

Appends: works in response to Rani Chanda's Linocuts
Galerie 88, Kolkata in association with the Dept. of Graphics-Printmaking,
Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata
A collateral exhibition to the 3rd Print Biennale India organised by Lalit Kala Akademi
(National Academy of Art, Delhi)

In 1932, Mukul Dey published a portfolio of linocut prints by his sister Rani Chanda (1912-97). In the introductory note to this folio, Rabindranath Tagore writes of her “She has real artistic talent as is evident in these lino prints done by her showing genuine feeling for her subjects and natural skill in execution”.

Recipient of the honorary D.Lit award for Literature from Rabindra Bharati University, Rani Chanda was born in the village of Bikrampur in Dhaka district. Her father Kulachandra Dey, was a close friend of Tagore. Chanda lost her father in childhood and encouraged by Tagore, went on to Santiniketan where she learnt painting under Nandalal Bose, and before that Abanindranath. She also studied music and dance in Santiniketan. In 1933, she married Anil Kumar Chanda, private secretary to Rabindranath Tagore. Chanda earned considerable fame by performing in Tagore’s dance dramas at home and abroad. She even suffered imprisonment for a short while for her anti-British activities.

Rani Chanda, with all her energies for exploring the printmaking medium under the tutelage of Nandalal, took to linocut and this portfolio is an outcome of this endeavour. One can see glimpses of unidealised rural subaltern life in these relief prints. The artist has handled the black and white distribution characteristic of the medium with virtuosity and imagination. Among the very few extant examples of her artistic practice, these linocuts embody an ethos seemingly removed from our contemporary reality. Yet, Chanda’s keen observation and intimate engagement with the phenomenal world lend them a resonance that is at once universal, even as it remains firmly rooted in her lived experience. Bold, robust, and rendered in uncompromising achromatic contrast, the works distil form to its essence with an uncluttered clarity and compactness that is deceptively simple, yet profoundly affecting.

In this exhibition, the students of the Dept. of Graphics-Printmaking, Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata guided by their teacher Sujay Mukherjee, make their own responses to Rani Chanda’s vision of rural Birbhum as seen in this folio. Together with them, eight teachers from the Department also respond with their own vision, to create an exhibition of fifty black-&-white linocuts in addition to Rani Chanda’s twenty-five linocuts.

To quote Mukherjee, “The quintessential question before us was how one might respond to these linocuts. Do we attempt to emulate the formal scope of her work? Or do we chart our own individual trajectories, allowing the medium of linocut to serve merely as an axis of correspondence? Alternatively, can our responses function as extensions of her works – sister pairings that bring two disparate temporalities into a close and generative embrace?”

Another point of access lies in Chanda’s extensive writings, which index her lived environment and offer rare insight into her life and ideals. Through these texts, she recounts her world in vivid detail. One such work, Jenana Fatak, which chronicles her time in prison as a political prisoner, became a key point of reference for us. It enabled a collective engagement through which we sought to devise a response that encompasses all of the above concerns, while simultaneously functioning as a complementary material to the text itself.

Our attempt must therefore be read in relation to these multiple sources—not as a definitive conclusion, but as a provisional framework. It is intended as a template open to further elaboration, and should be understood, fundamentally, as a work in progress.”

The project is led by Dr. Paula Sengupta, Professor & Head, Dept. of Graphics-Printmaking, Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata.

Rani Chanda

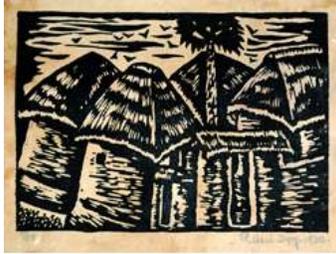


Works by Rani Chanda
Gallery View

Works



Rani Chanda
'The Woodcut, 38/125, 1932'
Linocut on Paper
6.5 x 4 in
ID:- RCD-01



Rani Chanda
'The Village - Home, 38/125, 1932'
Linocut on Paper
4 x 5 in
ID:- RCD-02



Rani Chanda
'Home from the Market, 38/125, 1932'
Linocut on Paper
9 x 6 in
ID:- RCD-03



