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RASA — A LOOK BACK AT THE LAST DECADE WITH ARTIST G RAVINDER REDDY

One is taken by surprise upon entering the exhibition zone at the three-storied, state-of-the-art Emami Art, Kolkata Centre for Creativity that is now housing selected works of G Ravinder Reddy. A sculptor par excellence, his exhibition Rasa is being curated by Anupa Mehta, who runs her own arts and advisory consulting firm.

Signature kohl-lined, bright eyes on heads made of different materials and an expression that intrigues — these are the common threads running through his works over the last decade. Experimenting extensively with size, colours and form, one can trace the artist's journey while strolling through his works according to chronology.

"Ravinder is one of the most important artists of our times and he is showing solo in Calcutta for the first time. At this exhibition, one will be looking at works that have emerged over two decades and while the form maybe identifiable as this iconic head, one can see the movements when one looks at the detailing," said Anupa.

Wet clay is shaped and worked upon by the artist and then in certain cases, oxides are infused into this clay. "I am always preoccupied by one thing... how to achieve in a one foot head what I can achieve in a 10ft head. The monumentality of the structure does not come from the size, how you configure the form is what is important," said Reddy.

An exhibition of this scale allows the artist to take a step back and understand how he could have done something differently and that is how his style evolves. "The idea is to invite different groups of people in different stages of learning — students, amateur artists, professionals — to come and interact with the space, the artworks and the artist and hone their learning," said Richa Agarwal, CEO, Emami Art and executive director, KCC. The art pieces have travelled all the way from Visakhapatnam where the artist's studio is, to Calcutta for his solo show.

What:
 Rasa, works of G Ravinder Reddy curated by Anupa Mehta
Where: Emami Art, Kolkata Centre for Creativity, 777 Anandapur, E.M. Bypass
On till: August 8
When: 10am to 7pm (except Mondays)
Entry: Open to all



(L-R) Anupa Mehta, G Ravinder Reddy and Richa Agarwal pose in front of Lakshmi 2019, a painted and gold gilded on polyester resin fiberglass structure, part of the collection being showcased at Rasa.

Painted and copper gilded on polyester resin fiberglass, Krishnaveni with Long Braid (2017) is a stunning piece.

This terracotta bust (1989) is infused with oxides for the final look. One can observe the changes that have taken place in style and aesthetics over the years as one walks down from the entry to the exit.

Shamla (2019), a 60" statue that caught our eye for its gorgeous grey colour, is perhaps a commentary on the society's obsession with skin colour.

Not only the stature of the statues, but also the keen attention to details and intricate floral work done on the hair accessories draw you in. Seen here is the extensive use of flowers in various colours and forms on a gold gilded head.

A head carrying a sack, titled *Portrait of a Migrant* (2017), is painted a glorious blue on polyester resin fiberglass. At a whopping 112.5" height, the large, kohl-defined eyes are not the only attractive feature of this statue.

Shrestha Saha
 Pictures: Pabitra Das