



SPIRIT OF FRIENDSHIP



GROUP
ART
EXHIBITION

SPIRIT OF GROUP ART EXHIBITION FRIENDSHIP

2 - 12 SEPTEMBER 2022

KATHMANDU . NEPAL

Kanak Chanpa Chakma
Azmeer Hossain
Bishwajit Goswami
Sourav Chowdhury
Mong Mong Sho
Lumbiny Dewan
Jayatu Chakma
Aongthowai Marma
Sudhip Chakma
Nomosta Rema
Munna Bawm
Pingcu Tripura



**Embassy of the People's
Republic of Bangladesh
Katmandu, Nepal**

It is our great pleasure to organize the art exhibition titled “Spirit of Friendship” featuring contemporary art works from Bangladesh in association with Siddhartha Art Gallery in Kathmandu from 2 to 14 September 2022. This is in continuation of the Embassy's effort to highlight the rich and multi-dimensional art and cultural heritage of Bangladesh to the friendly people of Nepal; and at the same time strengthening the bonds of friendship.

The relations between Bangladesh and Nepal are deeply rooted in our shared socio-cultural linkages and multitude of commonalities, which have developed over the years. This year, we are celebrating the fifty years of our diplomatic relations. Over the five decades, our relations have matured on the strong foundations of mutual trust and confidence. A strong people-to-people connect is manifested by the regular visit of Bangladeshis to Nepal to enjoy the beauty of the majestic Himalayas and choice of Bangladesh by Nepalese students as a favored destination for higher studies. Our aim is to add value to this symbiosis by creating an ecosystem of reciprocal understanding and appreciation for each other.

We believe that contemporary art not only portrays the life and struggles of nations, but also adds historical value as silent witnesses to a specific time and era to enable the viewers to gain insight and understand socio-cultural evolution. More importantly, it inspires people to express themselves and share their own thoughts and feelings with anyone and everyone. Just as our common aspirations for social and economic development, we are bound by our love and admiration for art and culture. While we participate in almost all international events, we have also developed Kathmandu and Dhaka as hosts to mega art events attracting participation from all over the world.

The history of contemporary art in Bangladesh is believed to begin at the time of partition of the sub-continent, which got renewed energy following the independence of Bangladesh in 1971. Legendary artists like Zainul Abedin, Qamrul Hasan, S M Sultan, Qayyum Chowdhury, Murtaja Baseer integrated fine arts as a new component in our already rich cultural mix. The legacy is being carried forward by some of their most capable followers. We are happy that our event is curated by renowned artist Kanak Chanpa Chakma, who has distinguished herself by portraying natural beauty and daily struggles of human life through her unique use of colors. The young participants, mostly coming from the ethnic minority communities in the hills, will surely feel energized and motivated to carry forward their works to wider platforms.

I am hopeful that this exhibition will generate renewed enthusiasm for Bangladeshi visual arts amongst the art lovers of Nepal. Wishing the event a grand success!

Salahuddin Noman Chowdhury
Ambassador



Siddhartha Art Gallery has worked closely with artists from Bangladesh over the last 35 years and takes pride in hosting artists from the South Asian region. This exhibition 'The Spirit of Friendship' from Bangladesh is extra special. It celebrates 50 years of diplomatic ties between our two countries and showcases work by both the plain land and indigenous artists from Bangladesh. It is also curated by my first point of contact with Bangladesh the artist Kanak Chanpa Chakma.

