

# Traces of Transference: An Exposition of Unseen Bearings

**EA LOCUS IN FOCUS**

Artist residency



Deepak Poullose

Moumita Basak



Arjun Das

Tahsin Akhtar



Gopa Roy

**29th December 2021 - 5th January 2022**

**Traces of Transference** is an exhibition that marks the gallery's first on-site residency offered to promising artists from East India. The display provides insight into five artists selected for the artist-in-residence programme through an open call – **Arjun Das, Deepak Poullose, Gopa Roy, Moumita Basak, and Tahsin Akhtar**. As a part of the EA Locus in Focus programme, the exhibition also brings forth regional narratives tied with universal concerns.

A movement of memory and personal history forms a connecting thread within each artists' practice. Arjun Das's experience of working in a small roadside restaurant or Dhaba inspires the artist to carve out the unspoken experiences of labour, its struggles, and the inert beauty hidden under soot and dust. Layered with metaphors and personal myths and a meticulous stylistic approach that holds the viewer in a moment of contemplation, Deepak Poullose's canvases integrate the familiar and fantastical in curious ways. Gopa Roy's artistic process and research are deeply connected with nature and land. They involve collecting, and processing found materials integrated into her compositions and speak both of coherence and contradiction between nature and man. Moumita Basak's work is deeply provoked by solitude, making her artistic journey an inward exploration of self. Her practice is embedded in handicraft traditions, with outward branches extending towards more contemporary dialogues. Triggered by the absurdity of the post-pandemic reality, Tahsin Akhter's current new-media works explore the psychological volatility through tangible occurrences when it comes to human conditioning in the shifting reality.

The exhibition offers glimpses into a versatile range of creative outputs and features aesthetic sensibilities, including works completed during the month-long residency. Emerging from sensibilities deeply marked by the chaotic silence of the pandemic, the artworks show vulnerability and emotions, aiding the transference of the past to an imminent future.



## Arjun Das

*“While constructing the past through a series of images the past gets entangled with the present. The unpleasant becomes pleasant.”*

Born in 1994 in Giridih, Jharkhand, Arjun Das studied BFA and MFA in sculpture at Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata, graduating in 2017. He has been the subject of the solo exhibition, *Traces* at museum Forum Schloss Platz (Switzerland, 2019). In addition, he participated in *Entities Define Us* at Ganges Art Gallery (Kolkata, 2021); *Metaphor: The Magic It Holds* at Dhi Artspace (Hyderabad, 2020); *Persistence of Memory* at Art Positive (New Delhi, 2019); *Perspecta* at Gallery 88 (Kolkata, 2018); Emami Annual Exhibition at Emami Art Gallery (Kolkata, 2017) and many other group exhibitions. He also participated in *YS South Asia Young Subcontinent* at the Serendipity art festival in Goa.

He was the artist-in-residence at ARBEITSGRUPPE GASTEATELIER KRONE in Aarau, Switzerland. He has received several grants and awards, including the CIMA merit award, National Scholarship from the Ministry of Culture, India, Birla Academy Annual Exhibition award for sculpture, and Gold Medal in MFA Annual Exhibition, Rabindra Bharati University.

Arjun explores the life of the underprivileged working class in his sculpture. His own experience of working in a small roadside restaurant or *Dhaba* enables him to understand the layers of that reality and its struggles. Translating the experience in the language of sculpture, he shows objects as metaphors, connecting the personal with the social, past with the present as we live.

Arjun lives and works in Kolkata.



