



Exhibition

“A Tryst with the River ”

The art exhibition will be held in
Charubasona Art Gallery at “Sunayani”
388- B/1, Prince Anwar Shah Rd, Jadavpur,
Kolkata, West Bengal 700045

from 21st to 27th August 2025
between 2 -8 PM.



An Introduction to the Exhibition “A Tryst with the River ”

Our rivers are our lifeline, and they are thus our responsibility as well. Nestled on the banks of the Hooghly in Kolkata, Sea Explorers' Institute (a not-for-profit organisation) has been working for 40 years now with a vision to bring people closer to its maritime and riverine resources in a variety of ways, especially by fostering the spirit of adventure, training in maritime skills, aquatic disaster preparedness and by encouraging research. Kolkata bears the cultural legacy of some phenomenal painters, sculptors, poets, authors, singers, dancers, et al, most of whom have woven the tapestry of their art around our river on myriad occasions. One apt way of inculcating the 'spirit of the river' among the busy city dwellers of Kolkata was to invite them for a celebration. Thus began "Gangotsav" in 2000. This garnered immense appreciation and proved to be a joyful connection with the river. Thus, after a few years, a cultural window was created within the Sea Explorers' Institute called "Nodir Shawngey Dekha" - "A Tryst with the River". Under the able guidance of Dilip Mukherjee (the former registrar of Vishwa Bharati University at Shantiniketan) and the enthusiasm of artist Jogen Chowdhury, film director Gautam Ghosh, mathematician Mihir Chakraborty, poet Namita Chakraborty, art curator Sandip Ray and others, including myself, bloomed "Nodir Shawngey Dekha" to nurture thoughts and love for the river that is intertwined with the sea.

In 2024, several artists, some young and some old like me, gathered next to the riverbank to let our emotions for the river find expression in our paintings. Some poets presented their compositions, while famous "Bhatiali" (traditional folk music of the boatmen/ fishermen) singer Sri Ramen Saha sang while playing his 'Do Tara' (simple 2 stringed instrument), and much acclaimed author Sri Sadhan Chattopadhyay gave a thought provoking talk in the first 'Sheuli Chatterjee Memorial Lecture' on how rivers of Bengal through its various facets have played an intrinsic role in the growth of humans from birth to death by touching upon life repeatedly through rituals, curiosity, love and spirituality.

I congratulate and express my gratitude to all who contributed to this cultural endeavour of the Sea Explorers' Institute.

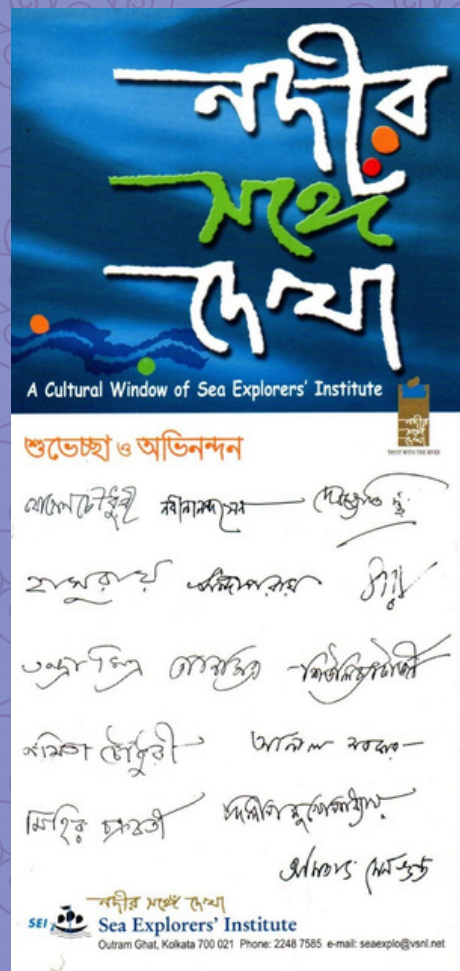
This is a catalogue of Paintings created on December 18th, 2024. We are sure that the diverse range with its many interesting pieces will catch your eye, and we hope that this increases your interest in our very own river and the lives around it.

We are grateful to Shri Jogen Chowdhury and the people behind the scene who helped in organising this entire event and this catalogue.

Thank you,



Tapan Mitra



Arunima Dasgupta

She is a professional musician and a self-taught artist, and has been painting and performing professionally for over two decades. She is in 2 bands, Disco Inferno and the Saturday Night Blues Band. She has also been the artist relations and events head (India) for world-class music brands like Fender and Ernie Ball Music Man for a long. She has had various online and offline showcasing of her art for over 30 years.



