

NS BENDRE

Drawings, Sketches, Watercolours

14 November - 12 December 2021





Foreward

It gives me great pleasure to present NS Bendre's rarely shown works on paper from across his long and immensely productive career. Best known as a painter, Bendre had a lifelong habit of travelling and drawing pictures from life and nature. The exhibition offers a glimpse of his large body of drawings, sketches and watercolours that form a distinctive part of his oeuvre. Unlike the modernists who abhor realism in art, Bendre strongly preferred it and used it persistently in his drawings and sketches throughout his career, like those on display. He certainly did not use it as a means to an end, a matter of skills and draughtsmanship. He instead found it suitable to get closer to the object, capture the magic of mimesis, the sense that there is an organic bonding between the picture and the model.

I want to thank Shri Padmanabh Bendre for trusting us to exhibit his father's work. It is a privilege and a responsibility to share his work with our viewers.

Lastly, I extend my gratitude to Ushmita Sahu, the Director of Emami Art, and my team for their dedication and efforts, without which the show would not have been possible.

Richa Agarwal CEO, Emami Art I belong to this earth. I walk on this earth. I eat on this earth, and I don't think of anything but this earth. Things here are like a library to me.

-NS Bendre

NS Bendre: Drawings, Sketches, Watercolours brings together some forty rarely shown works on paper from across the artist's career, revealing the intimate bonding he felt with the world. From the beginning of his long and astonishingly prolific career, Bendre explored the earth, travelling widely and producing a large body of drawings, sketches, and watercolours of the sites, landscapes and people that make up a significant part of his oeuvre. Much of his unique sensibility, the vernacular charms in colouration and depiction of human figures in his mature work, was shaped by his rich travel experiences and lifelong habit of drawing from observation.

Born in Indore, the capital of princely Indore State, Narayan Shridhar Bendre (1910-1992) studied painting in the State School of Art, excelling in academic realism. A steady winner of medals in the Bombay Art Society's Annual Exhibitions, an outstanding event in those days, he was admired for his skills in academic style and the chromatic brilliance of watercolours. However, the growing popularity of Amrita Sher-Gil and his first-hand acquaintance with the art world of the West in the 1940s had a profound impact on him, encouraging him to adapt to the new languages of modern art, moving away from academic realism.

Bendre's oeuvre spans widely between abstraction and figurative art, revealing his transformative modern vision. A significant change took place between his early and mature paintings. However, in drawing and sketches, he maintained persistence and continuity of realistic style throughout his career, like those on display. For Bendre, it seems, drawing, often associated with travelling, is a private, intimate practice, a kind of ritualistic pleasure he enjoyed. Resisting the impulse of modernism, he used it to get closer to the object, exploring the magic of mimesis, the sense that the picture has an organic bond with what it is a picture of. According to John Berger, this corporeality, which only drawing and no other art mediums can have, breathes life to Bendre's numerous study works and sketches of village women and rural scenes, a glimpse of which the show offers to us.

DRAWINGS & SKETCHES



Untitled
Pen and ink on paper
6.69 x 3.54 in.
1987
Unsigned



Detail of 'Untitled'



Untitled
Pen and ink on paper
7.67 x 5.70 in. (19.5 x 14.5 cm.)
1985
Unsigned





Untitled
Pen and ink on paper
6.69 x 13.18 in. both side
(17 x 33.5 cm.) both side
1980
Unsigned





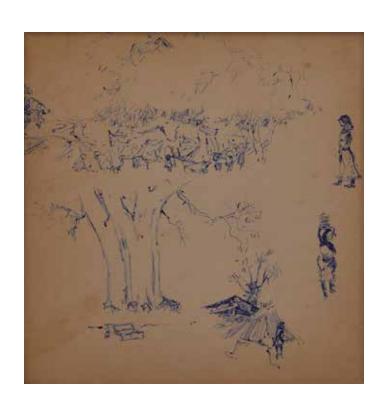
Untitled
Pen and ink on paper
6.49 x 13.18 in. (16.5 x 33.5 cm.)
1975
Unsigned