Rani Chanda
'Santal Girl & Hill Stream, 38/125, 1932'
Linocut on Paper
4.5 x 4 in
ID:- RCD-04



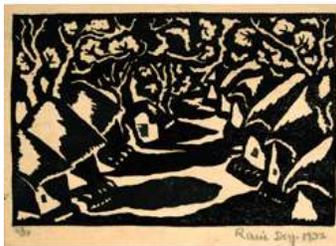
Rani Chanda
'Husking Rice, 38/125, 1932'
Linocut on Paper
4.5 x 5.5 in
ID:- RCD-05]



Rani Chanda
'Winter Blasts, 38/125, 1932'
Linocut on Paper
6.5 x 4 in
ID:- RCD-06



Rani Chanda
'Autumn, 38/125, 1932'
Linocut on Paper
6.5 x 8 in
ID:- RCD-07



Rani Chanda
'Asleep in Moon-Light, 38/125, 1932'
Linocut on Paper
4.5 x 6 in
ID:- RCD-08



Rani Chanda
'The Bird Sanctuary, 38/125, 1932'
Linocut on Paper
9 x 5 in
ID:- RCD-09



Rani Chanda
'In The Shade, 38/125, 1932'
Linocut on Paper
5 x 10 in
ID:- RCD-10



Rani Chanda
'By The Window, 38/125, 1932'
Linocut on Paper
5 x 4 in
ID:- RCD-11



Rani Chanda
'A Peep, 38/125, 1932'
Linocut on Paper
10 x 7 in
ID:- RCD-12



Rani Chanda
'Cottage Scene, 38/125, 1932'
Linocut on Paper
3 x 5 in, 4 x 2.5 in
ID:- RCD-13-14



Rani Chanda
'The Child, 38/125, 1932'
Linocut on Paper
5.5 x 4 in
ID:- RCD-15



Rani Chanda
'Household Duties, 38/125, 1932'
Linocut on Paper
5.5 x 4.5 in
ID:- RCD-16



Rani Chanda
'The Solace, 38/125, 1932'
Linocut on Paper
5.5 x 7 in
ID:- RCD-17



Rani Chanda
'The Midday Gossip, 38/125, 1932'
Linocut on Paper
7 x 4.5 in
ID:- RCD-18



Rani Chanda
'Wet Hair, 38/125, 1932'
Linocut on Paper
5.5 x 6.5 in
ID:- RCD-19



Rani Chanda
'The Spindle, 38/125, 1932'
Linocut on Paper
9.5 x 7 in
ID:- RCD-20



Rani Chanda
'A Study, 38/125, 1932'
Linocut on Paper
9.5 x 5.5 in
ID:- RCD-21



Rani Chanda
'Wisdom of the Past, 38/125, 1932'
Linocut on Paper
9.5 x 7 in
ID:- RCD-22



Rani Chanda
'Artists at Work, 38/125, 1932'
Linocut on Paper
5 x 7 in
ID:- RCD-23