Nodi'r Shathey Dekha and Shuili - the 2 themes that were presented to her for the event speak for themselves through the painting. She usually does not talk about what the painting means to her and why she painted what she did - she is more interested in the spectators take on her art - that always reveals new things to her.

See, Collect & Contribute!

Join us for a special art showcase featuring acrylic on canvas works by renowned artists (all on small-format canvases (28x36 cm) at affordable prices.

Each piece supports a greater cause—proceeds go toward charity.

Get in touch with
Sea Explorers' Institute

at seaexpl@yahoo.co.in and 9836530290.



Bappa Bhowmick



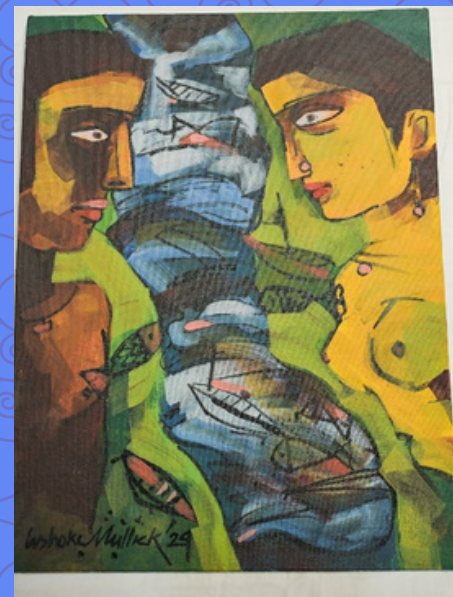
Ganga Foring (Grasshopper)

Is a visually rich and symbolic piece that merges human and natural elements in a dreamlike composition. The central nude bathing in water and the grasshopper share a connection- both embody freedom, transformation and harmony with nature. The shiuli (night-flowering jasmine) flowers falling from the sky add a poetic touch. The background patterns and contrasting colours create a dynamic and almost mystical. The piece beautifully conveys a sense of interconnectedness between humans, nature, and the ephemeral flow of life.



Ashoke Mullick

He graduated from Government Art College Kolkata and is a national scholar. He has worked under Bikash Bhattacharjee, and has had 20 solo shows around the world. He has worked briefly in Germany, and has also participated in various group exhibitions and attended workshops in 25 countries. His works are collected by museums, corporate and private collectors.



Nodi'r Shawngzey Dekha

A river symbolizes the flow and continuity of life. Human civilization lives by the river. The river is a witness of the entire gamut of human love, ups and downs of life and quest for livelihood. On my small canvas, I have tried to portray the beauty of the flowing river and the yearning of humans to build a home by it.



Biswajit Saha

He has participated in many exhibitions, notably the National Exhibition of Art by Lalit Kala Academy ademi, New Delhi; Artist against Fascism and War by Gorky Sadan, Kolkata; Menier Gallery, London; Brownson Art Gallery, Manhattan Valley, USA; and many others.



Chawkori

Indian mythology has many gods and goddesses who have human faces and animal bodies, or vice versa. Our literature and poetry also has many comparisons of birds with women. This year's exhibition had "shiuli" (the flower) as a topic, hence my painting "Chawkori". Chawkori is in love with moonlight, and even drinks it! It is associated with yearning and love in literature, and symbolizes similar human emotions. Here, this bird with a female face is sitting on a shiuli tree and drinking moonlight.



Biraj Kumar Paul

An MA in Painting from Rabindra Bharati University (1981), he has participated in numerous exhibitions in India and internationally since 1979. He served as a guest lecturer at Rabindra Bharati University and is currently a member and secretary of Painters' Orchestra, one of the oldest art groups in India.



Untitled

Having been born and growing up in riverine Bengal, when I got this topic I unfurled myself amidst nature. What else do we have besides the pure, green and verdant nature? Whatever I feel or do is all taken from nature.



Malay Ch. Saha

Alumnus of Calcutta University and College of Visual Arts, Kolkata. He has participated in numerous national and international exhibitions earning various national awards. He has also participated in various workshops and his works are showcased in and outside India.



Untitled



Pratyusha Mukherjee

She is an eminent painter and curator. She is a visual artist by inspiration. She did both her BFA and MFA from Kala Bhawan, Visva Bharati University, Shantiniketan, and was introduced to Rabindranath Tagore's love for nature at an early age. Rural Bengal with its wide open skies and greeneries symbolized freedom to her. She also has several publications to her name and has curated many exhibitions.



