



On the Threshold of the Twenty First Century

Assam Branch of Indian Tea Association
Presents a retrospective Exhibition of Painting by :

HEMANTA MISRA

INAUGURATION BY SHRI HEMENDRA PRASAD BAROOAH

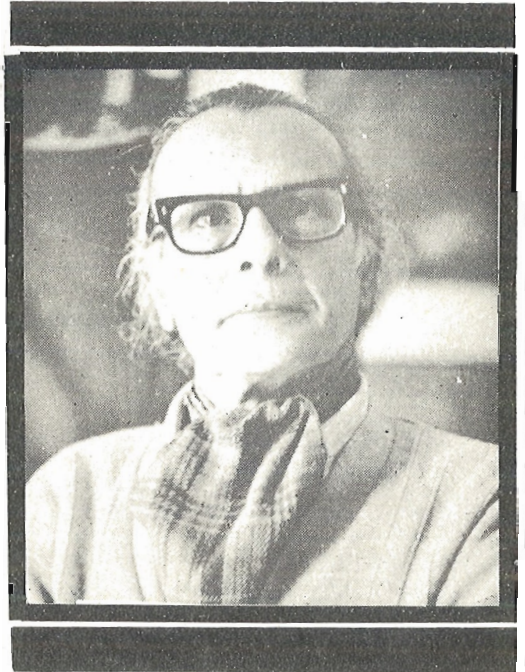
Guwahati Tea Auction Centre



3rd Jan - 7th Jan 1994

HEMANTA MISRA

- Born in Sibsagar, Assam, 1917.
- Educated in Cotton College, Guwahati & St. Edmund's College, Shillong.
- Studied Art under John Hassal R.I., England.
- Art Adviser to "Assam Hills & Plains Exhibition", 1947
- Senior Artist, Directorate of Information & Publicity, Govt of Assam, for sometime.
- Member of the "Calcutta Group of Painters & Sculptors" and All India Fine Arts & Crafts Society, New Delhi.
- Member, Executive Committee, Academy of Fine Arts, Calcutta. Member, Selection & Judging Committee of All India Annual Exhibitions, Calcutta.
- Participated in National Exhibitions and All India Fine Arts & Crafts Society Exhibitions, New Delhi; All India Exhibitions, Academy of Fine Arts, Calcutta; West Bengal Painters' Exhibitions, New Delhi and Calcutta; Eastern Zone Lalit Kala Academy Exhibition, Orissa; All India Surrealistic Exhibition, New Delhi.
- Conducted Lalit Kala Academy Workshop, Manipur, 1978.
- Mobile Solo Exhibition sponsored by Academy of Fine Arts, Calcutta, 1979.
- Paintings exhibited in the First Triennale of Contemporary World Art, New Delhi.
- Delivered lectures on Art in the Museum of Oriental Culture, Moscow; Academy of Fine Arts, Calcutta; Dibrugarh University.
- Biography included in the Dictionary of International Biography, Cambridge, England, 1980; American Biographical Institute's Publications, 1986 & 1991.



● Held one man shows :

- Calcutta : 1952, 1959, 1967, 1973.
- New Delhi : 1965, 1969, 1976 (inaugurated by the President of India).
- Bombay : 1970.
- Moscow : 1965, 1966 sponsored by the Board of Union of Painters, USSR.
- Bangkok : 1973 sponsored by Indian Embassy and the British Council & inaugurated by the Director-General, Fine Arts, Thailand.
- Guwahati : 1977 sponsored by the Department of Culture, Govt of Assam. Dibrugarh University - 1977.

- Retrospective Exhibitions sponsored by the Academy of Fine Arts, Calcutta, 1983 & 1988.
Paintings in permanent collection : National Gallery Of Modern Art, New Delhi; Museum of Oriental Culture, Moscow; British Council, Bangkok; Academy of Fine Arts, Calcutta; Rabindra Bharati Museum, Calcutta; State Art Gallery, Guwahati, State Museum, Guwahati; Dibrugarh University.

