

A dark, atmospheric photograph of a night sky. A thin, glowing crescent moon is positioned in the upper right quadrant. The sky is a deep, dark brown, and the lower portion is filled with the dark, silhouetted branches of trees, creating a sense of depth and shadow. The overall mood is somber and contemplative.

EMAMI ART

PENSIVE
MOONS

BHOLANATH RUDRA

OVERVIEW

Bholanath Rudra's solo exhibition, which shows his most recent large-scale watercolours, offers an expanded view of the forest landscape at night. Traditionally, the moonlit landscape is associated with an idyllic rural life, which expresses the artist's appreciation of nature, bucolic romances, myth and spirituality. 'Pensive Moons,' however, interrogates the relationship between land and identity, imagination and history, exploring nocturnal forests as sites of contemporary concerns and discourses – violence, trespass and survival. Unlike contemporary artistic approaches to the landscape obsessed with archives, maps, statistics, description and analysis, Rudra's moonlit landscapes are predominantly romantic, evoking high feelings and a sense of drama. While swaying us with tremendous scenic beauty, they slowly take us closer to the grim truths, speaking of the anti-poaching narrative not in the language of sign but in the language of similitude and metaphor: the crescent moon resembles the elephant's tusk and vice versa.

Bholanath Rudra is undoubtedly the most potent Indian painter working in watercolour today. Dark, luminous and rich in tonality and texture, Rudra's watercolours have an eloquent visual presence reminiscent of Abanindranath Tagore or Samuel Palmer. The critical content in his work is inseparable from the visual pleasure of the paintings. The glowing moons in the paintings lure us with their sublime beauty and make us think, evoking empathy.

Bio

Born 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 the Society of Contemporary Artists, Kolkata, 2018 and Mechanical Libido at the 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); 'All That is Hidden' at Emami Art (2024); 'Freedom: From Despair to Dream' at Aakriti Art Gallery (Kolkata, 2022), 'Fluid Boundaries' and 'Insights' at Emami Art, Kolkata (2020); Annual Art Exhibition of Society of Contemporary Artists (2023, 2022, 2020, 2019, 2017); Annual Art Exhibition at Birla Academy of Art & Culture (2014, 2016, 2018); 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 was an artist in residence at the Kira A. Princess of Prussia Foundation in collaboration with Emami Art Residency (Sept-Oct, 2022).

He was honoured 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 at the India Art Fair, New Delhi (2020).

Bholanath Rudra lives and works in Kolkata.





Bholanath Rudra (b.1984)

The Red Flower

Watercolour on paper

36.06 x 55.23 in. (91.6 x 140.3 cm.)

2024, Kolkata

AB2840

Bholanath Rudra (b.1984)

Rustle I

Watercolour on paper

88.9 x 55.31 in. (226 x 140.5 cm.)

2024, Kolkata

AB2841





Detail Of *Rustle I*



Bholanath Rudra (b.1984)

Rustle II

Watercolour on paper

55.31 in. x 88.77 in. (140.5 x 225.5 cm.)

2024, Kolkata

AB2842

Bholanath Rudra (b.1984)

Tug

Watercolour on paper

44.09 x 44.64 in. (112 x 113.4 cm.)

2024, Kolkata

AB2845





Bholanath Rudra (b.1984)

The Golden Boat I
Watercolour on paper
44.09 x 55.31 in. (112 x 140.5 cm.)
2024, Kolkata

AB2843



Bholanath Rudra (b.1984)

The Golden Boat II

Watercolour on paper

44.29 x 55.11 in. (112.5 x 140 cm.)

2024, Kolkata

AB2844

Bholanath Rudra (b.1984)

Forest Scene I
Watercolour on paper
21.25 x 14.68 in. (54 x 37.3 cm.)
2024, Kolkata

AB2882





Bholanath Rudra (b.1984)

Forest Scene III

Watercolour on paper

29.92 x 21.45 in. (76 x 54.5 cm.)

2024, Kolkata

AB2884





Detail Of Forest Scene III

Bholanath Rudra (b.1984)

Forest Scene II

Watercolour on paper

21.45 x 14.56 in. (54.5 x 37 cm.)

2024, Kolkata

AB2883





Bholanath Rudra (b.1984)

Undesirable

Watercolour on paper

55.19 x 44.09 in. (140.2 x 112 cm.)

2024, Kolkata

AB2881



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.

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 resolute to be a catalyst of change, research, innovation and inclusivity.

Artists represented by Emami Art:

- Ali Akbar PN
- Anjan Modak
- Arindam Chatterjee
- Arpita Akhanda
- Arunima Choudhury
- Bholanath Rudra
- Debashish Paul
- Ghana Shyam Latua
- Janhavi Khemka
- Prasanta Sahu
- Santanu Debnath
- Shilpi Sharma
- Sibaprasad Karchaudhuri
- Soma Das
- Suman Dey
- Ujjal Dey

To know more about the artist, please click below:

<https://www.emamiart.com/artists/>