Untitled



Sourav Nandy

Began painting early, and established himself as an acclaimed professional artist with guidance from many. He grew up in a Kolkata neighbourhood that boasts of a fascinating mix of rich heritage and modern ideas. His canvas reflects the vulnerable aspects of humanity, and showcases the intrinsic contrast of the mediums he employs. He has participated in numerous exhibitions across India.



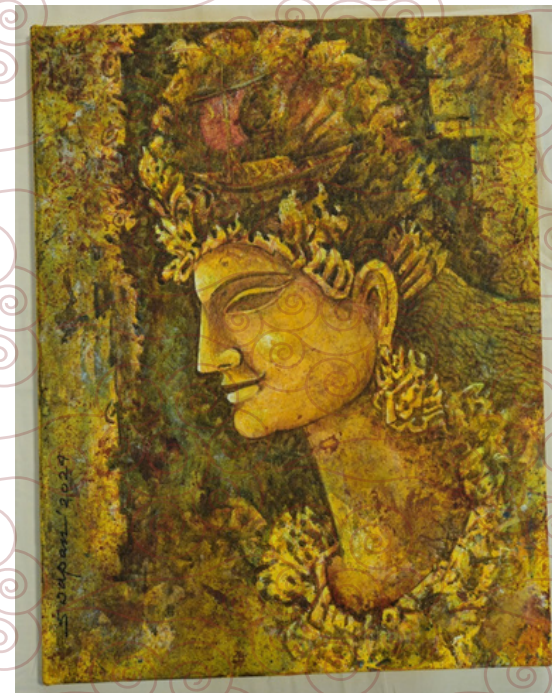
Untitled

Owls are birds of prey, meaning that they hunt. Unlike most other birds of prey, owls are nocturnal, or active at night. Their night-time activity, quiet flight, and strange calls have made them the subject of many stories.



Swapan Saha

Born in 1963 in Nadia in West Bengal, he studied in Rabindra Bharati University in Kolkata. He has participated in numerous major exhibitions all over India as well as Bangladesh, Germany and Canada. With 300 group exhibitions and 5 solo exhibitions all over India, he is a recipient of many awards like the Research Grant Award from Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi. He lives and maintains his studio in Garia in south Kolkata.



Untitled



Tapan Mitra

Studied painting in Kala Bhawan, Shantiniketan, Viswabharati, and Serigraph under late Biswarup Bose. Has done many solo shows in and around India. Has received multiple awards in West Bengal and India. Has participated in many shows all across the world, including India Festival USA. He likes to express his concern for humanity and love for nature in his paintings. His works are in many collections across the world with museums, corporates and private collections.



Untitled



Dewashish Das

He is a Kolkata-based visual artist with a Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts and over two decades of exhibition history across India. His solo shows have featured at the Academy of Fine Arts (Kolkata), Lalit Kala Akademi (New Delhi), and Jahangir Art Gallery (Mumbai). He has participated in numerous national group exhibitions and international art camps, including in Thailand and Pondicherry. His works explore human emotion and memory through layered brushwork and bold expression. His art is held in collections across India, USA, UK, Germany, Dubai, and Singapore.



Untitled



Moumita Ghosh

As a contemporary artist from Kolkata with a BFA and MFA in Painting, I explore women's inner lives and societal challenges through a gender-equal lens. My art blends surrealism and personal vision using acrylic on canvas and watercolours. I've exhibited my work in solo and group shows globally and conduct workshops. I am also interested in art installations and sculpture.



"The Boat of Knowledge,"

This painting was created during SEI's workshop "Nodir Shawnghey Dekha", featuring a delicate paper boat floating on a lotus pond. It symbolizes the knowledge shared with trainees, similar to how lotus flowers rise from murky water, representing their transformation and growth. The fragile boat embodies learning and guidance, while the lotus reflects the strength gained through the Institute's support. Overall, the artwork honors the uplifting power of knowledge and the journey of rising above difficult beginnings.



Milton Bhattacharyya

He is a contemporary visual artist from Howrah, West Bengal, with a Master's in fine arts from Kala Bhavana, Santiniketan. His work draws inspiration from the old suburban township of Howrah, focusing on the lives and struggles of the local labor community. He also explores chaos as a fluid phenomenon. Bhattacharyya primarily works in painting and has participated in various national and international exhibitions, including "The Wrong Biennale". He is engaged in teaching and socio-cultural research.



The Time of Jasmine

This is a landscape from memory, capturing the tranquil moments I spent by the riverbanks. The surroundings of the river emerge as characters, engaging in a gentle conversation. Twilight is personified by Jasmine, embodying grace and elegance. The soft orange hues of the evening sky intertwine with the elements around, creating a harmonious scene that evokes a sense of peace and beauty.