Arjun Das

*Section*

Wood

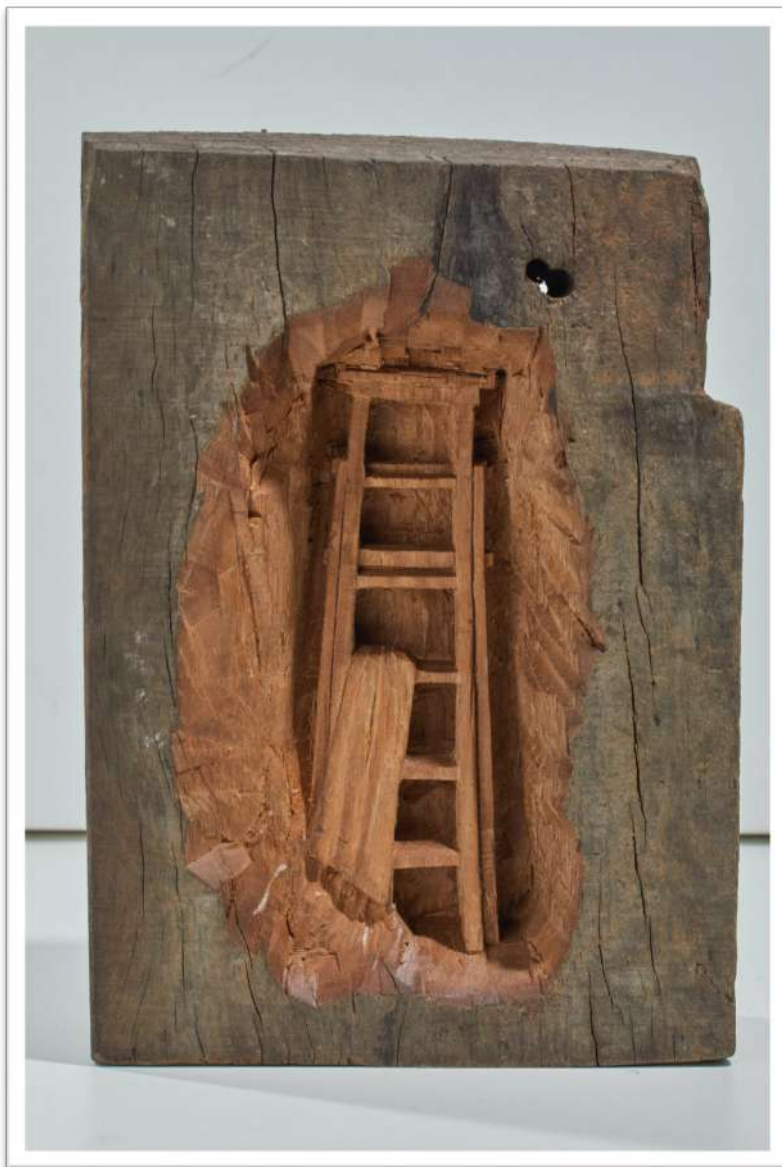
8.46 x 8.85 x 2.75 in. (21.5 x 22.5 x 7 cm.)

2021, Kolkata

Unsigned



Arjun Das  
*Way of Living*  
Wood  
15.35 x 8.46 x 2.75 in. (39 x 21.5 x 7 cm.)  
2021, Kolkata  
Unsigned



Entity  
*Wood*  
11.81 x 8.46 x 2.75 in. (30 x 21.5 x 7 cm.)  
2021, Kolkata  
Unsigned



Detail from '*Entity*'



Arjun Das  
*Sedentary II*  
Wood  
18.11 x 12.59 x 2.75 in. (46 x 32 x 7 cm.) overall  
2021, Kolkata  
Unsigned



Arjun Das  
*Mortgaged*  
Wood

a - 8.66 x 36.22 x 2.36 in. (22 x 92 x 6 cm.)

b - 7.48 x 35.43 x 2.36 in. (19 x 90 x 6 cm.)

2020, Kolkata

Unsigned



Arjun Das  
*They are Deceived*  
Wood  
20.07 x 72.44 x 2.36 in. (51 x 184 x 6 cm.)  
2020, Kolkata  
Unsigned



Detail from *'They are deceived'*



## Deepak Poulose

*"The strategy of my practice is to allow the spectator to take maximum freedom to analyse the work, rather than interfering with specific concepts."*