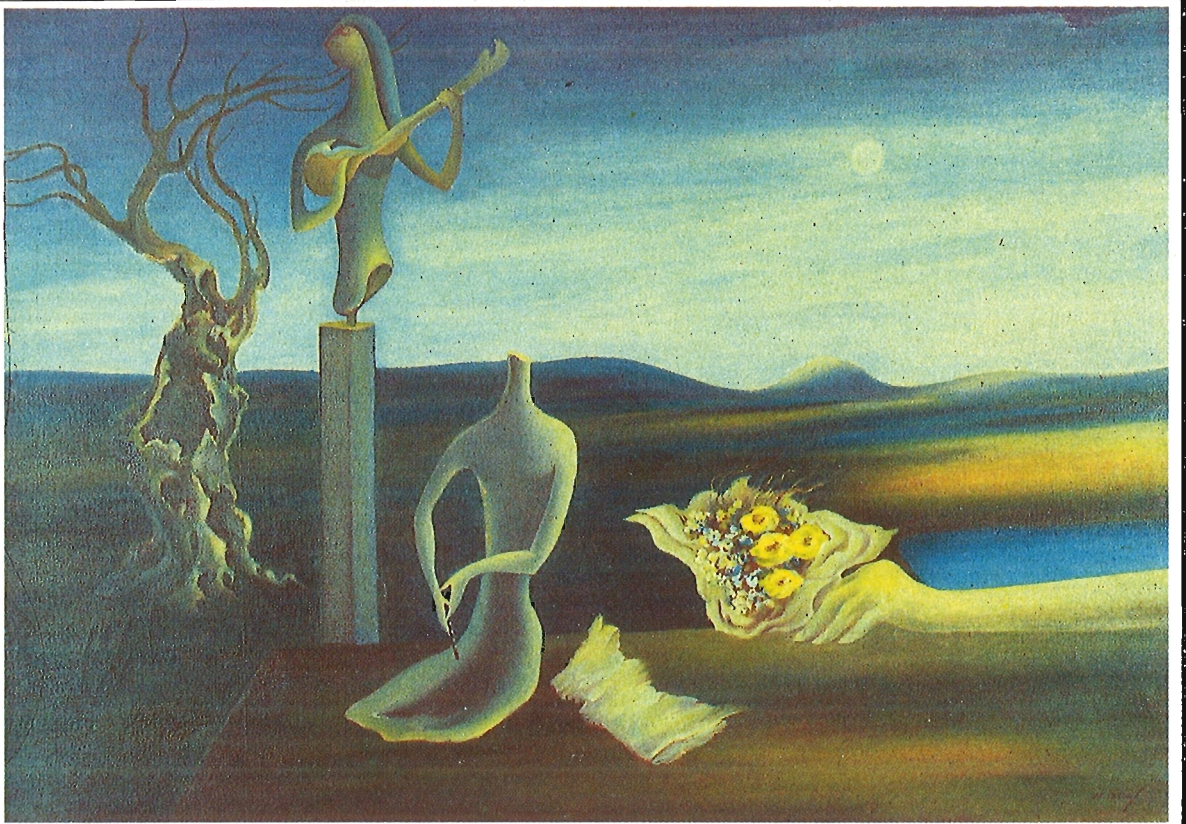
Publications :

Illustrated Book of Rhymes; 1950 (Assamese); *Bharatiya Chittrakala*, 1974 (Assamese); *Roopar Antarat Roop : A Collection of Poems with the Artist's own drawings*, 1989 (Assamese); *Dikhow Luit Aru Sagar* (awaiting publication), *Rooper Antare Roop*, 1984 (Bengali); *Dikhow Luit O Sagar*; 1990 (Bengali)
Contributes articles on Art to Assamese & Bengali journals.

- Honoured by Asom Sahitya Sabha and All India Fine Arts & Crafts Society, New Delhi.

