly Art of the Local" at Aakriti Art Gallery, 2015, and in the Eleventh Triennale India, New Delhi, 2005. He was awarded H K Kejriwal Memorial Award in 1997 and won Silver Prize in Drawing and Design Exhibition at Kyoto, Japan. Chatterjee lives and works in Kolkata.

### **Soma Das**

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 solo show "Different Facets of Life" at Gallery Nakshtra, Kolkata, 2010. She has participated in many group exhibitions at the major galleries in Kolkata including Emami Art, CIMA 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 State Academy Award in 2008. Soma Das lives and works in Kolkata.



### **Tamal Bhattacharya**

Born in Kolkata, West Bengal, in 1975, Tamal Bhattacharya studied fine arts at Kala Bhavana, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan and Maharaja Sayajirao University, Baroda between 1997 and 2003. Widely known for his ceramic installations, sculptures and murals, he is inspired by the formal simplicity of the folk art of Bengal. He has been the subject of solo shows at Artspace Gallery, Kolkata and Palm-Court Gallery, New Delhi. He has participated in several important group exhibitions at Barn Art Gallery, UK; Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi; Kalakriti Art Gallery, Hyderabad; Weavers Studio, Kolkata; among others. Tamal Bhattacharya lives and works in Kolkata.

### **Anjan Modak**

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 solo show "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. Anjan Modak lives and works in Kolkata.

### **About Emami Art:**

A destination for Modern & cutting - edge Contemporary Art, Emami Art is a one-of-a-kind art space built in keeping with international standards. Positioned as a key destination for artists, visitors and art collectors, the gallery aligns with the Emami Group's mission to support artists & artisans and contribute to society's wellbeing. A regular programme of curated exhibitions, includes the works of new talents and eminent masters of regional, national and international repute that aligns with the promoters' ideology that while the popular contributes to the academic, the academic uplifts the popular. Spearheaded by Richa Agarwal, Emami Art's new 10,000 sq. ft. art space is located in the Kolkata Centre for Creativity (KCC), a state-of-the-art multi-disciplinary interactive art centre, off Eastern Metropolitan Bypass, Kolkata, India. [www.emamiart.com](http://www.emamiart.com)