



Press Release

## “Purity of Vision”

### A book on prominent painter and sculptor Meera Mukherjee Gets launched at Emami Art in collaboration with Akar Prakar

- The book features 146 illustrations and 26 photographs by the Padma Shri artist throwing light on the sculptor's personality, artistic language and expression.

**Kolkata, 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2018:** “Purity of Vision”, a book on the modernist painter and sculptor late **Padma Shri Meera Mukherjee** gets launched today at the brand new art space of Emami Art, an awe-inspiring 10,000 sq. ft. gallery. Attended by distinguished personalities from the field of art and culture, the book was launched by **Dr. Georg Lechner**, Former Director, Goethe-Institut, in the presence of well-known art critic and author **Mr. Pranabranjan Ray** and **Mr. Adip Dutta**, member of the Faculty of Visual Arts, Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata. **Mr. Aditya V Agarwal**, Director, Emami Group, **Mrs. Richa Agarwal**, Director, Emami Group and CEO, Emami Art, **Ms. Reena Lath**, Founder of Akar Prakar art gallery also graced the evening with their presence. The book is the result of a collaboration between Emami Art, Akar Prakar, Mapin Publishing and Raza Foundation.

“Purity of Vision” is a collection of essays by writers who have known Meera Mukherjee both personally and professionally. Her life and work were seen closely by the contributors of this book which include Late **Maitreyi Chatterjee**, women’s rights activist and writer; **Clelia Segieth**, art curator; **Adip Dutta**, professor of visual arts; **Dr. Georg Lechner**, Former Director of Goethe-Institut; **Pranabranjan Ray**, art critic and author; **Geeti Sen**, cultural historian; **Dr. Nandini Ghosh**, art historian; and, **Shilvanti Pracht & Maja von Rosenblatt**, friends of Meera Mukherjee from her college days.

Speaking on the occasion of the launch of ‘Purity of Vision’, **Ms. Richa Agarwal**, Director, Emami Group and CEO, Emami Art, said, “Emami Art is indeed honoured to organize the book launch of such a prominent artist of our country. We are a pioneering establishment with the motto of nurturing dynamic, multi-disciplinary and interactive art. It is our tribute to the late artist, Meera Mukherjee for her devotion to the craft traditions of India. Meera Mukherjee formed her own simplistic, modernist, life-like world of sculptures. Her works possess a ‘life force’ that speak to the ordinary being instead of alienating them.”

Known as an innovative artist, Meera is eminently recognised as bringing modern techniques to the ancient bengali sculpting art. Common man engrossed in daily chores, fishermen, weavers, women stitching and labourers – they all have been subject of her work. A spirit of celebration of humanism and a longing for reaching beyond the ordinary to rejoice in the deliverance, characterise her work. Mukherjee found pleasure in creating the unknown;



she learnt the art of spontaneity from her mother's *alpanas* (a Bengali drawing form of floor decoration). An exposure to realistic art in Delhi and later impressionist art in Europe further nurtured her to create her own style.

'Purity of Vision' is one of a kind volume which offers an understanding of Mukherjee's work through 146 illustrations and 26 photographs. The translated texts from her diary and excerpts from her letters included in this book allow one to closely feel Mukherjee's response to her surroundings. Mukherjee's journey as an artist, the element of romanticism in her work, her sculptures and her involvement with the society are some of the many aspects elucidated in the book.

Meera Mukherjee's was awarded the Abanindranath Puruskar in the year 1980 by the Government of West Bengal followed by the Padma Shri in the year 1992.

"Purity of Vision" is priced at Rs. 2,950 and will be available at Emami Art and Akar Prakar.

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### **About Emami Art**

A destination for cutting-edge Modern & Contemporary Indian 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 in Kolkata, 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 new talents and eminent masters of regional, national and international renown, that supports the promoters' ideology that while the popular contributes to the academic, the academic uplifts the popular. Spearheaded by Richa Agarwal, its new 10,000 sq. ft. art space is located in the Kolkata Centre for Creativity (KCC), a state-of-the-art multi-dimensional interactive art space, off Eastern Metropolitan Bypass, Kolkata., India.

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