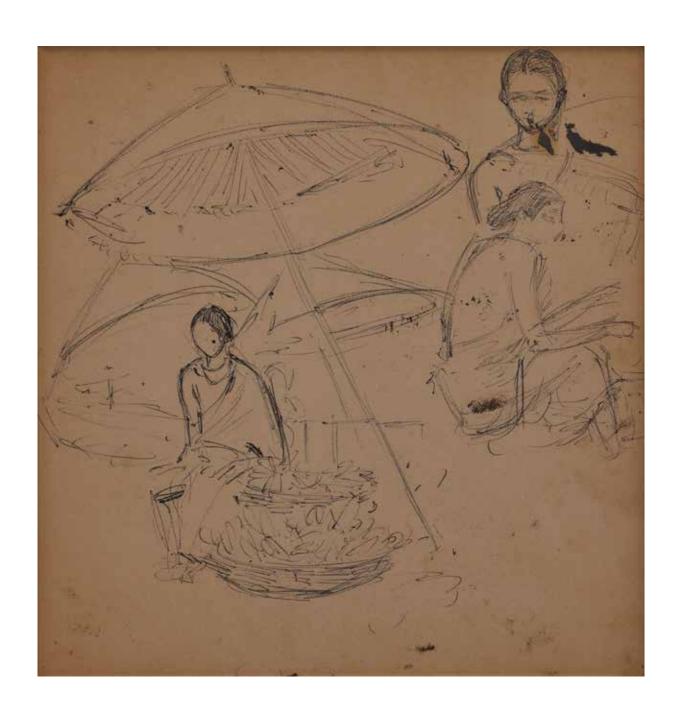
Untitled
Pen and ink on paper
6.49 x 4.13 in. (16.5 x 10.5 cm.)
1984
Unsigned



Detail of 'Untitled'



Untitled
Pen and ink on paper
6.49 x 6.29 in. (16.5 x 16 cm.)
1983
Unsigned



Untitled
Pen and ink on paper
6.49 x 6.10 in. (16.5 x 15.5 cm.)
1982
Unsigned



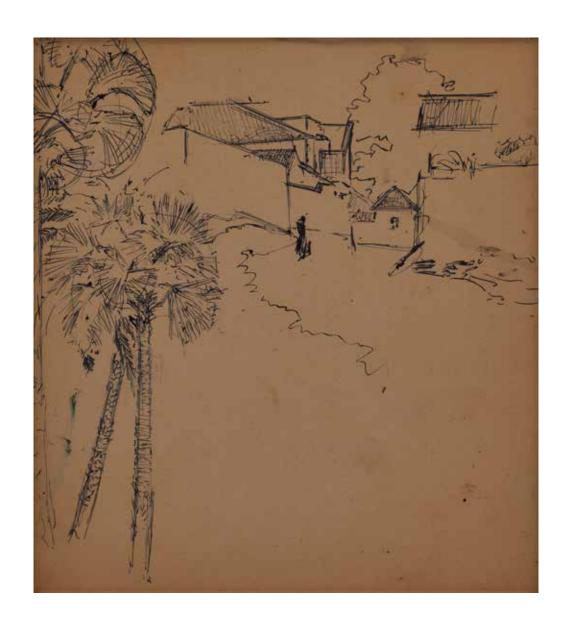
Untitled
Pen and ink on paper
6.10 x 6.49 in. (15.5 x 16.5 cm.)
1984
Unsigned