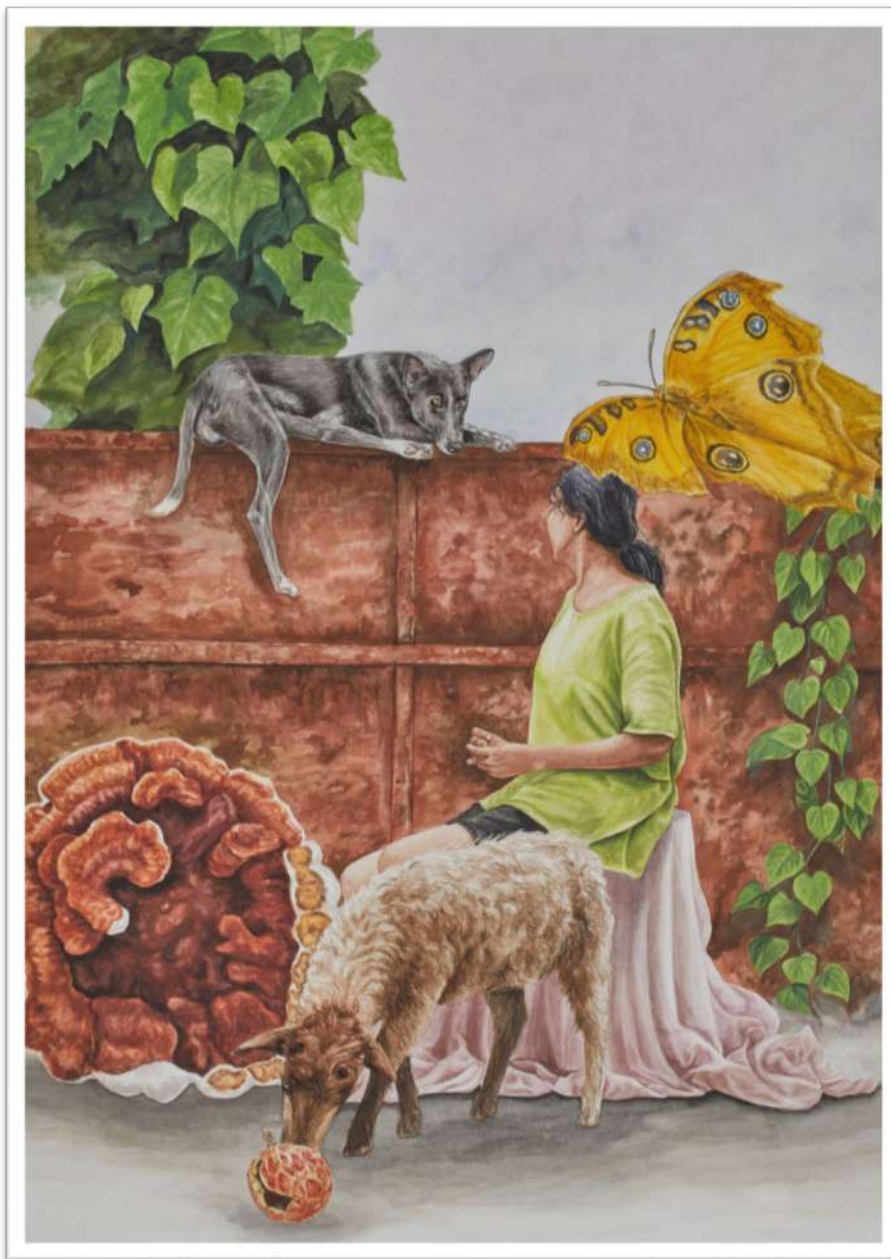
Born in Thrissur, Kerala, 1994, Deepak Poulose, who is presently a student of painting, Kala Bhavana, Visva-Bharati, did his Bachelor's degree from the Government Fine Arts College, Thrissur, Kerala, and a three-year course in Multi-Media and Animation. He has participated in *Imaginarium* at Emami Art (Kolkata, 2021); the Kochi Muziris Student's Biennale (Kerala, 2021); the State exhibition at Kerala Lalit Kala Akademi (2010); International Art Fest, IGNCA, Delhi (2018); among many others. He has also taken part in art residencies and workshops and received many grants and awards, including K. Karunakaran Student's Scholarship, Kerala Lalit Kala Akademi, Shrishti, American India Foundation Grant (2020); Special Mention Award, Kerala Lalit Kala Academy (2010); and PDAF special merit grant in painting.

Imbued with personal myths, Deepak's works merge the familiar with fantastical. Meditative in practice and meticulous in style, Deepak has opened a subtle yet critical conversation through which he addresses one of the most predominant issues of the contemporary time. The artist inscribes the slow derange of the natural world through his visual language that is rich in metaphors and symbols yet fluid in interpretation. While celebrating the primitive bond between man and nature, his works also mourn the disappearing sensitivities towards nature, contributing to the discourse of the ideal and utopic.

Deepak Poulose lives and works in Santiniketan



Deepak Poulse  
*Unique Sustainability at the Edge of a Chaos I*  
Gouache on paper  
25.78 x 20.07 in. (65.5 x 51 cm.)  
2021, Baroda  
Signed in English (on the reverse)



Deepak Poullose  
*Unique Sustainability at the Edge of a Chaos II*  
Gouache on paper  
29.92 x 22.04 in. (76 x 56 cm.)  
2021, Baroda  
Signed in English (on the reverse)



Detail from *'Unique sustainability at the edge of a chaos: 2'*



Deepak Poullose  
*Unique Sustainability at the Edge of a Chaos III*  
Gouache on paper  
29.92 x 22.04 in. (76 x 56 cm.)  
2021, Baroda  
Signed in English (on the reverse)



