

PRESS RELEASE

Sanat Kar at Galerie 88, Kolkata

Opening reception on Friday, 8 February 2013, 6 – 8 p.m.

Exhibition on view till Saturday, 23 February 2013

Galerie 88

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Gallery Timings | Mon: 2 – 7 p.m. | Tue to Sat: 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

(Closed on Sundays & public holidays)

Galerie 88 will be presenting an exclusive show of Sanat Kar's engravings. The last solo-show of his prints held in this city was in 1994 in the same gallery. A Portfolio of 10 recent engravings would be released on the opening day along with his other prints.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Sanat Kar was born in Calcutta in 1935. He received his diploma in painting from the Government College of Arts and Crafts, Calcutta in 1955 and played a major role in the formation of the Society of Contemporary Artists in 1960. He joined Graphics department, Kala Bhavan, Viswa Bharati in 1978 and later become the principal of that institute.

Kar began experimenting with intaglio printmaking method in the early '60s. It was a self-taught process. His experimentation and innovation in printmaking has been widely recognised. He is also credited with the innovation of cardboard intaglio. As Zinc was becoming too costly a material he began working first with wood blocks, then moved on to plywood and finally Sun-mica and engraving on cardboard. He successfully transposed the characteristics of works on metal plates to his wood blocks while retaining the specific characteristics of the wood surface. Besides intaglio, Kar has created a series of tempera paintings and bronze sculptures.

Sanat Kar's works are primarily surrealistic having a curious dream-like appearance. His figures exude innocence and the charm of poetry. Birth and death, the beginning and the end of the cycle of life hold endless fascination for Kar, as does the grotesque and the macabre. Grainy textural surfaces, doodled lines create their own visual magic in his work. "My works play on the deep, dark recesses of the human mind", says Kar.

Kar received AIFACS award, New Delhi in 1973 and West Bengal State Academy Award in 1993, among others. His work has featured in the Festival of India in USA, Japan, Soviet Union, British International Print Biennale, Fourth International Print Show in Poland and Berlin Intergrafik.

At present Kar lives and works in Santiniketan.