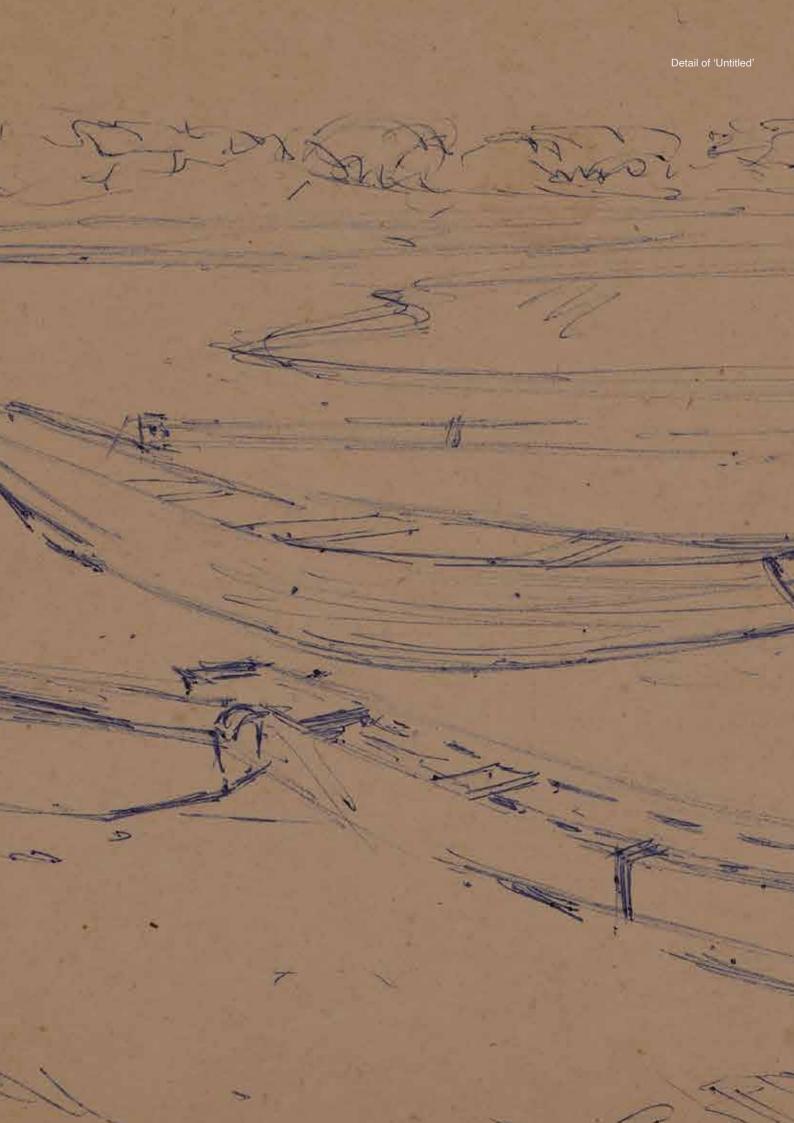
Untitled
Pen and ink on paper
6.69 x 6.49 in. (17 x 16.5 cm.) both side
1980
Unsigned



Untitled
Pen and ink on paper
6.49 x 5.90 in. (16.5 x 15 cm.)
1985
Unsigned

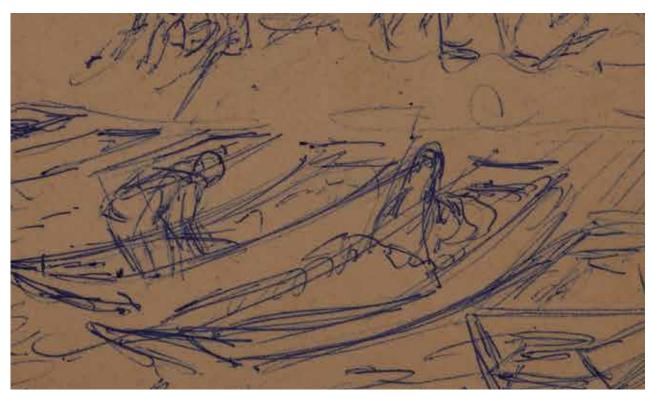


Untitled
Pen and ink on paper
13.18 x 6.49 in. (33.5 x 16.5 cm.)
1985
Unsigned





Untitled
Pen and ink on paper
6.69 x 6.69 in. (17 x 17 cm.)
1985
Unsigned



Detail of 'Untitled'