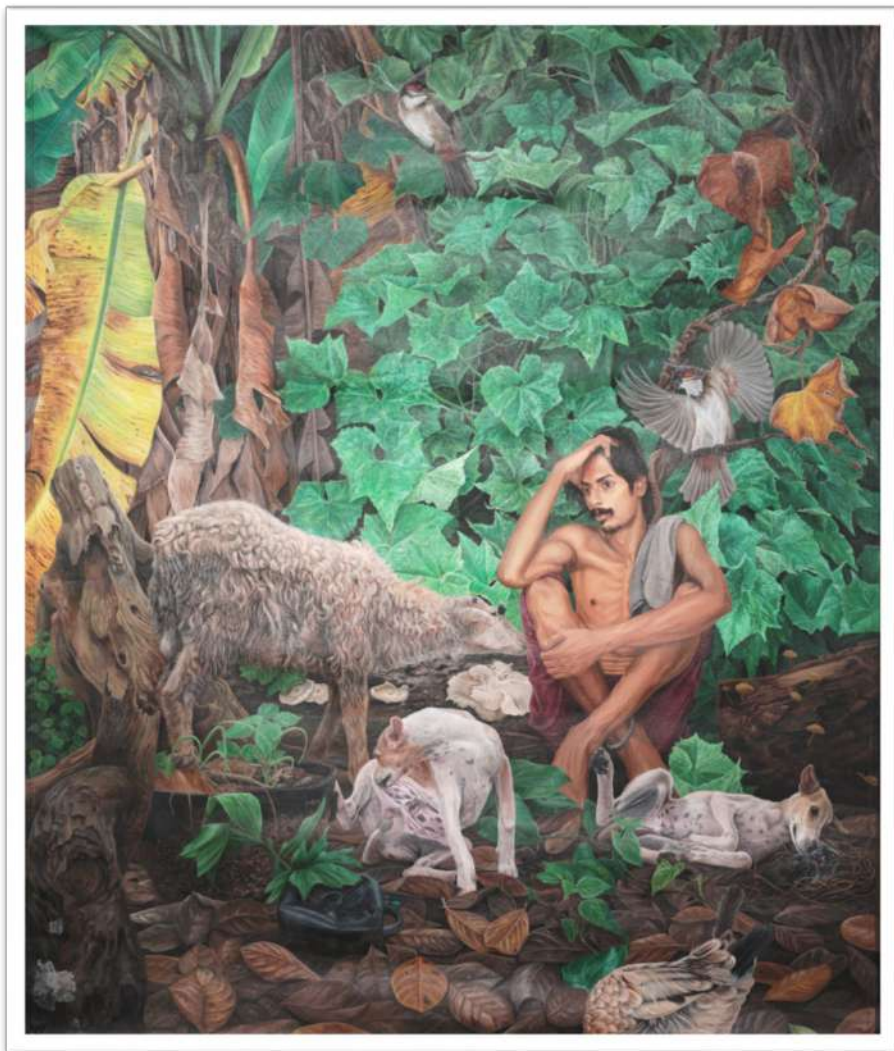
Deepak Poulse  
*Unique Sustainability at the Edge of a Chaos IV*  
Gouache on paper  
29.92 x 22.04 in. (76 x 56 cm.)  
2021, Baroda  
Signed in English (on the reverse)



Deepak Poulose  
*Unique Sustainability at the Edge of a Chaos V*  
Gouache on paper  
30 x 22 in. (76.2 x 55.8 cm.)  
2021, Kolkata  
Signed in English (on the reverse)



Detail from *'Unique sustainability at the edge of a chaos: 5'*



Deepak Poulse  
*But I Only Noticed the Mysterious Signs of Birds*  
Acrylic on canvas  
73.62 x 61.22 in. (182.88 x 152.4 cm.)  
2019, Santiniketan  
Signed in English (on the reverse)



Deepak Poulse  
*Untitled*  
Acrylic on canvas  
48.03 x 60.03 in. (122 x 152.5 cm.)  
2021, Kolkata  
Signed in Bengali and English (on the reverse)



## Gopa Roy

*“Coming from an agricultural family, I am naturally involved with land and exploring its changing dynamics is one of my interests as an artist.”*

Born in Tripura, Gopa Roy studied painting at Visva Bharati University, graduating in 2015. She was the subject of the solo exhibition at Triveni Gallery (New Delhi, 2021). In addition, she has participated in *Rice Eaters 101 I NE* online exhibition organised by Emami Art (2021); *KG Subrahmanyam* at NIV Art Centre (New Delhi, 2021); 61st National Exhibition at Lalit Kala Akademy (New Delhi, 2020); *A-Part: Stories of Lands and Lines* at Akar Prakar Contemporary (New Delhi, 2021); *Emerging Palette* at Shrishti Art Gallery (Hyderabad, 2018) and many other group exhibitions in India.