Some Appreciation

- Mr Misra's pictures are alive and vital. He has a keen eye for subject allied to a vigorous, and in his more recent work, experimental technique which may develop into a powerful mode of expression his drawings of Khasi subjects impress by their sureness of touch. A very refreshing exhibition. *The Statesman Nov. 30, 1952.*
- An exhibition of Shri Hemanta Misra's paintings and drawings introduces the work of the only Assamese Artist to hold one man show in the city. The paintings and drawings give evidence of a high standard of workmanship. The beautiful Assam valley has found in Misra an artist with the ability to interpret its hills, forests, its dawns and sunsets through the medium of paint, helped by a sense of colour harmonies that must be owned as a rare gift. *Amrita Bazar Patrika 1952.*
- Intense patriotism and a passionate love for one's own people often find exquisite expression through the medium of art. I was forcefully made aware of this truth when recently I had the privilege of looking at the paintings and drawings of the young artist from Assam, Sri Hemanta Misra. His exhibition in Calcutta, first one man exhibition by an artist from Assam, will indeed be an eye-opener to many artists and art lovers. Subrata Banerjee in *The Assam Tribune, 1952.*
- After an absence of several years, Hemanta Misra of Calcutta Group has re-appeared in Calcutta as a mature painter - one who has found his depth and is reconciled with his self. As a modernist, Mr Misra seems to possess the potentiality to be one of the most outstanding artists in India in the near future. He amply deserves the rank. He has taken to what broadly may be termed cubism. But he has not happily sacrificed his sense of duty nor has been totally subjugated by intellect. Mr Misra combines through a technique spontaneously his own, the element of intellect, emotions, fancy and sometimes the instinct. *Hindustan Standard, 1959.*



Echo of a Song

- Details of his complex patterns, sharp geometrical shapes, angular figures, violent twists, staccato rhythms . . . one cannot help but admire the competent manner in which he has used the cubist method to create some forceful pictures of his own - he re-creates a strongly personal response by playing with fascinating forms and colours. *The Statesman, 1961*
- Mr Misra's exhibition is one of the best in recent years. Here is an artist of great merit who has all the means to make a clear pictorial statement. He is an accomplished technician, a sensitive colourist with a highly imaginative mind - all of which are essential pre-requisites of a successful, surrealist painter. *The Statesman, New Delhi., 1965.*
- In Misra's work the nightmare element in surrealism is played down and the poetic emphasised. *The Times of India, New Delhi, 1965.*
- Mr Misra's work has been admired in these columns before and his emergence as a leading surrealist painter noted..... - There are works with their endless perspectives to indicate the dream world of the passage of time. *The Statesman, Calcutta, 1967.*

- Mr Misra is one of our outstanding surrealists..... In these new fantasies and visions we recognise a distinct awareness of the human predicament in both the romantic and mystic vein. His mood is highly contemplative, intensely poetic and refined. *The Statesman, New Delhi, 1969.*
- More than any other artist, it was Misra who put Assam on the Art map of India..... A radical, he does not seek to paint form but to create form, not to imitate life, but to find an equivalent for life. *Evening News of India, Bombay, 1970.*
- It is indeed a revelation of a mystery which enveloped his emotional theme and elevates the onlooker to a plane far beyond physical experience. Devi Prasad Roy Chowdhury, formerly Chairman, Lalit Kala Academy & Principal Government College of Arts, Madras, 1973.
- His flights of fancy are boundless. Yet the juxtaposed objects painted in luminous colours and placed in the atmosphere always carry with them a pictorial meaning of their own which is image-bound and poetry-oriented. Misra's application of colours for creating such an expression of surrealism is unique. *Prodosh Dasgupta, formerly Director, National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi, in Roop-Lekha Volume XI.*
- The surrealist canvases of Misra are unique and differ radically from the Western surrealist school. *The Nation, Bangkok, 1973.*
- His paintings reflect deeply the subconscious yearning of the Asian mind..... His paintings have been described as poems in colour. *Bangkok World, 1973.*
- In Mr Misra's dreamworld time stood still and light and darkness and everything were frozen at a moment in eternity. *Amrita Bazar Patrika, 1973.*
- Mr Misra has a very personal attitude as a surrealist. He is highly romantic, poetic and reminiscent and delves into remote, forgotten times searching for echoes of distant songs and reverberating silences. *The Statesman, New Delhi, 1976.*
- Mr Misra's paintings take you into a world of colour and fantasy. In this dreamland flowers can blossom on the wings of a butterfly, a headless figure can play a flute, apples can be blue and ruins can be green. *Evening News, Hindustan Times, 1976.*
- Studio : 50-B Central Road, Jadavpur, Calcutta : 700 032.