

## INDRAPRAMIT ROY

INDRAPRAMIT ROY STUDIED printmaking (BFA) at the Visva-Bharati University of Santiniketan and painting (MFA) at the Faculty of Fine Arts of M. S. University of Baroda. Subsequently he was awarded Inlaks Scholarship to study MA Painting at the Royal College of Art, London, which also included a term each at Cite des Arts, Paris and Hochschule der Kunst, Berlin.

INDRAPRAMIT HAS SHOWN extensively in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Bengaluru and Chennai in group and solo shows. He has had 15 solo shows, over 70 Group shows and numerous art workshops and residencies to his credit.

HIS LAST FIVE solo shows were in The University of the Arts, Philadelphia in 2004-05, Anant Art Gallery, New Delhi in 2006, Aicon Gallery, Palo Alto, CA in 2007, Pundole Art Gallery, Mumbai in 2008 and again in Anant Art Gallery, New Delhi in 2009. He has taken part in group shows in London, Berlin, New York, San Francisco, Melbourne and Yangon and has represented India in Asian Art Exhibition in Macao and the Cairo Biennale, Cairo. Most recently his works were part of the curated show in the United Art Fair in New Delhi.

HONOURS AND FELLOWSHIPS include Kanoria Centre Fellowship, Inlaks fellowship to study at RCA, London, Junior Research Fellowship, Government of India and Fulbright fellowship, USA. He has lectured on various art related topics at Mohile Parekh Centre - Mumbai, Indian Council for Cultural Relations - Kolkata, International Institute for Children's Literature - Osaka, University of Arts - Philadelphia and ICCR sponsored seminars in Hanoi and Jakarta among others.

INDRAPRAMIT ALSO WRITES on art. His articles have appeared in various journals including Art India, Art & Deal, Art Etc, Depart, Nandan, Artconcern, Art Varta and the Khoj Art book. His book reviews have appeared in the Higher Education supplement of Times, London.

OTHER INTERESTS INCLUDE illustration for young adults and had done several books for Tara publications, Chennai and J.Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles. Two of them won international prizes (Alcuin award, Canada and American Museum Association, USA). He has also designed stage for 'Bohurupee', Kolkata and World Social Forum, Mumbai.

HE LIVES AND WORKS in Baroda, where he has also been teaching painting at his alma mater M. S. University since 1995.

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Indrapramit Roy is showing his paintings in this city of his birth after a hiatus of eighteen years. The last solo show of his in this city was in 1994 in the same gallery.

This is an exclusive show of his watercolours at an ambitious scale. At the most literal level his motif is the urban setting; not the city centre itself but more the no man's land of suburban sprawl. In some images we drift above the urbanscape, while in others we peer voyeuristically into the facade of illuminated but empty spaces. In every scenario there are no living beings to be seen. This is the first clue that we are not looking at empirically observed places but seeing a wistful critique of the dystopian future we are rushing in to headlong.

In the understated sense of unease there is something amiss even in the apparently celebratory, something going on in a deadly quiet manner. A sensitive eye will pick up the unsettling contrast between the tightly ordered classical composition, the severely restricted range of colours, the nuanced washes of paint and the edgy sense of emptiness. Like a film director who understands that the location, lighting and atmosphere are the central characters Roy orchestrates complete worlds.

The recurring subject of Roy's work is the paradox of urban progress; increasingly contemporary lives are congested, metropolitan and polluted. Yet we still yearn for solace and the mental space to reflect. In these paintings we are given the nearest alternative to the traditional illusion of the picture window that painting traditionally offered the tired mind. But now there are caveats that underscore this potential meditative space. We are endlessly alone, in a liminal zone between natural illumination and the theatrical mirage of artificial lights.