Siddhartha Art Gallery has hosted a series of workshops and exhibitions that have brought together artists of Nepal and Bangladesh. In 2002, artists Khalid Mahmood Mithu and Kanak Chanpa Chakma exhibited their work at our gallery. A year later, a poetry reading by the celebrated Bangladeshi poet Kaiser Haq took place. Artists Tayeba Begum Lipi and Mahbubur Rahman from Bangladesh participated in SUTRA residency at Kathmandu in 2006. They also participated in the 'Open Doors Community Art Project' organized by the Gallery and participated in an exhibition which collaboration with Mithila Art. The Bangladeshi artists' group 'Shako' organized a workshop participated by the artists Bangladesh and Nepal titled 'Nepal Rendezvous I' conducted by the late Khalid Mahmood Mithu in 2009. 'Nepal Rendezvous II' was conducted by late Subhir Chowdhury from Bengal Foundation which brought the most senior artists from Bangladesh to Nepal In 2011. Artists Mahabubur Rahman and Tayeba Begum Lipi were invited to curate Bangladesh's participation in the Kathmandu International Arts Festival in 2009, 2012 and participated at Kathmandu Triennale in 2017. In 2010, I was invited by the Bengal Foundation as a guest to observe the Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh. In 2013, Siddhartha Art Gallery was invited by the Dhaka Art Summit to curate Nepal's first participation in the Summit. The Gallery showcased works by Sunil Sigdel, Hitman Gurung and Nhooja Tuladhar. After the Great Earthquakes devastated in Nepal 2015, the artists from Bangladesh organized a fundraiser for the artists in Nepal affected by the earthquake in aid of the Nepali artists and we continue to be touched by the compassion and generosity of the Bangladeshi artists. In 2020, Siddhartha Art Gallery hosted an exhibition titled 'NOWHERE' which featured artists from the South Asian region. In 2022, the works by indigenous artist Joydeb Roaja was showcased at the Kathmandu Triennale and at the SAVVY Contemporary in Berlin.

Art has the power to bring countries together and transcend boundaries– this exhibition 'The Spirit of Friendship' and its unique focus on indigenous artists joins the cultural dots that connect these artists with the hill people from Nepal and northern India. The historic cross-cultural migrations and pollination of ideas took place when our borders were still fluid. We must move beyond the hard borders of the post-colonial period to rekindle the age-old ties between the peoples of South Asia.

Sangeeta Thapa
Founder Director



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Bangladesh is a beautiful country with a diverse culture. The presence of different indigenous communities makes its culture rich. Hill communities have wonderful customs and unique traditions. There is a special kind of beauty in their simple lifestyle. Even though an obstacle may sometimes disturb the natural flow of time, no barrier can prevent hill communities from expressing their uniqueness. Bangladesh and Nepal have a beautiful friendship. Nepal is a nation blessed with some of the world's highest mountains. It is filled with unbelievably beautiful cultures and colors. The people of Nepal often exhibit patience and calmness. I am completely mesmerized by the country's wonders every time I visit Nepal. The exhibition 'The Spirit of Friendship' represents 12 young artists from both hill and plain land communities at Siddhartha Art Gallery in Kathmandu. These artists grew up in different districts of Bangladesh amidst the beauty of hills and nature. The artists from the hill communities represent their diverse cultures in different ways on their canvases. They have included the various rituals, traditions, customs, and beauty of their surroundings. Artists Mong Mong Sho, Lumbiny Dewan, Nomosta Rema, Sudhip Chakma, Jayatu Chakma, Pingcu Tripua, Munna Bowm and Aong Thowai Marma are from hilly communities where Bishwajit Goswami, Azmeer Hossain and Sourav Chowdhury are plainland artists. Every artist painted their own culture and traditions in their unique style.

I am immensely happy to have curated this exhibition in Nepal. I appreciate this exhibition idea that had been put forth by the ambassador of Bangladesh, Mr. Salahuddin Noman Chowdhury to strengthen the friendship between Bangladesh and Nepal. I also acknowledge Sangeeta Thapa, Founder and Director of Siddhartha Art Gallery for organizing the exhibition and for her friendship with the Bangladeshi artists' community.

Finally, I would like to extend my gratitude to Mr. Salahuddin Noman Chowdhury, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Nepal for inviting me to curate this wonderful exhibition.

Kanak Chanpa Chakma
Visual Artist / Curator



Water from the Moon, Acrylic on canvas, 120 x 120 cm, 2022

Kanak Chanpa Chakma



One of Bangladesh's most significant and well-known visual artists. She is the recipient of numerous national and international awards. She was born in Rangamati's hill tracts and was brought up in an indigenous community. Her works strongly focus on presenting the wonderful essence of indigenous people. She tries to reveal their untold stories through her paintings alongside presenting the beauty and colours of their festivals, rituals and culture through her works. Kanak's paintings also introduce her viewers to Buddha's philosophy. Her works often prioritize the difficulties of women who struggle for their rights and participation in families and societies. She paints in oil, acrylic, charcoal and mixed media and uses bold brushstrokes to create large paintings. Her paintings are well-known internationally and can be found in many museums including Bangladesh Museum, Bhutan Museum, Liberation War Museum alongside many private collections and corporate offices. She is currently the founder of Shako Women Artists' Association and the president of Ethnic Artists' Foundation of Bangladesh. She is an inspiration to many young indigenous artists who follow her footsteps. Alongside painting, she also supports and works for the welfare autistic children and raises awareness to provide help for street animals.



