



**Emami Art presents**

## **Suburban Shadows: Recent works on paper by Prasanta Sahu**

**~A creative commentary on the unknown and uncelebrated multitudes of  
Peasants and Urban Workers ~**

**Kolkata, 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020: Emami Art**, one of India's leading contemporary art galleries based in Kolkata is currently hosting '**Suburban Shadows**', an online solo exhibition on recent works on paper by **Prasanta Sahu** who has been working on what he calls "the unknown multitudes," the marginalized population of peasants and urban workers, who provide essential services to us but remain unacknowledged and under-represented in the society.

Concerned with the marginalized population of India, peasants and daily labourers, Prasanta Sahu's works in the exhibition revolve around the notion of *study*, understood not as a regular academic practice but anthropological idea of case-study: the contextual analysis of the everyday life and actions of an individual, group or community. A trained artist, Sahu also has a background in electrical engineering, thus his works show both the pictorial intelligence and imagination of an artist and the analytic approaches. Sahu's work involves the scientific method of photo documentation, field notes and drawings and interviews which he later reworks in his studio. There are contradictions, and his work encompasses them. Instead of being enclosed in a singular aesthetic idea, the works, composite, open ended and hybrid, compel an interrogative meaning.

**Prasanta Sahu said** "My current series of works, especially the works on paper are based on the ecosystem of urban and rural spaces and the invisible connection between the two. For the past five years, I have been documenting small-scale farmers, migrant labourers and the struggles of the 'unknown multitude' who provide us with essential service but are never fêted for their contributions. I always feel an empathetic connection to them. As I come from a rural family, I have seen the struggles related to this profession up close. For me each tomato, or ladyfinger in a supermarket aisle is imprinted with the touch of the hands that has cultivated it, lovingly tended it... and as a consumer what I intake links me to thousands of untold, unknown stories deep in the hinterland."

"I am pleased to present Suburban Shadows, a solo-show of recent works on paper by Prasanta Sahu, as part of our ongoing series of virtual exhibitions. These critical yet beautiful works are part of Sahu's long-term artistic engagement with the subject of rural and suburban workers from across India. A sharply insightful artist and observer, Sahu studies the life of the marginalised, who provide essential services to us but remain faceless and uncelebrated for their contributions. His works are also very relevant at this particular moment." said **Ms. Richa Agarwal, CEO Emami Art**

Suburban Shadows: Recent works on paper by Prasanta Sahu is live now at [www.emamiart.com](http://www.emamiart.com)

Download pdf catalogue here: <https://rb.gy/Obboca>

See flipbook catalogue here: <https://rb.gy/r3bbpf>

About the artist:

**Prasanta Sahu**, born 1968 Odisha, India completed his diploma in Electrical Engineering (1987) before enrolling to study art at Kala Bhavana, Visva Bharati University, Santiniketan. Here he earned his BFA in painting (1998) followed by a Masters degree in painting from M.S. University, Baroda (2000), graduating with summa cum laude from both universities.

Over the last twenty years, Sahu has worked across mediums, including painting and drawings, sculpture, installation, photography. His works find meaning in revealing details hidden within the quotidian. His rural upbringing and agrarian background offers an empathetic, insider view of the plight of small-scale farmers and migrant labourers who inhabit his works. Sahu's process of studying and representing these 'unknown and faceless' essential service providers, is rooted in reality. The artist takes an investigative approach in documenting his subjects through in-depth interviews. Subsequently by introducing parts of this collated data along with personal ruminations and experiential reinterpretation of evidential material, Sahu flawlessly melds the fictive and real in a move towards poetic exegesis.

Sahu has shown widely both within and outside the country and participated in numerous workshops and residencies. Some selected participations are: 'Blue India' Art Asia art Fair Korea, (2018); 'Constellations' Bihar Museum, Patna (2018); 'Response' a new-media and installation show at Gem Cinema CIMA art gallery, Kolkata –(2018); 'Postcards' Busan International art Fair, Korea (2017); 16 young contemporary artists, Karnataka Chithrakala Parisath, Bangalore-(2017); Daegu-India Korean Fine Arts Association South Korea-(2015-2017); 7th Biennial of contemporary Indian art, Bharat Bhavan, Bhopal-(2017); 'Blueprint of a city' Solo Show at Kalakriti Art Gallery Hyderabad (2016); Jaipur Art Summit-(2014); International art exchange programme, Faculty of Fine and applied art, Burapha University, Thailand, (2014); 'India Today, Copenhagen Tomorrow' sculpture exhibition, Denmark (2013); 'Small is Big' – Contemporary Miniature art, Durbar Hall Gallery, Kochi (2012); 'Urban Discord' gallery Romain Rolland Alliance Francaise de, Delhi, and Hong Kong-(2009) ; Art for Freedom' organized by Tehelka art and Aicon gallery, London (2008) ; 'A MAZ ING' Jehangir art gallery, Mumbai, RPG Enterprises (2008); 'The Promissory Maze' 1x1 Art Gallery Dubai (2008); 'V I S (V) A' a chronicle of difference, three person show at Aicon art Gallery, New York-(2008); International Art Fair, Rome (2007); 'Emerging India'– The Henry Moore Gallery, Royal College of Art, London (2007); 'Ways of Seeing' India Habitat Center (2005) ; 'The Sense of Touch' – a two person show at Guild art Gallery, Mumbai, catalogue essay by Nancy Adajania (2005);

Sahu has been invited as visiting faculty by several universities including the Faculty of Fine and Applied arts, Burapha University, Thailand; University of Dhaka, Bangladesh; University of Hyderabad, Sarojini Naidu School of Fine Arts and Communication, Hyderabad. Among his other interests are writing poetry in his mother-tongue Oriya; he is a talented Hindustani classical violinist and an avid biker.

Since 2001, Sahu has been teaching in the department of painting in his alma mater Kala Bhavana (Faculty of Fine art), Visva Bharati University. Prasanta Sahu lives and work in Santiniketan, India.

#### **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 sqft 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)