

Presents

Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath



RESCRIPTING KG SUBRAMANYAN

Curated by Nancy Adajania April 5 - May 20, 2025

In Collaboration with EMAMI ART and SEAGULL, Kolkata

VENUE

Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Kumara Krupa Road, Bengaluru 560001 In April 2025, **Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath** opens a major research-based, retrospective-scale exhibition of the seminal Indian modernist KG Subramanyan (1924-2016), curated by the cultural theorist Nancy Adajania. This wide-ranging and critical centenary exhibition, the largest in South India since the artist's passing, will situate and re-assess his legacy in the larger cultural scenario of postcolonial India's unfolding modernism and affirm the continuing relevance of his practice.

This is the second iteration of the KG Subramanyan centenary show, which first took place at Emami Art, Kolkata, in 2024. The Bangalore Edition expands on the Kolkata iteration by including an additional body of work. For instance, we are delighted to exhibit major paintings such as 'Chinnamasta' (1991), 'Girl with Cat Boy' (1991), 'Birbhum Nativity' (1991), 'Devi II and III' (2008) and 'Madonna and Child' (2005), among others, which have not been seen in public for the last two decades. The Bangalore Edition also includes KGS's historic post-cubist works from the mid-1960s from the Piramal Art Foundation. These works represent a major transitional phase in the maestro's oeuvre. Additionally, KGS's series 'At the Jincheng Hotel: Drawings from China' (1985), which builds on his observations of everyday life in the villages and small towns of China, is a masterpiece of local micro-history.

Widely recognized as one of the most versatile and prolific artists of his epoch, Subramanyan was also a great writer, thinker and pedagogue. He studied art at Kala Bhavana, Santiniketan under Nandalal Bose, Benodebehari Mukherjee and Ramkinkar Baij, and at the Slade School of Art, London. Spanning over seven decades of his practice, the present exhibition will feature more than 200 works, including his early paintings from the 1950s, iconic reverse paintings on acrylic, gouaches, postcard-size drawings, inventive toys made for the Fine Arts Fairs at the MS University, Baroda, between 1962 and 1979, and a significant amount of archival material not seen before, such as handcrafted mock-ups of children's books, preparatory sketches for murals, and the maquettes for his powerful mural 'The War of the Relics' (2013).

This exhibition will explore various aspects of his creative genius, aiming to dismantle the stereotypical readings that persist about the artist and his work.



Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath

in collaboration with

EMAMI ART and SEAGULL, Kolkata presents

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AND COUNTING

Rescripting KG Subramanyan

(The Bangalore Edition)

Curated by Nancy Adajania

Cultural Theorist & Curator

Inauguration Date & Time

Saturday, 05 April 2025, 05.30 p.m.

Venue: Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Kumara Krupa Road, Bengaluru 560001

Chief Guest: Prof. Indrapramit Roy

Department of Painting, MS University, Baroda

Guest of Honour

Mr. S.N. Agarwal

Chairman, Bhoruka Group President, Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath Trust

Presided By

Dr. B.L. Shankar

President, Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath

Curatorial Walkthrough by Nancy Adajania 06 April 2025, 04.00 p.m.



Shashidhara Rao

General Secretary

Executive Committee Members, Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath

Dinner: 07.30 p.m.

Special Thanks To

Emami Art, Kolkata
Seagull, Kolkata
Department of Painting,
MS University, Baroda

Piramal Art Foundation, Mumbai
Gallery Art Musings, Mumbai
V. Sanjay Kumar, Bengaluru
Akar Prakar, Kolkata
Art Indus, New Delhi
Rabindra Bharati Museum, Jorasanko
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