

PRESS RELEASE

Lyric, Still

Sculptures by Sushen Ghosh

7th October – 30th November 2023

Preview: 7th October 2023 | 6 PM to 8 PM

Galerie 88 is pleased to present *Lyric, Still* - a retrospective of the reclusive sculptor, Sushen Ghosh (1940 – 2023), in collaboration with Galerie 88, Kolkata. Renowned for his colossal sculptural installations at Santiniketan, out here, viewers will encounter this ‘monumentality’ as it unexpectedly emerges in the late artist’s smaller, more intimate sculptures. With curated excerpts of the last five decades of Ghosh’s practice, this exhibition will be the first in-depth analysis of the artists’ oeuvre, one that has largely remained elusive to the public eye. Here, one will grasp the beginnings and making of Ghosh’s unique visuality, a language that unsettles existing binaries within the art historical canon; for the artist’s abstraction can neither be termed as emerging from ‘Western’ influences, nor purely from the ‘East’, rather, they become meticulous (and formal) interventions on concepts of universal significance, thinking through science, poetry, philosophy, and most crucially, the lyricality of sound.

Born in 1940, Sushen Ghosh grew up in Silchar, Assam, wherein he received a Government Scholarship to pursue his studies in Kala Bhavana, Santiniketan, in 1959. At this pivotal juncture, Ghosh trained under his illustrious mentors, Benode Behari Mukherjee and Ramkinkar Baij, paying careful attention to both materiality and notions of form, as well as the necessity for rhythm invoked by Nandalal Bose. Upon completing his studies, Ghosh was immediately offered a position to teach in the Department of Sculpture. In 1969, he was awarded the British Council Scholarship to study art at Goldsmiths, University of London – a crucial moment in his career, exposing the artist to stalwarts from the Western canon, as he learned from Henry Moore, and took inspiration by experiencing works by Matisse, Paul Klee, and Cezanne, amongst others, and remained specifically indebted to Modigliani and Brancusi. He soon returned to Santiniketan, where he continued to teach for over forty years, and a renewed force of abstraction took over, as Ghosh attuned his works towards the precision of geometry, a quest to grasp the movement in stillness, or the form of ‘formlessness’¹. As Dr. Anshuman Dasgupta notes in his curatorial essay on this exhibition:

“When noted sculptor Ramkinkar Baij mentored Sushen Ghosh, his works entered a new, abstracted phase. With these learnings, Ghosh grasped and conceived a unique essence – a new configuration, apart from visuality, derived from what he knew best: music. Thus, Sushen Ghosh’s architectonic sculptures are deliberate, meticulous, and these deceptively simple forms emerge from a deep understanding of sound – more specifically, a rhythmic syncopation, or displacement, and simultaneous containment, building towards a harmonious cohabitation.

The lyricality of Ghosh’s sculptures is subtle, nuanced; what appears as straightforward objects, over time, become abstractions, demanding a cognitive reshuffle, prompting mediations on their contexts and surroundings. Resounding with the force of an *aalap* – sound with no words – of classical music, Ghosh’s lyricality is rehearsed in various forms, repeatedly, and ultimately frozen into a sculpture, a final image in still time, yet movement lingers as a form of potential energy.

In this exhibition, three bodies of sculptures stage a compelling snapshot of Ghosh’s oeuvre across time: first, the referential and illustrative; second, the geometric, configurations that become almost like a maze; and lastly, the horizontal, wherein space (the outdoors) becomes key to grasp the form.”

For inquiries please email on mail@galerie88.in

¹ To understand the ‘formless’, Sushen often quoted and studied Rabindranath Tagore’s poetry. For more details, read ‘Harmony in Dissonance: The Abstract Sculptures of Sushen Ghosh’ by Ushmita Sahu, 2016.

