

J E H A N G I R A R T G A L L E R Y

161B MAHATMA GANDHI ROAD, BOMBAY 1 BR.



HEMANTA

MISRA

JANUARY 9 TO 15 1970
10 A.M. TO 8 P.M. DAILY

paintings

The environment of hills and dales of Assam had made an impact in Misra's aesthetic attitude and his earlier paintings invariably breathed an air of nostalgic, environmental idioms. This imbibed, soft and sentimental attitude gradually however went through the milling of an intellectual process of dialectics towards humanism.

By 1965 this attitude finally gave birth to a new synthesised appreciation of Surrealism and his delineations though based on Realism were often steeped in the abstruse magic of mysticism. The early environmental natural scene no doubt was the keynote of this new aesthetic appreciation, it was this mystic appearance again which created a supernatural atmosphere—the objects of broken lyre, shells on the sea shore, broken pieces of sculptures, truncated trees becoming forceful ingredients surcharging the whole scene.

Misra's application of colour for creating such an expression of Surrealism is unique. His colour merges into the atmosphere without having a separate existence of its own. This abstracted harmony of colour and form plus the inner content of a mystic message build up his painting to a fruitful meaning. To my mind Hemanta Misra is the only Surrealistic painter of our country who has contributed significantly in this new direction.

Prodosh Das Gupta

Director

National Gallery of Modern Art, New-Delhi.

February 26, 1969

HEMANTA MISRA: Born in Assam in 1917. Educated at Cotton College and St. Edmunds College, Assam. Student of late John Hassall R. i. Commissioned by the Army as a staff Artist in 1943 and was attached to the staff of the Directorate of Information and Publicity, Government of Assam for sometime. Worked as the art adviser to the first Assam Hills and Plains People's Exhibition in 1947. At present teaching art in the Queen of the Missions Convent, Calcutta.

Ex-member of the Calcutta Group. Works exhibited in the Calcutta Group shows and All India Exhibitions in Calcutta and New Delhi. Held one man shows in Calcutta in 1952, 1959 and 1967, in New Delhi in 1965, 1969 and in Moscow in 1965, 1966 under the auspices of the Union of Painters, USSR. Paintings exhibited in the first Triennale of Contemporary World Art in New Delhi in 1968.

Paintings are in permanent collections in the National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi, the Museum of Oriental Culture, Moscow and other important collections in India and abroad.

STUDIO: 12-1 SYED AMIR ALI AVENUE WEST BLOCK 2ND FLOOR CALCUTTA 17

1. A MIRAGE FROM ABSENT SKIES.
2. TRANSMUTATION INTO GREEN GOLD. ✓
3. ETERNAL TUNE.
4. CULTURE IN A CHANGING WORLD.
5. SOMETHING SOMEWHERE FLAMES AND DIES. ✓
6. PURSUING THE FADING GOD.
7. PRIMITIVE AIR. •
8. MUSIC. ✓
9. PILGRIMAGE.
10. HOLE AND HALLOW ON THE CROSS. ✓
11. A POEM IN PAINT.
12. MARCH OF CIVILISATION.
13. TOSSED YET WE WEAVE THE TAPESTRY OF LIFE.
14. A PROCESS OF TRANSFORMATION.
15. EXTINGUISHED FLAME. ✓
16. EVER SO FAR FROM HERE.
17. . . . SPIRIT HAD FLED.
18. AN IMAGE.
19. FLOATING STUDIO.
20. PERVADING PEACE.
21. DROUGHT.
22. AWAKENING.
23. BLACK MOON.
24. REMINISCENCES.
25. FURY AND WHITE DOVE.
26. A FORGOTTEN VERSE.
27. RADIANT TIDINGS.
28. A GNARLED STUMP.
29. IMPROVISATION—ONE.
30. IMPROVISATION—TWO.

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