Untitled
Pen and ink on paper
3.93 x 6.69 in. (10 x 17 cm.)
1983
Unsigned



Untitled
Pen and ink on paper
9.44 x 9.44 in. (24 x 24 cm.)
1986
Unsigned



Untitled
Pen and ink on paper
6.49 x 6.10 in. (16.5 x 15.5 cm.)
1987
Unsigned



Untitled Pen and ink on paper 10.43 x 7.87 in. (26.5 x 20 cm.) 1986 Unsigned



Untitled
Pen and ink on paper
6.69 x 6.69 in. (17 x 17 cm.)
1984
Unsigned



Untitled
Pen and ink on paper
9.44 x 9.25 in. (24 x 23.5 cm.)
1986
Unsigned

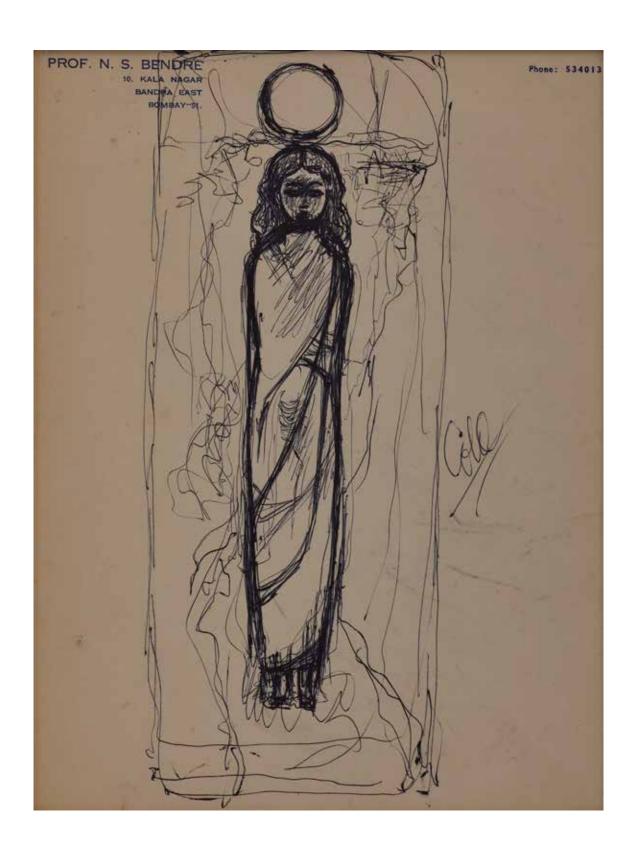


Untitled
Pen and ink on paper
6.49 x 6.10 in. (16.5 x 15.5 cm.)
1985
Unsigned



Untitled
Pen and ink on paper
6.92 x 6.72 in. (12.5 x 12 cm.)
1986
Unsigned





Untitled
Pen and ink on paper
10.03 x 7.48 in. (25.5 x 19 cm.)
1986
Unsigned





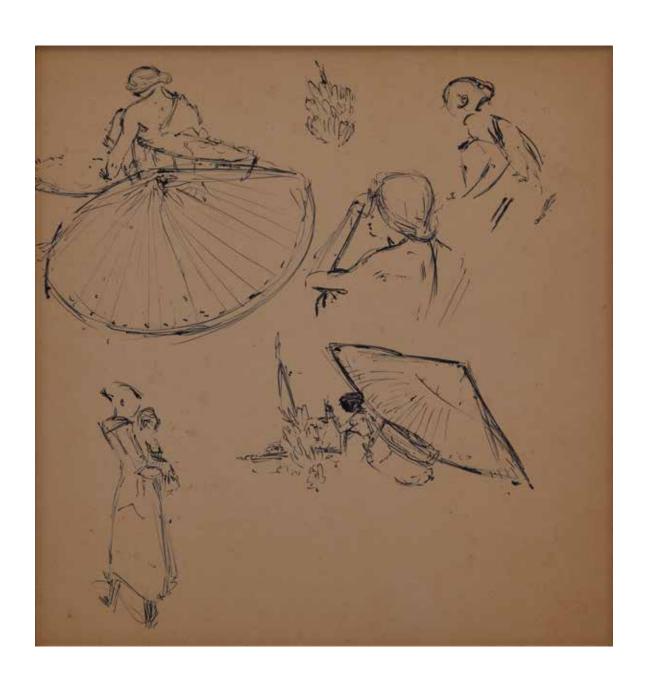
Untitled
Pen and ink on paper
10.43 x 7.87 in. (26.5 x 20 cm.)
1987
Unsigned