Artwork List

Sculptures:



Title: Times
Medium: Bronze
Year: 2005
Size: 4" X 20" X 4"



Title: Change of Moods (Set of 8)
Medium: Bronze
Year: 2011
Size: 8 ft X 4 ft (approx)



Title: Up and Down
Medium: Bronze
Year: 1994
Size: 16" X 5" X 5"



Title: Owl, Edition 2/2
Medium: Bronze
Year: 2016
Size: 7" X 3.5" X 4.5"



Title: Cat, Edition 3/5
Medium: Bronze
Year: 1980-85
Size: 6" X 4" X 4"



Title: Space Around
Medium: Bronze
Year: 2013
Size: 5.5" X 5.5" X 5.5"



Title: Four Figures
Medium: Terracotta
Year: 1985
Size: 13.5" X 10" x 10"



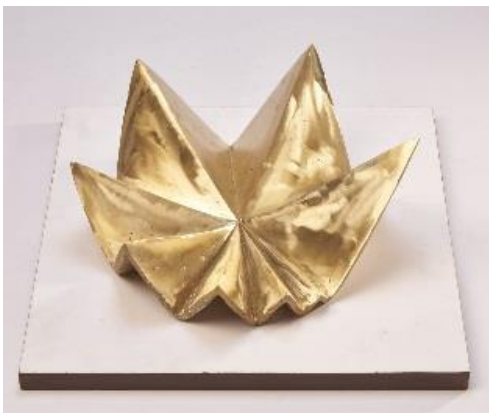
Title: Elevated (Vertical), Edition 2/3
Medium: Bronze
Year: 1970-75
Size: 32" X 7" X 4.5"



Title: Composition, Edition 1/2
Medium: Bronze
Year: 2005
Size: 6.5" X 5.5" X 5.5"



Title: Composition 1:2:3:4 (Set of 8)
Medium: Bronze
Year: 1990-95
Size: 15" X 30" X 30"



Title: Composition 1 to 8, Edition 2/4
Medium: Bronze
Year: 1993
Size: 7" X 15" X 15"



Title: Composition
Medium: Bronze
Year: 2010
Size: 9" X 10" X 12"



Title: Samyak
Medium: Bronze
Year: 1985
Size: 13" X 11" X 9"



Title: Within and Without
Medium: Bronze
Year: 2007
Size: 13" X 13" X 4"



Title: Aroho Aboroho
Medium: Bronze
Year: 2006
Size: 4" X 17" X 4"



Title: Ramkinkar
Edition: 1/2
Medium: Bronze
Year: 1965
Size: 14" X 10" X 11"



Title: Successive
Medium: Bronze
Year: 2005 (2001-05)
Size: 4" X 13" X 6"



Title: Split
Medium: Terracotta
Year: 2011
Size: 13" X 6" X 5"



Title: Lotus Form
Medium: Bronze
Year: 1995 (1992-95)
Size: 4" X 17" X 17"



Title: Growing Space
Medium: Bronze
Year: 1970-1980
Size: 22" X 9" X 21"

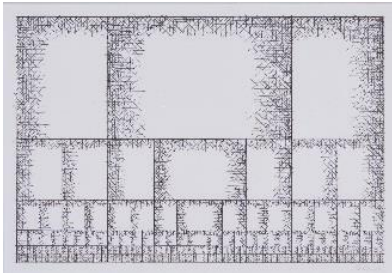
Drawings:



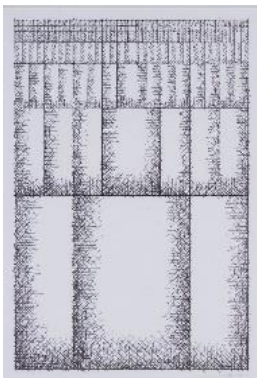
Title: Untitled
Medium: Lithograph on Paper
Year: 1970-75
Size: 14.5" X 11.5"



Title: Untitled, A/P
Medium: Lithograph on Paper
Year: 1994
Size: 12" X 10"



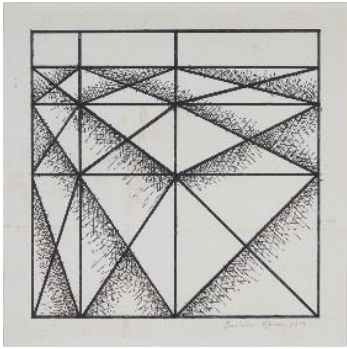
Title: Drawing -14#2
Medium: Pen and Ink on Paper
Year: 2014
Size: 9" X 13"



