

ARUNIMA CHOUDHURY (b.1950)

Arunima Choudhury was born in 1950 in Siliguri, West Bengal and received her diploma in Fine Arts from the Indian College of Arts and Draftsmanship, Kolkata.

Working with an array of mediums, Arunima Choudhury's artworks, in their effortless, dynamism and chromatic exuberance, express a rare spontaneity of creative momentum. Spending her growing up years in the abundance of nature within the viridescent hills of Dooars and Darjeeling, lush tea gardens of Assam and the mountains of Sikkim, nature became her lifelong source of inspiration, often acting as a metaphor to translate the quintessential feminine in visual terms. In her later life, inspired by the natural and cultural atmosphere of Santiniketan, Choudhury's artistic vision found its true path under the broad aesthetic vision of Rabindranath Tagore. She was attracted to the new ideal of modern Indian art, rooted yet cosmopolitan, and the crucial roles of medium-specific crafts in modern art practices.

Shankha Darshana, the classical Indian school of philosophy, explains nature as the embodiment of feminine energy. Similarly, nature deities worshipped within many indigenous cultures around the world indicate a tendency to understand femininity compared to nature and vice versa. But Modernity swiping over the general cultural consciousness, granted a new interpretation to the classical. Tagore's famous poem *Krishnakali* praises the black beauty of a local village girl in the colonial atmosphere of Bengal, where nature plays as a vital metaphor. Later with Arunima Choudhury's painting of the same name *Krishnakali (2015)*, we experience an equivalent visual trans-creation. Her works like *Mother and Child*, *The Girl*, and *Wings (2020)* explore the quintessential theme of womanhood through many stages.

In Choudhury's works, the intermingling of colours, the tenderness of lines, and the lyrical shapes create a language where form and content become synonymous. Her continuous interaction with various materials, on the other hand, translates the central theme into diverse dictions. Whether it is organic colours on handmade papers, paintings on enamel plates or ceramics figurines - across mediums, her works convey a primordial playfulness charged with abundance and an urge for celebration.