Untitled
Pen and ink on paper
6.69 x 6.29 in. (17 x 16 cm.)
1988
Unsigned



Untitled
Pen and ink on paper
5.51 x 6.10 in. (14 x 15.5 cm.)
1984
Unsigned



Untitled
Pen and ink on paper
6.69 x 6.49 in. (17 x 16.5 cm.)
1987
Unsigned



Untitled
Pen and ink on paper
6.69 x 4.13 in. (17 x 10.5 cm.)
1983
Unsigned



Untitled Pen and ink on paper 8.46 x 3.74 in. (21.5 x 9.5 cm.) 1984 Unsigned



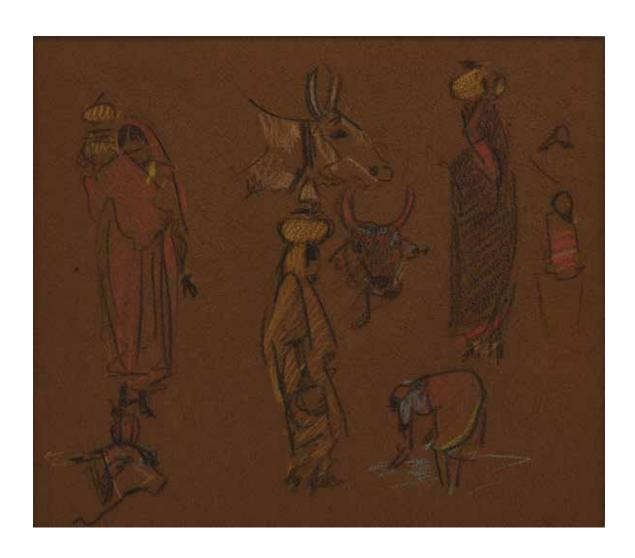
Untitled
Pen and ink on paper
6.69 x 6.10 in. (17 x 15.5 cm.)
1985
Unsigned



Untitled
Pen and ink on paper
6.49 x 4.13 in. (16.5 x 10.5 cm.)
1983
Unsigned



Untitled
Pen and ink on paper
6.69 x 6.69 in. (17 x 17 cm.)
1982
Unsigned



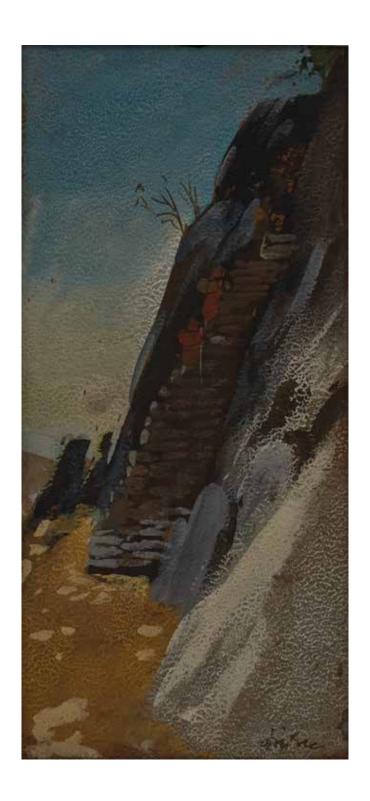
Untitled
Coloured pencil on paper
9.64 x 11.02 in. (24.5 x 28 cm.)
1940
Unsigned