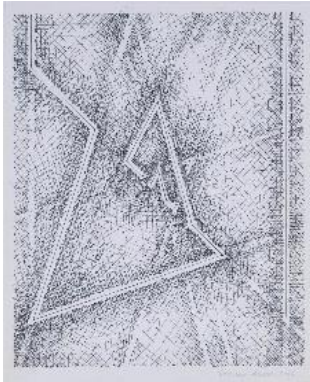
Title: Drawing -14#1
Medium: Pen and Ink on Paper
Year: 2014
Size: 9" X 13"



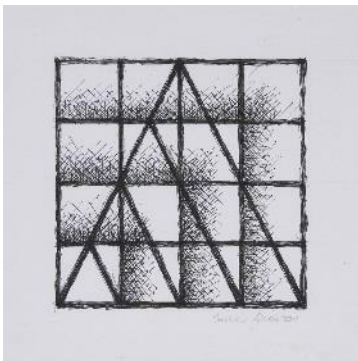
Title: Untitled
Medium: Pen and Ink on Paper
Year: 2016
Size: 9" X 13.5"



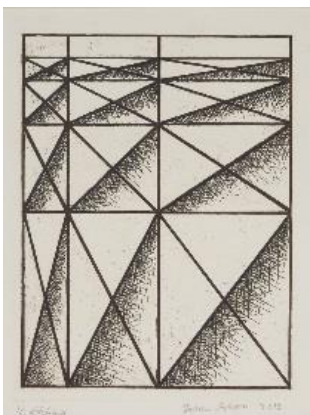
Title: Untitled
Medium: Pen and Ink on Paper
Year: 2010
Size: 11" X 11"



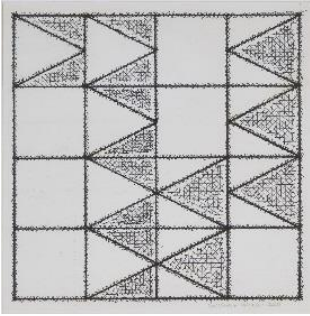
Title: Untitled
Medium: Pen and Ink on Paper
Year: 2015
Size: 13.5" X 11"



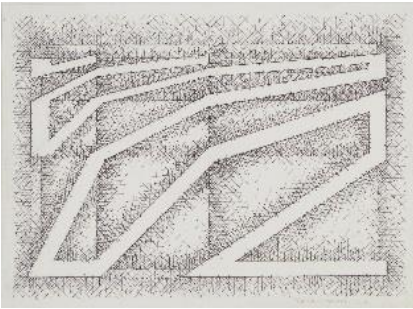
Title: Untitled
Medium: Pen and Ink on Paper
Year: 2015
Size: 9.5" X 9.5"



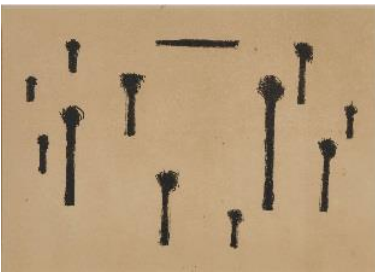
Title: Untitled, Edition 1/10
Medium: Etching on Paper
Year: 2012
Size: 14" X 10.5"



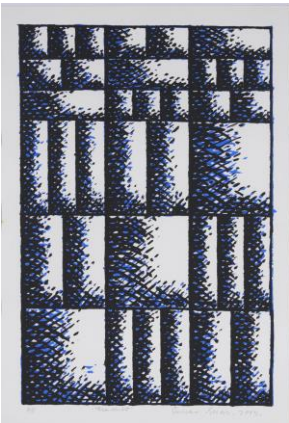
Title: Untitled
Medium: Pen and Ink on Paper
Year: 2011
Size: 11" X 11"



