

Emami Art Presents

# ‘Tales of Our Time’

An online solo exhibition on the recent paintings of Anwar Chitrakar

**Kolkata 7<sup>th</sup> July 2020:** Emami Art, one of India’s leading contemporary art galleries based in Kolkata, hosts ‘**Tales of our Time**’ an online solo exhibition showcasing recent paintings of **Anwar Chitrakar**. In these paintings the artist has tried to capture the essence of the current trying times of pandemic that we are living through and his beautiful creations is being exhibited live on **Emami Art Website** <https://www.emamiart.com/>.

Born in 1980 to a traditional patua family at Naya Village, West Midnapore, Anwar Chitrakar received his training in Bengal folk paintings from his father Amar Chitrakar. Working within the stylistic boundaries of Kalighat Painting, Anwar, however, does not habitually repeat the past, but uses the visual potentialities of the conventional art forms to capture the transitory sights and emotions of the everyday world, the strangeness and banality of which we see down the streets.

In the pata paintings showcased by Anwar Chitrakar in ‘Tales of our Times’, a lot of detailing has gone into the iconic figuration, flowing lines, tonal volumes and all these have been intercepted by brilliant use of hues. These Pata painting not only brings out to the fore the stories that are depicted but also the artist’s unique vision and his astute sense of humour. Giving the traditional art forms a contemporary touch, Anwar plays the painter as a flamboyant storyteller, as well as a witty comedian.

“Bracing the new normal Emami Art is trying inclusive possibilities to engage with art fraternity to keep the positivity going .We are showcasing different artists and their creative artworks every month. This month, we are showcasing works of Anwar Chitrakar in an exhibition named ‘Tales of Our Times’. The artworks featured in the online exhibition reveals the artists perception of the current pandemic times we are living in. Through these pata paintings we are also trying to bring tribal and folk art into a mainstream field.” said Ms Richa Agarwal, CEO, Emami Art.

The online exhibition that started from 5th July, 2020 will be available on the Emami Art's website till 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2020. Click [here](#) to view.

## **Artwork Details**

1

### ***Bhalobashar Chotto Jaega***

In the painting, Anwar humorously depicts the new situation of young lovers during the lockdown. Having found the Coffee Houses and public parks closed, they are left with no other choices but to use their car as a romantic place.

2

### ***Hot Hero***

The artist reinterprets the old theme of *Nayak* and *Nayikas* in the new light of the lockdown situation. Unable to get out of the house, the hero appears in the painting not as a romantic

person adept in the art of love-making, but rather as a smart cook in his kitchen; his heroines, on the other hand, are passing the time by playing cards.

3

### **Gari Ashchhe**

In this satirical painting, Anwar makes fun of the policemen who are now upset for not being able to take bribes from the drivers as there are no cars on the roads during the lockdown. Tired of waiting, they ask a village woman if any car is coming.

4

### **Ar Hingsa Noi**

The painting showing an imaginary coexistence of birds, tigers and deer has a moral behind it. It speaks of non-violence and compassion as the greatest virtues today to survive in the world plunged into the deep crisis.

5

### **Kemon Achhen Bondhu**

During the lockdown, human beings are caged in their houses and the birds and animals, whom we have banished from our world, are coming back to reclaim the part of it. The painting beautifully captures the reversal of the situation.

6

### **Swapner Sangsar**

The picture is about the hope and desire of the common man, whose life has been affected by the pandemic and lockdown. The more the raging face of the Coronavirus is threatening them, the more they can see their dream of a happy family is fleeing from their life.

7

### **Sanitizer Vaccine**

The beautiful satirical painting by Anwar shows a *Babu* or Bengali gentleman dancing with a wine bottle in his hand. Knowing that the alcohol-based sanitizers work well against the covid-19 virus, the alcoholic Babu is amazed and trying to explain the usefulness of drinking wine to his wife, who is furious and ready to beat him with a broom.

8

### **Shakti Rupe**

When the world is plunged into the deep crisis, a new god or goddess appears to rescue it. Every pious Hindu believes in it. In the painting, Anwar depicts the new goddess in the image of Durga, announcing her glorious arrival to kill the pandemic demon.

9

### **Mukhor Dhari**

Anwar's sense of humour is brilliantly expressed in this painting, where he compares the face mask with the net with which the farmers in the villages tie the mouth of the oxen to prevent

them from eating crops. The translocation of the animal head on the human body and vice versa indicates the changed perspectives they are now looking at each other.

10

### ***Parijayi Bandhu***

As the modern world suddenly stands still during the lockdown, we witness a dramatic recovery of our natural environment. Pollution is reduced and the migratory birds from distant continents are spotted in a large number in our wetlands. The painting is a celebration of that extraordinary moment.

11

### ***Amar Dustu Koi?***

The face mask that protects us also hides a part of our face. It is really difficult to identify even a known person when he is wearing a mask. The young lovers in the village enjoy it as the mask helps them escape the surveillance of their parents more easily.

12

### ***Tumi to Jano***

We all know the usefulness of wearing a face mask both as a protective measure and as a gesture of mutual respect. But, as it takes time for a person to form a habit, we often forget to wear a mask when we get out and encounter embarrassing situations. One such funny moment is depicted in the picture, where two village women try to cover their face when asked by a policeman who himself wears no mask.

13

### ***60 na 90 peg***

The lockdown breeds boredom. The picture shows a couple engaging themselves in arm wrestling for an insignificant issue just to overcome the boredom of their life.

### **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)

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