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ART

The ongoing exhibition, "Three Solos" at Emami Art (Anandapur, EM Bypass) is showcasing the works of Bholanath Rudra, Ali Akbar P.N. and Ujjal Dey. Together they weave a story of folk and fiction, of nature and tradition, of history and art, and employ techniques that render a sense of uniqueness to the canvas. "Three Solos" will continue till August 20, giving art aficionados enough time to revisit and savour them. t2 gets you snapshots.

BHOLANATH RUDRA

Pensive Moons, by Bholanath Rudra, the first exhibition on display on the first floor of the Anandapur art gallery, builds up a dreamy mood with the misty moonlit forest and figures of animals, mostly elephants bathed in a soft light. The ethereal watercolour art on a large canvas, a forte of Rudra's, also paints a sombre picture of the man-animal conflict that is not unknown to us. The title of his exhibition draws from the predicament of animals who are at the receiving end of man's greed. Every year thousands of elephants are illegally killed for their tusks and Rudra, highlights this cruelty in his paintings. Talking about his work, Rudra, an alumnus of Rabindra Bharati University says: "I mainly work with the theme of nature and do creative landscaping. I have been practising watercolour for the last 15 years and with Pensive Moons, I wanted to draw attention to the selfish nature of humans and how they can go to any extent for their benefit; they can even go to the moon for hunting and do unimaginable things for their benefits."

UJJAL DEY

Ujjal Dey is a keen observer of culture and cultural practices. The Ranchi-born textile artist's **Dawn To Dusk: A Silent Symphony**, showcases many traditional art forms including dyeing on paper and textile. On a mix of large and small canvases, Dey, an alumnus of Visva-Bharati in Santiniketan, also tells stories of the domestic life of women through folk art, in abstract forms and patterns and with natural dyes. The showcase is an amalgamation of his past and recent works and presents a fascinating picture of the art practiced on this side of the country. He also uses the dyeing technique and talks about the popular festival of Chhath Puja celebrated in North India. "I am trained in textile as a medium and since 2014 I have been working on it. I also do it on paper made from cotton fibres. After reading about textiles, I got interested in knowing more about its history, different practices of making dyes with natural sources, and all things related to it. My works are centric to

HERE'S WHAT TO CHECK OUT AT EMAMI ART — A TRIO OF SHOWS



Bholanath Rudra with his Pensive Moons



Ujjal Dey with his artwork titled Dawn to Dusk: A silent symphony



Ali Akbar P.N. with his artwork titled The Salt of Many Seas

the activities in the household, generally things that I have seen my ancestors do in their houses. For instance, my grandmother used to smear soil on the floor with the lepa and then she used to stitch kantha. So I use the same techniques in my work," says Dey who has already taken his art to platforms including at Cromwell Place, London in 2023.

ALI AKBAR P.N.

The Kerala-born and Baroda-based artist's **The Salts of Many Seas** captures the assimilation of cultures that has happened through sea links between countries through centuries. With archival pictures and his imagination and techniques, Akbar revisits and presents history on noteworthy prints. His artistic treatment gives a sense of authenticity to the prints, making them almost real and not just the output of a creative mind. Akbar brings alive slices of history with people, dressed in their traditional wear; animals, architecture, and landscapes in his artwork. Beyond prints, his process captures his research and interest in looking at the past and the present in a beautiful synthesis. He also gives a more tangible form to his ideas, and the wooden mask worn by horses and a beautifully carved wooden sword, on display, are a testimony of that. "My practice is about collecting photographs from multiple archival sources. I am very interested in culture, and the heritage and shared spaces that are not explored. The seafaring merchants shaped the culture of a region, and I am fascinated by it. I had to reimagine some of it to document it, as not everything is documented. Gujarat also has a similar geography in terms of sea links, with Kerala and I am exploring that more," says Akbar.



"We are really excited about all the three exhibitions. The mediums are very different — one is a textile artist, the other a master in watercolour and the third one, in prints. They are all very young and promising artists and are doing phenomenal work. Their language is very strong. For us what is also exciting is the beauty with which the three shows are marrying each other. They are together and yet each is holding its own ground. We have been representing these artists in group shows and this is their first solo," said Richa Agarwal, CEO, Emami Art.

Farah Khatoon

Pictures: Pabitra Das