Gopa Roy has received several grants and awards, including the Emerging Artist Award 2020 by FICA and Mrinalini Mukharjee Foundation and the National Junior Artist's Scholarship by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

Coming from an agricultural family, her artistic practise is deeply connected with nature and land. She experiments and creates with various materials that she collects as a post-industrial forager and puts them in multiple dialogues, sometimes synchronic and sometimes juxtaposed. She creates abstract compositions with paper made of straws and plant fibers, etching and drawings in metal or glass as well as on-site environmental installations. Her work is further reinforced with meticulous field surveys and photographic documentation that enrich her understanding of the land.

She lives and works in New Delhi.



Gopa Roy  
*"Untold" III*  
 Straw pulp, thread, jute, wires and ink  
 78.3 x 33.26 in. (199 x 84.5 cm.) overall  
 Suite of 2 works  
 2021, Kolkata  
 Unsigned



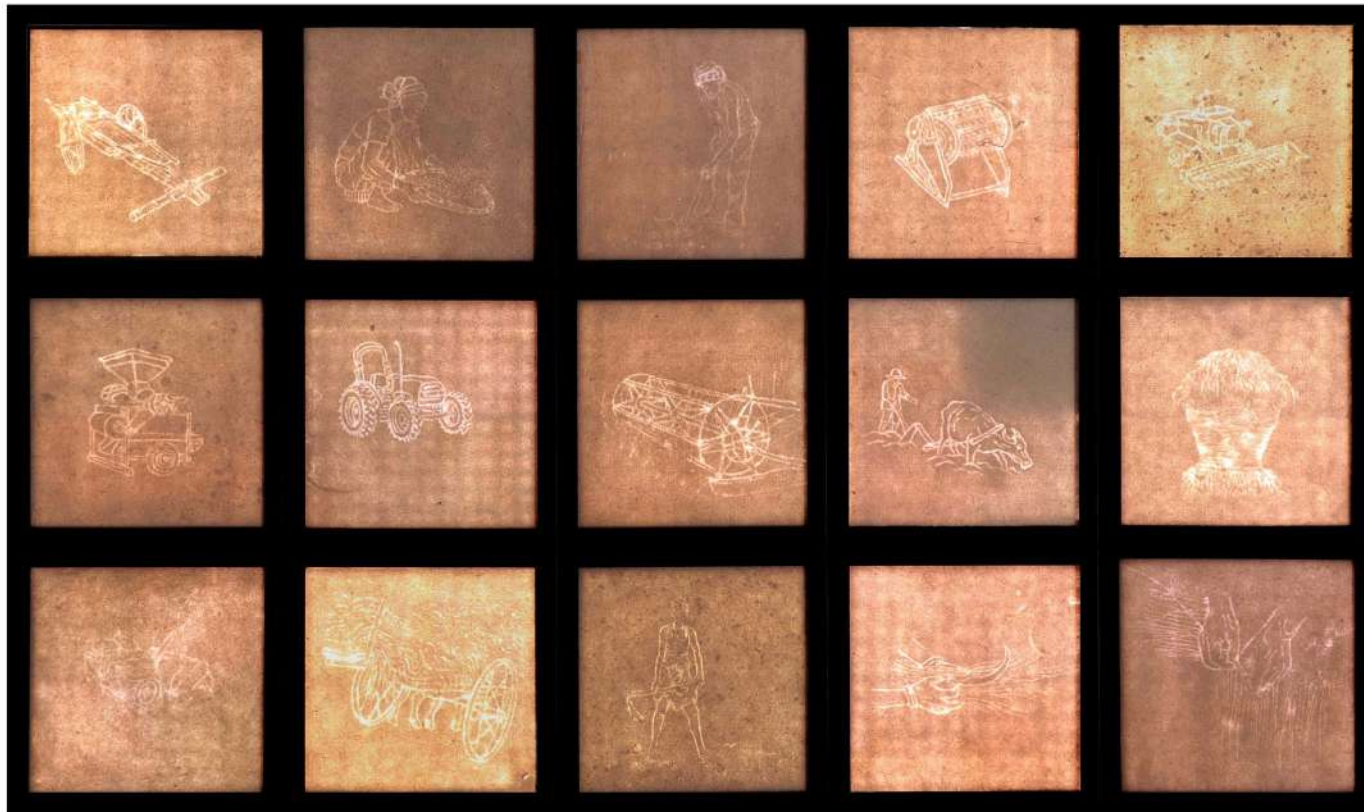
Gopa Roy  
*"Untold III"*  
Straw pulp, thread, wire, iron rust and ink  
9.44 in. (24 cm.) dia approx. each  
Suite of 20 works  
2021, Kolkata  
Unsigned



Detail from "Untold IV"



Detail from "*Untold IV*"



