



SHUVAPRASANNA

Shuvaprasanna's grammar of decay

For nearly three decades Shuvaprasanna has been in search of a visual language that would give form to his content of urban decay, and of anxiety for a total collapse of an urban culture. The culture that flowered for more than a century till the thirties, then started withering away, or rather gradually froze with memories of past glories and anguish of present failures, and that with almost a Spenglerian inevitability.

Calcutta, the city he comes from, has given us many celebrated painters and poets who created their own languages to give shape to their contents of disillusion and anxiety for a collapsing system of values, some seeking in the dying embers and cold ashes remnants of old flames, hoping against hope for a rejuvenation.

In the early paintings of Bikash Bhattacharjee and Shyamal Datta Roy, of course, very distinctive in their techniques and formation of imagery, we find architectural motifs that signify the collapse and decay. Shuvaprasanna has inherited both the past and present of the city, and has absorbed, internalised and responded to them in terms of his own individuated techniques and imagery, no matter whether he is painting, etching or drawing in mixed media.

That is why his flowers in mixed-media show petals with spider-web cracks of age, a certain dryness that seems to recall their luscious past, the past that was once emblematic of urban man's thirst for natural beauty and pulsation of life.

His earlier large paintings of the city's roof-tops and dilapidated buildings and narrow alleys are denuded of human presence, but crowded with crows, as if they are expecting their kind of sinister feast. His etchings or mixed-media often show close-ups of predatory birds with sinister associations of death and decomposed corpses, of deserted city, of miles of desolation.

Shuvaprasanna's recent series of paintings of new iconographies of the 'popular' deities are a search for a new grammar of decay of faith in the divinities or divine interventions. Their bodies are empty cylindricals, their heads a little detached from their torsos, showing the dark emptiness inside the cylindrical bodies.

Shuvaprasanna's continuously evolving imagery of anxiety and his essentially urban sensibilities for an old, collapsing system of cultural coordinates can be syntactically related to those of his other contemporaries representative of his city and times.



"Illusion"

22" x 28" on paper



"The Crow"

22" x 28" charcoal drawing



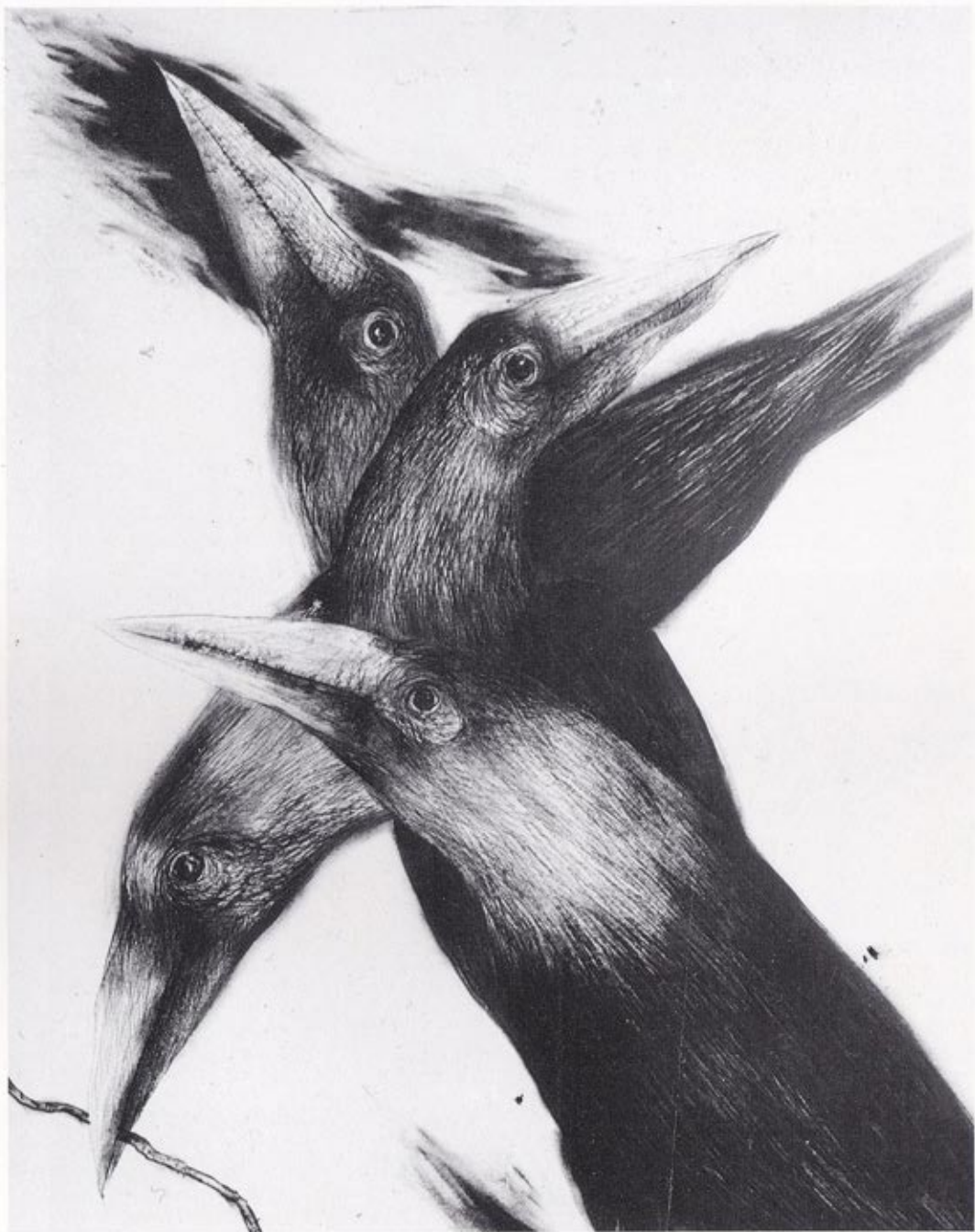
"Hands"