Monsoon, Watercolour on paper, 45 x 60 cm, 2022



Azmeer Hossain

A Bangladeshi visual freelancer Artist. He did study in printmaking from Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka and he also did study in School of visual Arts (NY) and Art student league of New York (NY). He had done 5 Solo exhibitions among them 'Emotion Recollected in Tranquility' Bengal Gallery of fine arts, Dhaka and 'The Beckoning Horizon" at Edge Gallery Dhaka. He participated over 70 group art exhibition at home and abroad. Collection: The Embassy of Bangladesh. Washington DC,USA. Consulate General of Bangladesh. New York. USA. Ministry of Education and Culture, Jakarta, Indonesia. And many private collections are at home and Abroad.



Quest for Soul, Acrylic on canvas, 90 x 90 cm, 2022



Bishwajit Goswami

A Bangladeshi artist and educator. He is an assistant professor at the Drawing & Painting Department of the Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. Also a visiting faculty at Architecture Department, Both in BUET & BRAC University. Goswami is the co-founder of Brihatta, a research-based, artist-run Platform, with a strong focus on community development, and collaboration. Bishwajit has exhibited in several international forums, such as 58th Venice Art Biennale in 2019, the Beijing International Art Biennale (15, 12); the Setouchi Triennial Japan 2013, Austria; the Kunming International Art Biennale (18,16,14); And his major solo show was held in 2015 "In Motion" a Solo Show at Bengal Art Lounge, Dhaka, Bangladesh; 2016 "Gaea" a solo show at Yunnan Arts University, China; 2017 solo show at Rathaus, Mura. The artist has received several accolades over the years, including being a recipient of the 16th Asian Art Biennale (Bangladesh); the National Young Artist Award (2012, 10, 08). His work has been included in the Bangladesh National Art Biennale of (2011, 2009). He is also a recipient of the Elisabeth Greenshields Foundation award (2009, 2011).



Eternal Existence-53, Etching aquatint, 91 x 91 cm, 2021

Sourav Chowdhury



A Bangladeshi visual artist and Executive Artistic Manager of Gallery Cosmos and Cosmos Atelier71. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Painting in 2009 and did his master's in the same subject from the University of Development Alternative (UODA) in 2011. He had done 4 Solo exhibitions among them 1st Solo Exhibition: 'Eternal Existence: La Galerie, Alliance Francaise de Dhaka' in 2016, 'Eternal Existence-Circle of Dynamism' held in Academy of Professional Development and Retraining of Educators and Cherepovets Museum Association, Russia in 2017. He participated over 90 group art exhibitions at home and abroad. He received several awards in last eleven years among them National Award - 2017, Bengal Foundation Award (Printmaking), 22nd National Art Exhibition 2017, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, 'Best Award' for the 20th Berger Young Painters' Art Competition (BYPAC), 2015, Kibria Young Printmakers Award-2018, is notable.



Songs of Fishermen, Watercolour on arches paper, 56 x 76 cm, 2019



Mong Mong Sho

Born in Rakhine family in 1989 at Maheshkhali in Cox's Bazaar, Bangladesh. Mong Mong Sho's artistic ventures started at an early age. Since childhood, he worked on national and global aspect. His surroundings, culture, indigenous people always present in his work. He has participated in different local and national art contests and showcased his work in many exhibitions both in Bangladesh and abroad. He has won many of them. In 2010 he enrolled in University of Chittagong. After two years he got Yunnan provincial scholarship to study oil painting at Yunnan Arts University. Mong finished his Honors (Painting) and Masters (Watercolor) from Yunnan Arts University fine art faculty in Kunming, China. Now he is teaching at same university. Mostly Mong Mong Sho works with oil and watercolor, also he loves to practice installation art and site specific art. "Songs of Fishermen" Solo art exhibition at Yunnan Arts University, China in 2019 and EMK Center, Dhaka in 2021.



Blossom, Acrylic on canvas, 75 x 50 cm, 2022



Lumbiny Dewan

A Bangladeshi visual artist and Print Editor at Bangla Academy, Dhaka. She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Painting in 2015 and did her master's in the same subject from the University of Development Alternative (UODA) in 2022. She participated over Twenty group art exhibitions at Bangladesh. She has done many projects for children with BRAC, Agha Khan Foundation and SOS Shishu Polli. She teaches orphan children's at Bikash (Shishu Academy). Worked as Illustrator Artist in Government project 'Books into Tribes Mother Tongue' with NCTB.