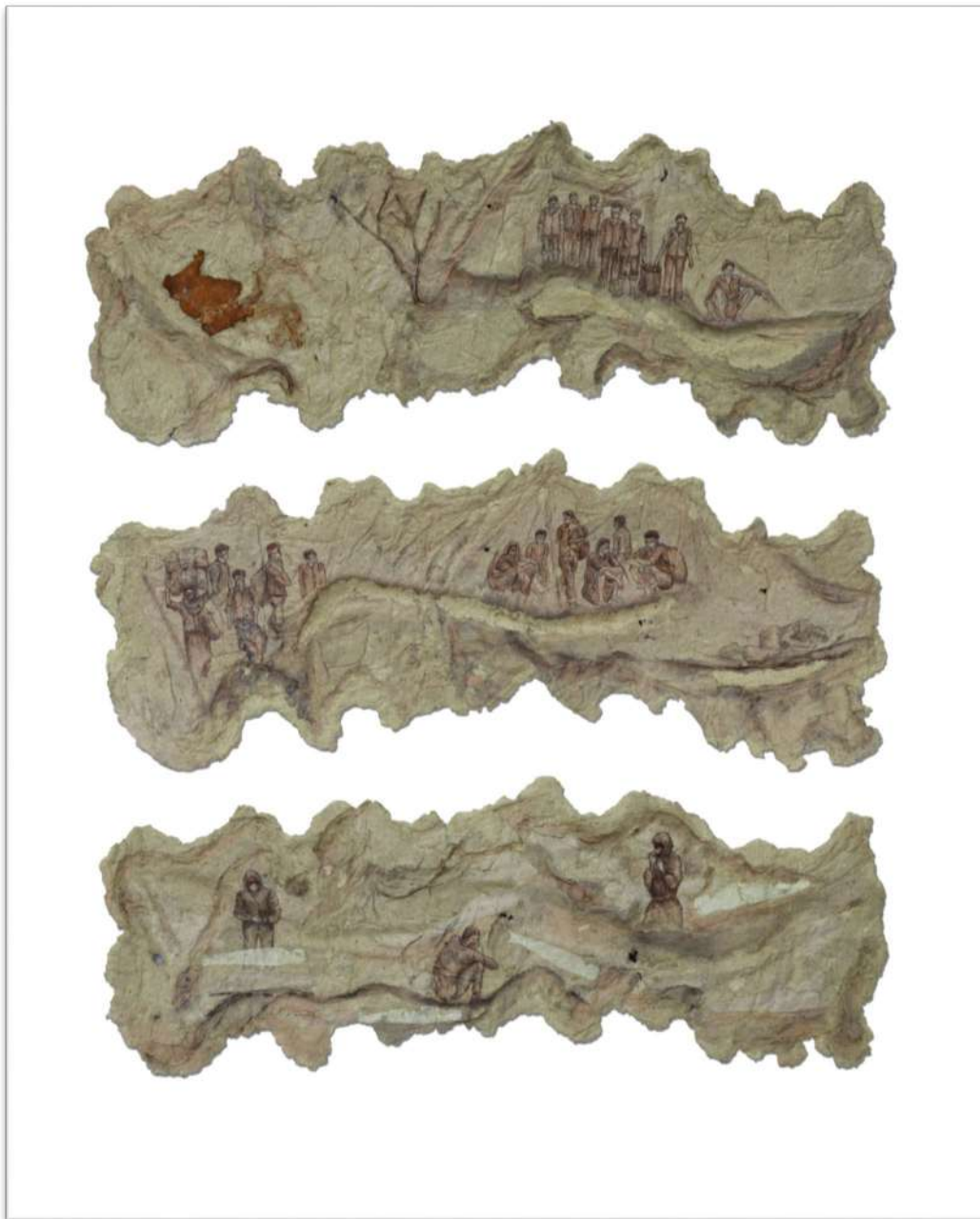
Gopa Roy  
*Metamorphosis*  
Watermark on handmade paper and light box  
33 x 55 in. overall  
(84 x 140 cm.) overall  
Suite of 15 works  
2019, New Delhi  
Unsigned



Gopa Roy  
*A Hopeless Journey*  
Mixed media  
27.95 x 40.15 in. (71 x 102 cm.)  
2021, New Delhi  
Unsigned



Detail from 'A hopeless journey1'



Gopa Roy  
*A Hopeless Journey II*  
Mixed media  
55 x 118.5 in. (140 x 301 cm.) overall with frame  
Suite of 3 works  
2021, New Delhi  
Unsigned



## Moumita Basak

*"In childhood, we were free, but as we grow up, we discover our limitations. So, as an artist, memories are most important for me."*

Born in 1996 in Bardhaman, West Bengal, Moumita Basak completed her BFA and now pursuing MFA from the Government College of Art and Craft, Kolkata. She has participated in Bombay Art Society's Annual Art Exhibition (Mumbai, 2021); Kochi Student Biennale (Kerala, 2021); the Annual Exhibition at Birla Academy (Kolkata, 2021); Kolkata Centre for Creativity (KCC) (Kolkata, 2019); and many other group exhibitions in India.