22" x 28"



"Crow"

.22" x 28"



"Crow"

22" x 28"



"Illusion"

34" x 35"



"Illusion"

34" x 35" charcoal, acrylic & oil

SHUVAPRASANNA

1947 Born in Calcutta

1969 Graduated from Indian College of Art (R B University, Calcutta)

Solo Exhibitions

1972 Birla Academy, Calcutta

1973 Triveni Kala Sangam, New Delhi

1974 Gallery "Les hirondelles" Geneve, Switzerland

1975 Triveni Kala Sangam, New Delhi; Gallery Atlantis, Aix-En-Provence, France

1976 Gallery Denbarg, Geneve, Switzerland

1977 Decor Art Gallery, Calcutta

1978 Triveni Kala Sangam, New Delhi

1979 Walburgischule, Werl, West Germany; Max Muller Bhavan, Calcutta

1980 National Museum, Singapore; Triveni Kala Sangam, New Delhi

1981 Max Muller Bhavan, Calcutta; Triveni Kala Sangam, New Delhi

1983 Calcutta Art Gallery, Calcutta; Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai; Kreissparkasse, Ludwigsburg, Germany; Volkshochschule, Essen, West Germany

1985 Painters Home Gallery, Calcutta

1987 Birla Academy, Calcutta

1988 IDM Gallery, Munich, Germany; St. Paulus Fastellte, Ludwigsburg, Germany

1989 Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai; The Gallery, Chennai

1990 Indian Museum, Calcutta; Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai; Sridharani Art Gallery, New Delhi

1991 Art Age Gallery, Calcutta; La Gallerie, Dhaka, Bangladesh

1992 Birla Academy, Calcutta

1993 Kunstverein Ludwigsburg, Germany; Studio Helmi Precther, Agusburg, Germany

1994 "Metropolis" Portraits of Calcutta; CIMA Gallery, Calcutta; ABC Gallery, Benaras

1995 Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi; Gallerie Grewal Mohanjeet, Paris, France