Waving, Acrylic on canvas, 92 x 92 cm, 2022

Jayatu Chakma



A Bangladeshi visual artist. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Painting in 2015 and did his master's in the same subject from the University of Chittagong (2016) and 2nd Master's from Rabindra Bharati University in 2018. He had done 1 Solo exhibition among them 'Ehel Mono Hoda' (story of green hill) held in Abanindranath Tagore Gallery, ICCR, Kolkata in 2018. He participated over 30 group art exhibitions at home and abroad. He received several awards in last Nine years among them 5th National Sculpture Award -2021 (Honorable Award), 'Best Award' for the 25th Berger Young Painters' Art Competition (BYPAC), 2020, Best Award -2015, in Annual Art Exhibition, University of Chittagong.



Weaving Loom, Acrylic, line drawings and added loom, 215 x 145 cm, 2021

Aongthowai Marma



A Bangladeshi visual artist. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Painting in 2014 and did Masters in the same subject from the University of Dhaka in 2017. He participated over 20 group art exhibitions in Bangladesh including 22nd and 24 National Art Exhibition 2017, 2021; 5th Tone International Miniature Art Exhibition 2015, Chitrak Gallery & Athena Gallery of Fine Arts; 20th Young Artist Fine Arts Exhibition 2016, Shilpakala Academy; Art Weekend - a solid boost to Bangladeshi art 2016, Royal Norwegian Embassy, Dhaka, Bangladesh; Creative Density: Contemporary Art of the Golden Bengal, Imago mundi; Beautiful Bangladesh & Beautiful china 2nd young artist exhibition 2015; National Museum, Dhaka, Harmony, Painting Exhibition on the occasion of European Union 2018. He awarded in 12th Shilpi Rashed Smrity Award 2017.



Unnatural Death of Dream, Acrylic on canvas, 60 x 60, 2021

Sudhip Chakma



Born in 1992. He is a Bangladeshi Visual Artist. He received his Bachelor and Master of Fine Arts in Painting from Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University in 2016 and 2018. He got ICCR Scholarship in 2019 for postgraduate. He achieved his second master's from Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata. He participated many group exhibitions at home and abroad. He achieved two times 'Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Award' in Annual Art Exhibition at Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University in 2017 and 2018.



Musical Instrument of Garo, Watercolour on paper, 56 x 76 cm, 2022



Nomosta Rema

Completed MFA 2017 from Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University Trishal, Mymensingh. She received scholarship from Abu Subhan Welfare Trust (ASWT) for the period of 2014-2019. Rema participated 2014-2019 individuals Annual Painting Exhibition of her University. 'ART Weekend' organized by the Embassy of Denmark, German Embassy and Norway Embassy, Dhaka in 2017. Art camp and painting exhibition with culture individuals of 50 Indigenous peoples in painting, organized by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Dhaka in 2018. 'The Colors of Youth' exhibition organised by Abu Subhan Welfare Trust (ASWT) in 2022.



Quest for Soul, Acrylic on canvas, 90 x 90 cm, 2022

Munna Bawm



A Bangladeshi visual artist and freelancer artist. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Painting in 2021 and is now studying his master's in the same subject from the University of Development Alternative (UODA). And also has a diploma in Graphic Design – 2020 from National Institute of Design. He had done 2 National exhibitions among these 22nd and 23rd Young Artist's Exhibition, organized by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Dhaka. He participated 3 group art exhibitions at home.



A Moment of Satisfaction, Acrylic on canvas, 107 x 107 cm, 2022



Pingcu Tripura

A Bangladeshi visual artist and freelancer artist. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Painting in 2021 and is now studying his master's in the same subject from the University of Development Alternative (UODA). He had received Artist Chuni Lal Dewan Award by 18 years Celebration of UODA Faculty of Fine Arts and Virtual Art Exhibition 2020. He Participated 13th Art Exhibition Shilpi Rased, Alluring International Art exhibition, Paharer Bornil Songskriti By Shilpokola Academy, Mount Fuji Japan, Paharer Chitro Bhunon by Obinta Gallery and The Colours of Youth Art exhibition at home.

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