Rani Chanda
'In Full Sail, 38/125, 1932'
Linocut on Paper
8 x 5 in
ID:- RCD-24

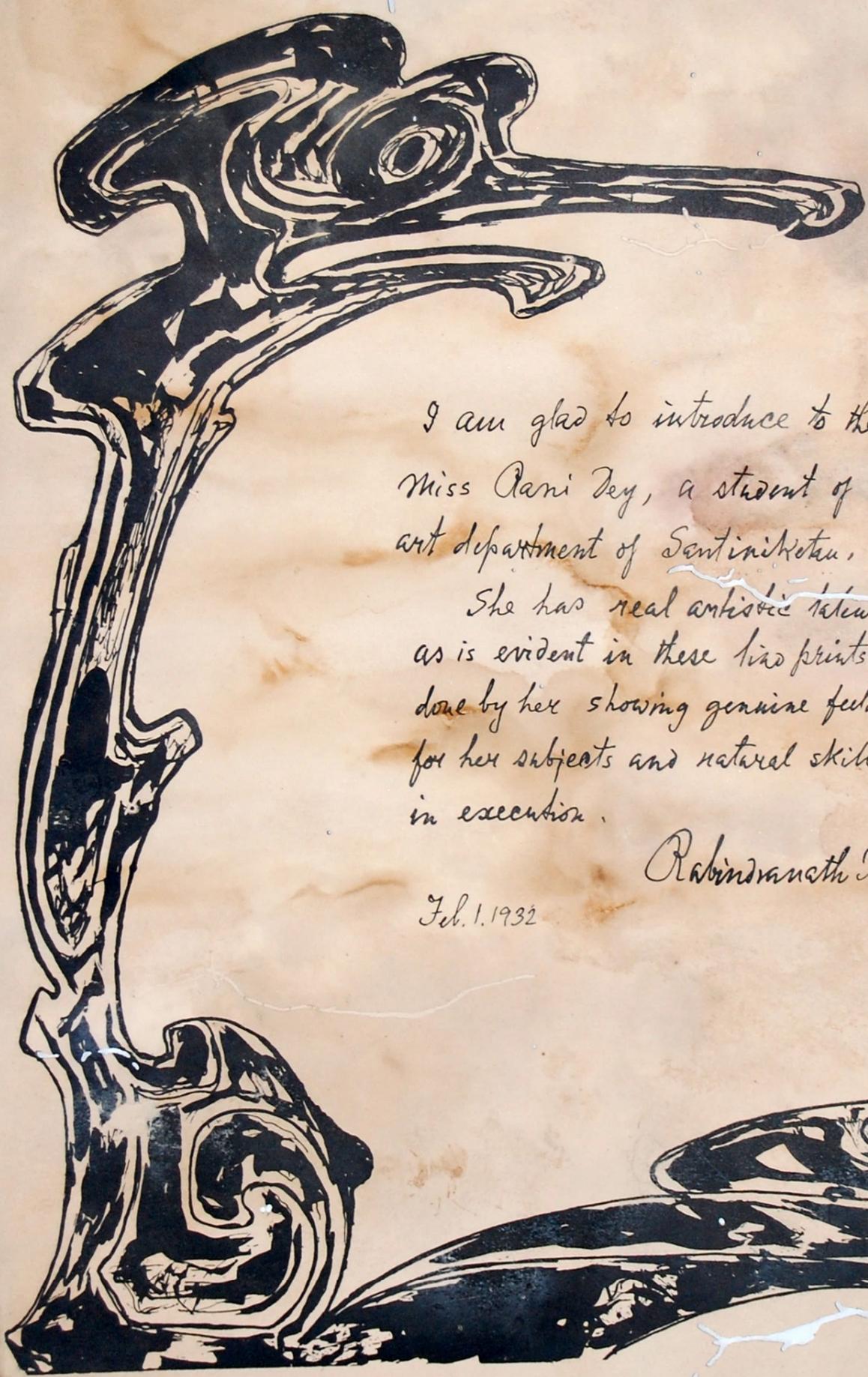


Rani Chanda
'Mid Stream, 38/125, 1932'
Linocut on Paper
4.5 x 6.5 in
ID:- RCD-25



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- 4 SANTAL GIRL AND HILL STREAM - জল-ভরণ
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I am glad to introduce to the public
Miss Anni Dey, a student of the
art department of Santiniketan.

She has real artistic talent
as is evident in these bird prints
done by her showing genuine feeling
for her subjects and natural skill
in execution.

Rabindranath Tagore

Feb. 1, 1932



TWENTYFIVE LINOCUTS



BY
RANI DEY

PUBLISHED BY
M. DEY
28 CHOWRINGHEE, CALCUTTA.



37
135

Ravi Day. 1932

7/2



Paul Day, 1932.



Kauli Dey-1932



Ravi Day. 1932.

37
125

8/55



Ravi Dey. 1932.



38
123

Ravi Day. 1932.



Ravi Day. 1932.