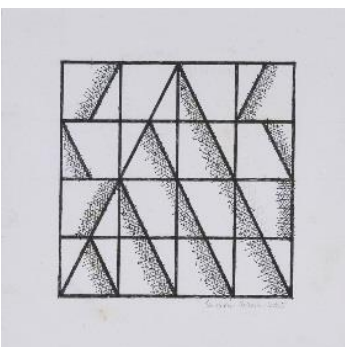
Title: Untitled
Medium: Pen and Ink on Paper
Year: 2016
Size: 11" X 15"



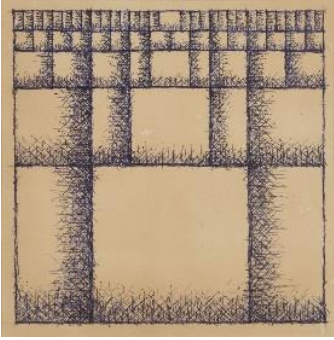
Title: Untitled
Medium: Lithograph on Paper
Year: 1970-75
Size: 10.5" X 14.5"



Title: Untitled
Edition: A/P
Medium: Serigraph on Paper
Year: 2003
Size: 20" X 13.5"



Title: Untitled
Medium: Pen and Ink on Paper
Year: 2015
Size: 9.5" X 9.5"



Title: Untitled
Medium: Pen and Ink on Paper
Year: 2006
Size: 10" X 10"



Title: Konarak
Medium: Pen and Ink on Paper
Year: 1975 (1970-75)
Size: 10.5" x 6.5"



Title: Konarak
Medium: Pen and Ink on Paper
Year: 1975 (1970-75)
Size: 10.5" x 6.5"



Title: Konarak
Medium: Pen and Ink on Paper
Year: 1975 (1970-75)
Size: 10.5" x 6.5"



Title: Vishnupur
Medium: Pen and Ink on Paper
Year: 1975 (1970-75)
Size: 6.5" x 10"



Title: Vishnupur
Medium: Pen and Ink on Paper
Year: 1975 (1970-75)
Size: 5.5" x 10"



Title: Vishnupur
Medium: Pen and Ink on Paper
Year: 1975 (1970-75)
Size: 3.5" x 10"



Title: Untitled
Edition: A/P
Medium: Lithograph on Paper
Year: 1979
Size: 17.5" X 9.5"



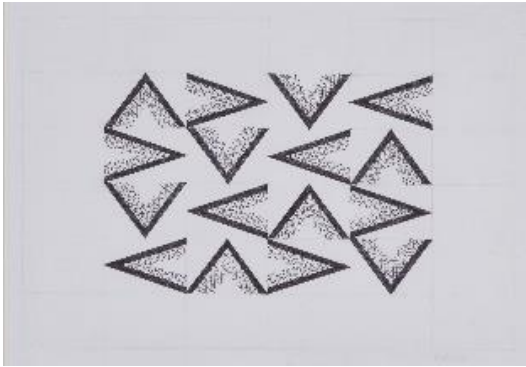
Title: Untitled
Medium: Pen and Ink on Paper
Year: 1970 (1960-70)
Size: 7.5" X 11"



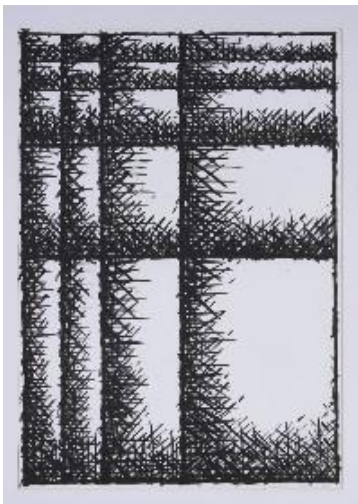
Title: Untitled
Medium: Woodcut (Trial Colour) on Paper
Year: 1963
Size: 8" X 13"



Title: Untitled
Medium: Woodcut on Paper
Year: 1963
Size: 13" X 8"



Title: Untitled-14 #3
Medium: Pen and Ink on Paper
Year: 2016
Size: 10" X 14.5"



Title: Untitled
Medium: Serigraph on Paper
Year: 2006
Size: 20.5" X 14.5"