Untitled Watercolour on paper 12.79 x 14.76 in. (32.5 x 37.5 cm.) 1940 Unsigned





Untitled Watercolour on paper 11.61 x 5.31 in. (29.5 x 13.5 cm.) 1938 Unsigned



Untitled
Watercolour on paper
8.85 x 13.77 in. (22.5 x 35 cm.)
Undated
Unsigned

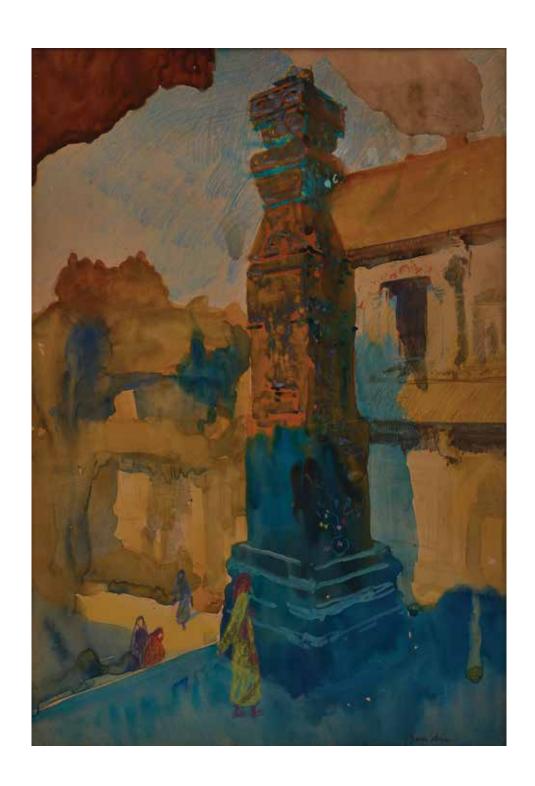




Detail of 'Untitled'

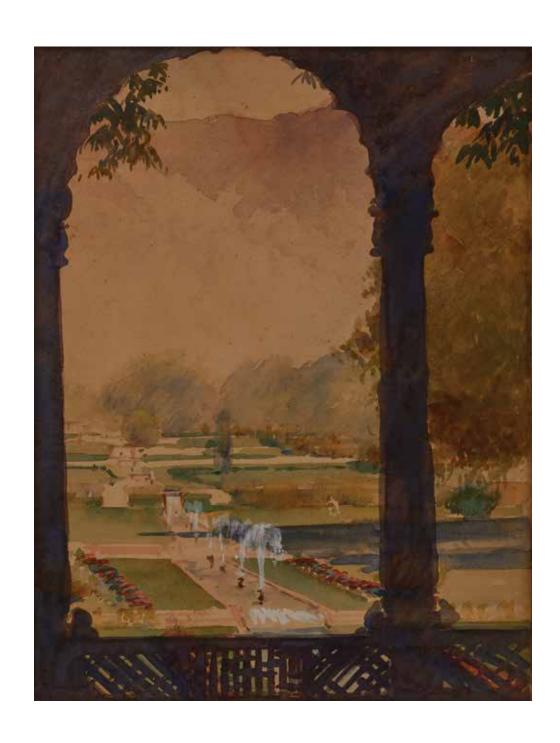


Untitled
Watercolour on paper
9.64 x 12.20 in. (24.5 x 31 cm.)
Undated
Signed in English (lower right)



Untitled Watercolour on paper 20.47 x 13.97 in. (52 x 35.5 cm.) 1942 Signed in English (lower right)





Untitled Watercolour on paper 14.56 x 11.02 in. (37 x 28 cm.) 1939 Unsigned



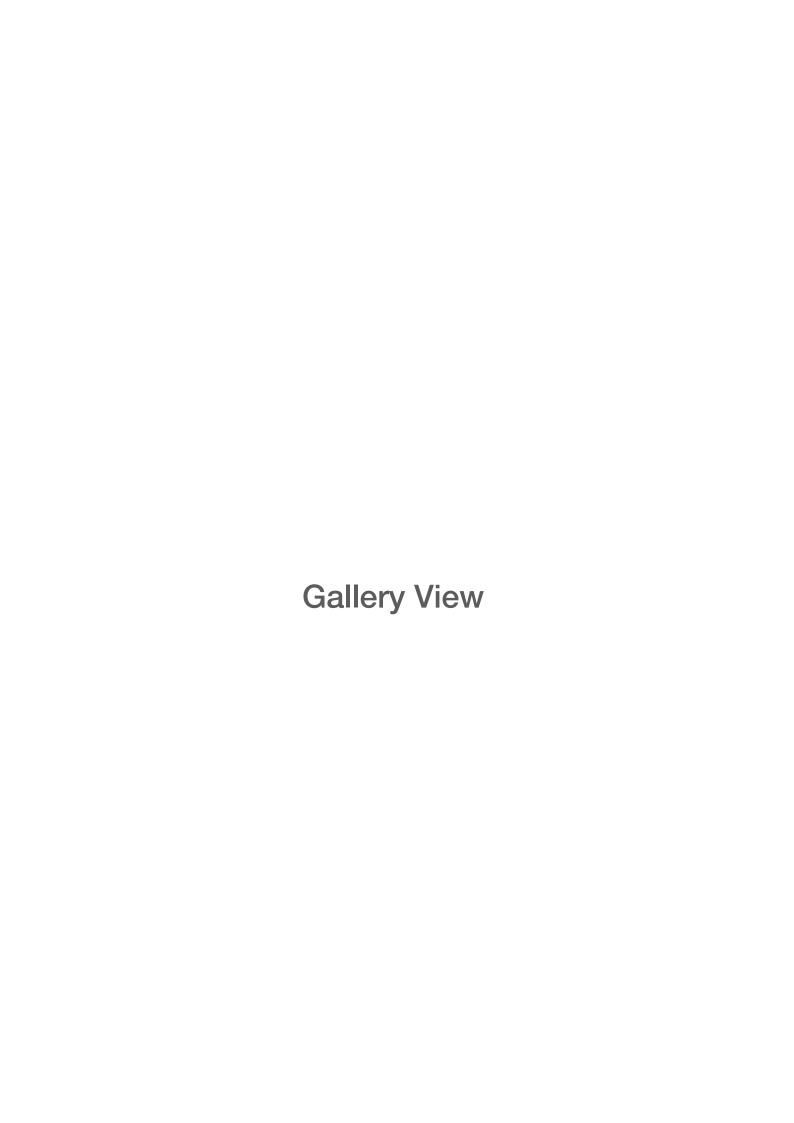
Untitled Watercolour on paper 13.97 x 19.48 in. (35.5 x 49.5 cm.) 1942 Signed in English (lower right)



