

PRESS RELEASE

RAMANANDA BANDYOPADHYAY | SARAD ARGHYA

Opening at 6 pm on Saturday, 22 October, 2016 at Galerie 88 Kolkata

Exhibition on view till Saturday, 26 November, 2016

This exhibition is showcasing paintings and drawings by Ramananda Bandyopadhyay, one of the most significant and veteran artist of the country.

Born in 1936, Birbhum, West Bengal, Ramananda completed his graduation in Fine Arts from Kala Bhavan, Santiniketan in 1957 under the tutelage of Nandalal Bose. As an admirer of Nandalal, he draws unabashedly from the master's work and has modeled his art on the same lines, lyrical and romantic. Ramananda's canvases have a radiant innocence that is strongly reminiscent of an earlier era when life had a dignity and graciousness. A very distinct characteristic of his work is the recurrent use of a palette that comprises principally of reds, browns, greens and white. In a career spanning almost six decades, he has consistently employed the same colors. "I owe the three to four colors used in my paintings, exclusively to my mother's addiction to pan (betel leaf). The green of the betel leaf, the lime's white, the catechu's brown and the red of the juice of chewed pan that turned my mother's lips into a pair of pure gems," says Ramananda as he explains his predilection for these hues.

Mythology is a favourite subject of Ramananda. He inspires by the numerous Hindu gods and goddesses and their fascinating tales abound in the literature. This strong bias towards religious subjects is in part attributable to his upbringing. His parents were ardent followers of the religious tenets of the Ramakrishna Mission and the artist himself spent most of his working life as a Director of the Art Museum and Gallery at the Ramakrishna Mission in Kolkata. He lives and works in Kolkata.

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