She has received the Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Scholarship and Ajay Bankim Memorial Scholarship, both by GCAC.

Drawing her inspirations from the familiar and mundane, Moumita's work is deeply provoked by solitude and her interconnectedness with the surrounding. Enriched with rumination and nostalgia, her works explore femininity at the level of both modalities and image. Merging the internal with the external world, her needlework reminds us of a solitude that is historically connected with womanhood.

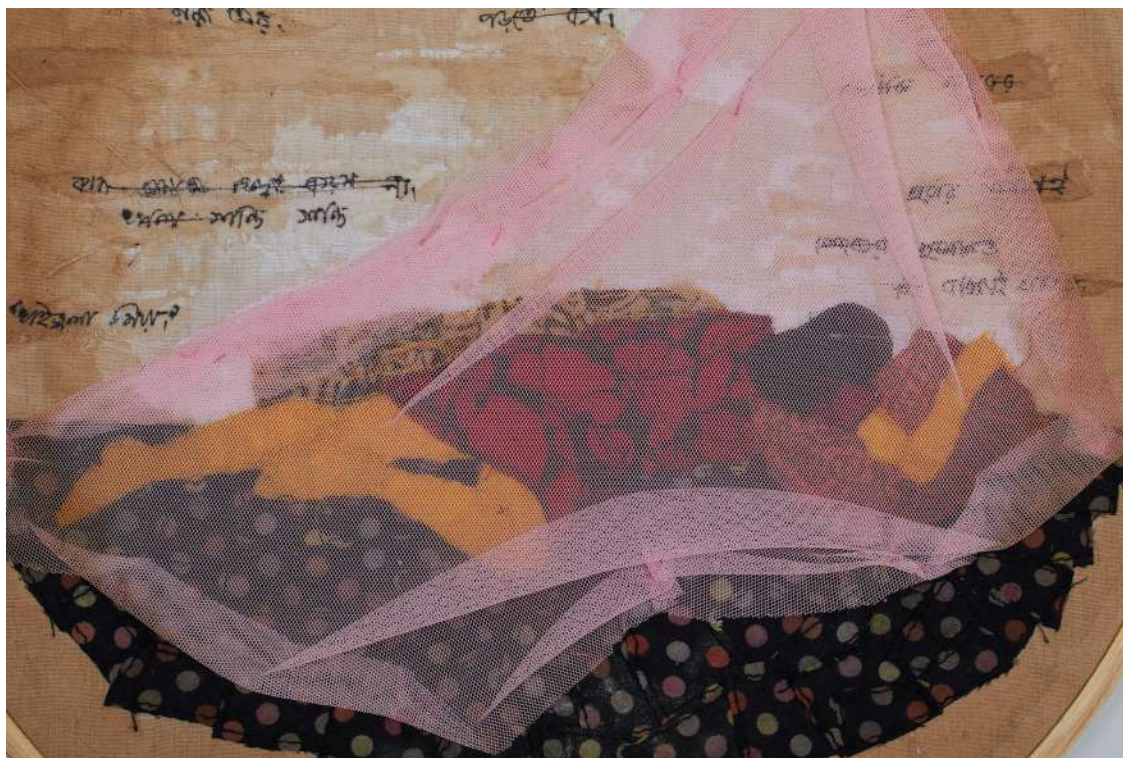
She lives and works in Kolkata.



Moumita Basak  
*Living in the Days II*  
Tea tint, reclaimed cloth and yarn  
12.20 in. (31cm.) dia each  
Suite of 6 works  
2021, Kolkata  
Signed in Bengali (on the reverse)



Detail from *'Living in the days 2'*



Detail from *'Living in the days 2'*



Detail from *Untitled*

Moumita Basak

*Untitled*

Reclaimed cloth, yarn and watercolour

35.82 x 34.64 in. (91 x 88 cm.)

2021, Kolkata

Signed in Bengali (on the reverse)



Moumita Basak

*Untitled*

Tea, coffee tint and ink on paper

34.84 x 47.24 in. (88.5 x 120 cm.) overall

Suite of 17 works

2021, Kolkata

Signed in Bengali (on the reverse)

Detail from *Untitled*





Moumita Basak

*Untitled*

Tea tint, reclaimed cloth, yarn and watercolour

25.19 x 15.94 in. (64 x 40.5 cm.) overall

Suite of 2 works

2021, Kolkata

Signed in Bengali (on the reverse)



Moumita Basak

*Untitled*

Tea tint, reclaimed cloth, yarn and watercolour  
10.23 x 20.27 in. (26 x 51.5 cm.)