Untitled
Watercolour on paper
6.69 x 13.38 in. (17 x 34 cm.)
1980
Signed in English (lower right)



Untitled Watercolour on paper 7.08 x 13.58 in. (18 x 34.5 cm.) 1980 Signed in English (lower right)























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NS Bendre, My Painting

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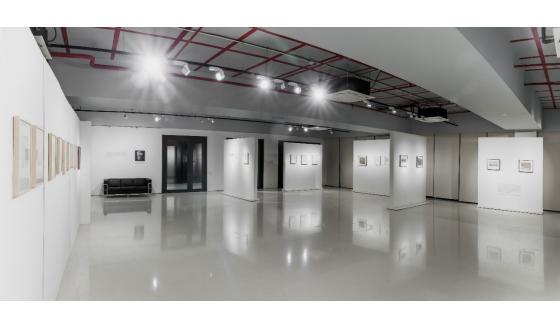
















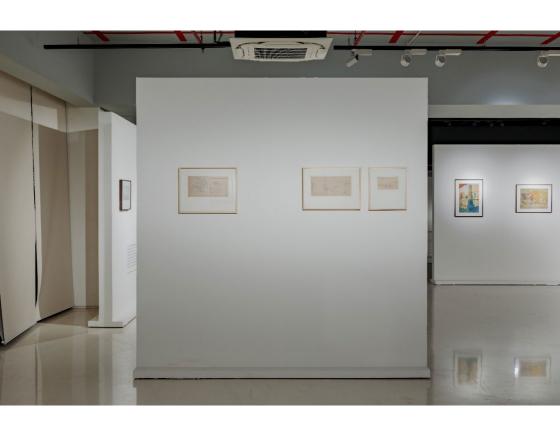
























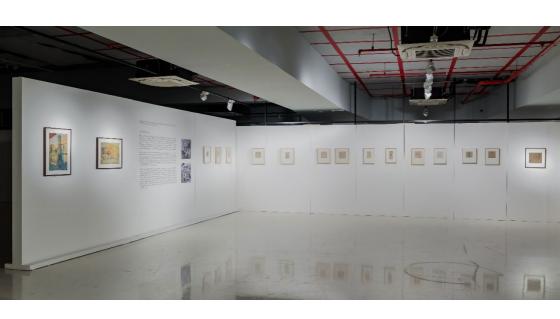








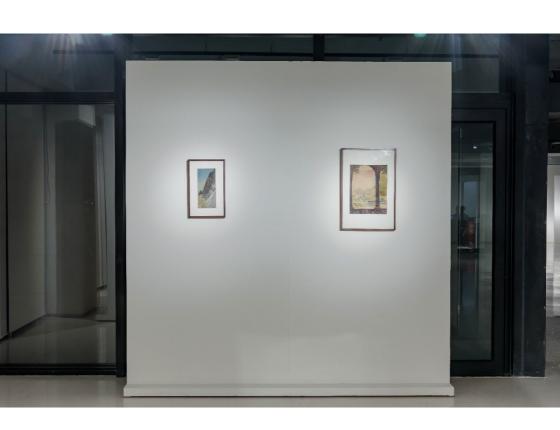
















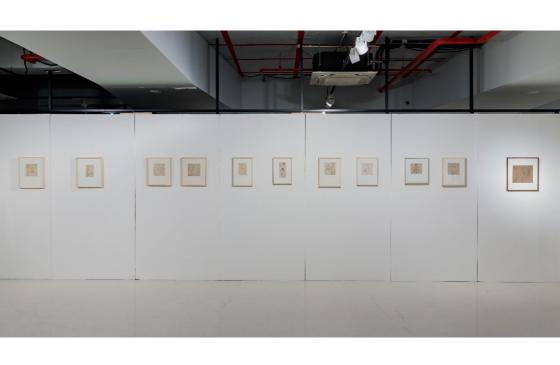
























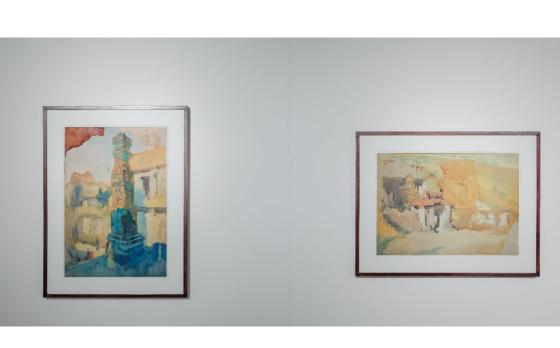












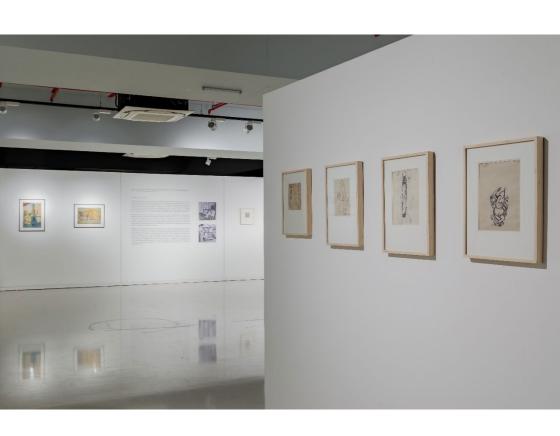


















Emami Art, one of the most significant art institutions in the eastern part of India, is a key space for cultural production in the region. The organisation is focused on a future-forward, complex, multi-dimensional approach and steadfast in the advocacy of emerging, mid-career and established artists as well as an engagement with contemporary and historical material. The gallery aims to create dynamic, wide-ranging registers of exhibition-making and viewing.

In addition to hosting exhibitions, participating in art fairs and events of national and international import, Emami Art has a diverse parallel programming. With a focus on engagement with the region and beyond through continuous short and long-term projects, Emami Art has launched **EA Locus in Focus**, **EA Co-labs (Collaborative Programme) EA Initiative (Public art endeavors) and EA Hybrid** which integrates both the physical and virtual interfaces. Other programs include EA Incubatorthat comprises of mentorship programs, workshops, residency opportunities and innovative educational activities that facilitate artistic development, help build networks of collaboration and provide a supportive environment for emerging talent. As a centre of excellence, Emami Art wishes to be identified as a platform rather than just a facility.

Critical discourses, interactions, documentation and exchange are also essential to our agenda. Under the umbrella of **EA Discourse**, we are committed to developing and producing original writing, artist's books, monographs, periodicals and catalogues that will focus on artistic, creative and pedagogical materials. Furthermore, the **EA Communicator** lineup of talks, seminars, panel discussions and conversations with artists, curators and key partners provides a space for critical engagement as part of our knowledge-making and archiving process.

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.



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