1997 Painters Home Gallery, Calcutta; Gallery Sanskriti, New Delhi

1999 Art Indus, New Delhi

Group Exhibitions

1969 Arts and Artists, Calcutta

1970 Calcutta Painters, Calcutta and Mumbai; Epar Bangla Per Bangla, Calcutta

1971 Calcutta Painters, New Delhi

1975 Gallery Kunsthaus Stutgart, Germany; Silver Jubilee Exhibition, Lalit Kala Akademy, New Delhi; Inaugural show Decor Art Gallery, Calcutta

1977 Gallery 26, New Delhi

1985 Graphic Art in India since 1950

1987 Indian Drawings Today, Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai

1989 Centenary invitees show of Mumbai Art Society

1990 300 years of Calcutta show by Birla Academy

1991 Art for Spastics Auction Chennai "The Downtrodden and We" by Lalit Kala Akademi

1992 Silver Jubilee exhibition of Birla Academy, Calcutta

1995 'Art from the Heart', Exhibition by the People for Animals, Mumbai, Delhi.

1996 'Autumn', Exhibitions by CIMA, New Delhi.

1997 "Colours of Independence", N.G.M.A, New Delhi; "Bengal Show", Singapore by Apparrao Galleries; "Indian Beast", New Delhi; "Within the Frame", New York/London/ New Delhi; "Major Trends In Indian Art", Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi.

1998 "Krishna", Art Indus, New Delhi; "Devi", Art Indus, New Delhi.

International Exhibitions

- 1985 III Asian Art Biennial, Bangladesh
- 1986 II International Biennial, Havana, Cuba
- 1990 II International Biennial, Ankara, Turkey
- 1991 VII International Triennial India, New Delhi. Visited United States under the auspices of the USIA, visited England under the sponsorship of British Council
- 1992 The Museum of Modern Art Sitama, Japan
- 1995 III International Biennial of Prints, Bharat Bhavan
- 1993 Visited Germany under the sponsorship of Inter Nations

Workshops

- 1982 Poster workshop in British Council, Calcutta
- 1983 All India Painting workshop of Max Muller Bhavan
- 1988 Workshop in Horniman Museum, London
- 1990 Indo-German Artist Camp, Max Muller Bhavan, Calcutta Painting Workshop in Coonoor, Chennai
- 1991 Advance Lithography Workshop with Tamarind Institute USA and Lalit Kala Akademi, Chennai
- 1993 Graphics Workshop in Obergrabenpresse. Dresden Druck-und Piblikations GmbH And Kupferdruckerer Lothar Becker in Munchen, Germany
- 1995 International Workshop-Art and Nature, New Delhi; Graphics Workshop in Obergrabenpresse, Dresden

Awards

- 1979 Awarded by AIFACS, New Delhi
- 1978 Awarded by State Lalit Kala Akademi, West Bengal
- 1977 Awarded by Birla Academy, Calcutta

Art Organizational Works

- 1969 Founder member, Art and Artist, Calcutta
- 1970 Joined Calcutta Painters, Calcutta
- 1972 Jt. Secretary, Calcutta Art Fair
- 1974 Member Circa Geneva, Switzerland
- 1976 Founded College of Visual Arts, Calcutta
- 1984 Founded Arts Acre an Artists Village, Calcutta

Publications

- 1976 Edited with Shakti Chattopadhyay 'Anarchy and the Blue'
- 1977 Published 'Artists a Collection of Wood-cut Prints'
- 1981 Editor Art-Today, a journal on movement of contemporary visual arts in India
- 1983 Edited Portfolio 'The eyes of Time' (a collection of drawings)
- 1982 Edited Portfolio 'Dream and Reality'
- 1993 Published 'Between the Earth and the Sky'
- 1995 Published 'Wondering Silence'
- Published 'Shuttle' Portfolio of Graphics and verses by Obergrabenpresse, Dresden and Calcutta

Permanent Collections

National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi; Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi; Govt. College of Art, New Delhi; UP State Lalit Kala Akademi, Chandigarh Museum, Punjab University, NCERT, New Delhi; Birla Academy, Calcutta; Air India; Taj Group of Hotels; Times of India Group; WHO Geneva; Kratel SA Stuttgart, Germany; Glenberra Art Museum, Japan; HEART, India etc.