2021, Kolkata

Signed in Bengali (on the reverse)





## Tahsin Akhtar

*“For me, every still object in nature is not dead, inanimate things but can take us into a kind of voyage into the incidents, happenings, events, stories and impacts of a time-span.”*

Born in 1988 in Koderma, Jharkhand, Tahsin Akhtar studied painting at Jamia Milia University and Collage of Art, University of Delhi, graduating in 2011. He has exhibited his work in *Disolate* at Museo Camera (Gurugram, 2021); *Call to Disorder* at Serindipidy Art Festival (Goa, 2019); *A Prologue to Unreal* at Lalit Kala Akademi (New Delhi, 2012); and many others. Tahsin received many awards and grants, including Artreach Teaching Fellowship, Hyderbad's State Gallery of Art Award, and AIFACS award.

A multimedia artist, Tahsin works in various mediums like painting, sculpture, artificial intelligence, video, photography, and performance. He creates surreal visions that are both whimsical and critical. Moving between personal and universal, his practice that now merges observation with contemplation has evolved over time. Triggered by his relocation to his hometown during the pandemic, his current works explore psychological nuances in terms of material encounters regarding human conditioning in the shifting reality. Exploring the phenomena of multiple co-existing identities, perceptions, human-machine relationships in this digital era, his work also connects the individual with the politico-aesthetic regimes of our time.

Tahsin Akhtar lives and works in Jharkhand.



TAHSIN AKHTAR  
*In the Name of Unknown*  
(From the series *Displacement*)  
Coloured video projection on  
objects, sound, 6 min. 30 sec. loop  
Dimensions variable  
Editions 5  
2021, Kolkata  
Unsigned



TAHSIN AKHTAR  
*We see what we see I*  
Single channel colour video,  
sound, 5 min. 41 sec. (loop)  
Dimensions variable  
Edition 5, with 1 Artist's Proof  
2019



TAHSIN AKHTAR  
*Atmanirbhar*  
(From the series *Lockdown Lenses*)  
Single channel video, sound, 48 sec.  
(loop)  
Dimensions variable  
Edition 5, with 1 Artist's Proof  
2020



TAHSIN AKHTAR

*Great Fall*

(From the series *Lockdown Lenses*)

Single channel video, sound, 16 sec.  
(loop)

Dimensions variable

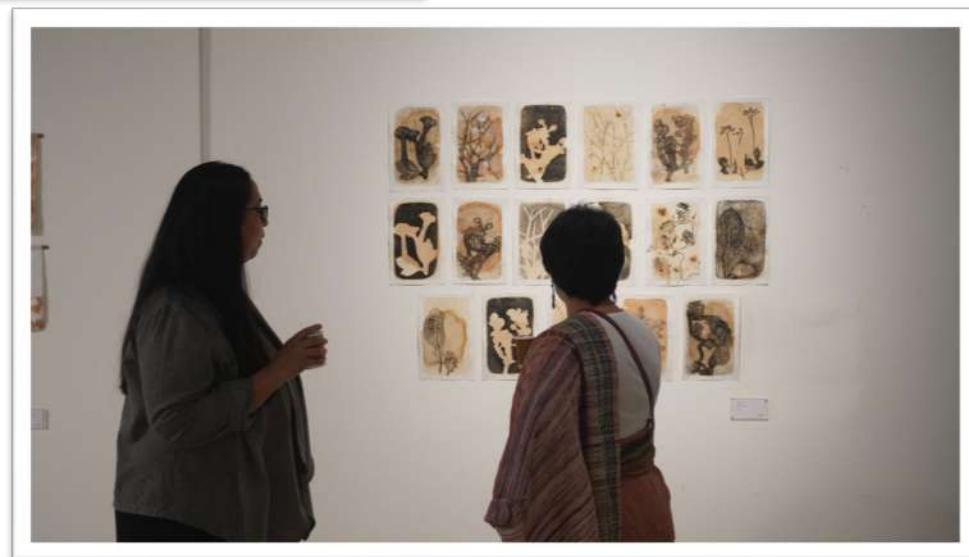
Edition 5, with 1 Artist's Proof

2019

# Glimpses from the EA Residency 2021

























**Emami Art** 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 Program) and **EA Hybrid** which integrates both the physical and virtual interfaces. Other programs include **EA Incubator** that 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 center 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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Find more about the exhibition and other ventures by Emami Art at  
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