255



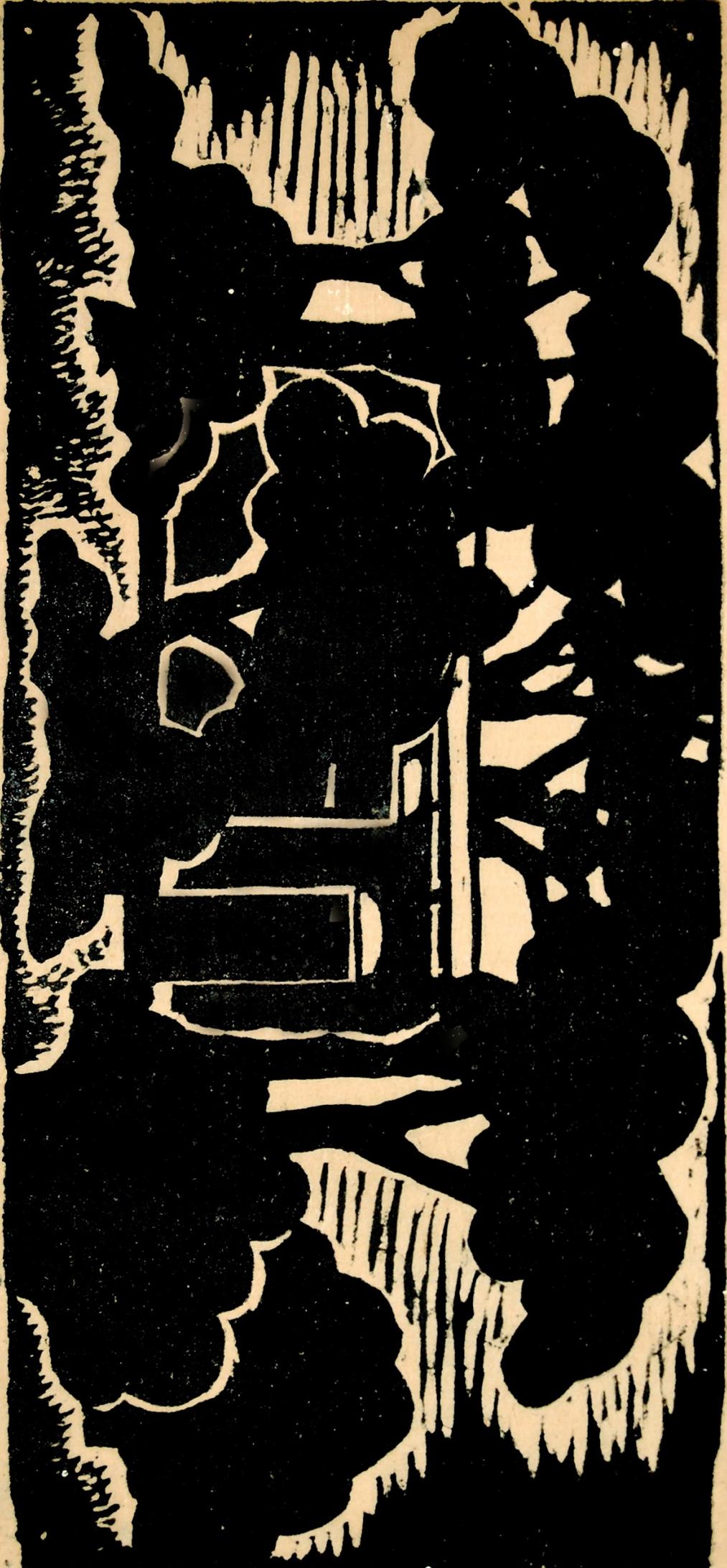
Ravi Day. 1932



Rani Dey. 1932.

733

Rauli Day, 1922.





38
125

Ravi Day, 1932



25
123

Rani Day, 1932





37
125

Ravi Day. 1932.



88
25

Ravi Day. 1932

215



Ravi Day, 1932.



123

Ravi Day. 1932.



Ravi Dayal 1932



Rani Dey, 1932



रत्ना

Rani Dey, 1932.



36
123

Ravi Day, 1932

3/25



Rainy Day. 1932.



39
78

Ravi Day. 1932.

38
125



Rami Dey. 1932.