

Sobhan Dutta

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The cornerstone of my art is the restoration of silence, which is "a quality of amazement that we feel in the presence of the world, and an attendant ability to surrender ourselves before its enchantment." the real and imaginary, and the known and unknown, makes my art not only a form of self-expression but a reflection of the collective unconscious. My paintings derive their impact from their details and from the subtle yet furious undercurrent of cool, logical analysis that sweeps them up to tantalizing heights.

Stylized forms, flowing colors, volume to the figures and the fluidity of lines and strokes to depict sensuality, movement of forms and stillness co-exist in my work. Using warm hues and vibrant colors and juxtapose of the figurative, representative and stylized art, topped with academic technique, I have tried to create a unique place within the art scene. The soulfulness of mood and memory, sweep and slash of colors, the transparent depth of colors, and texture are all that make my artistry a wonderful coalescence of art and thought.

Throughout my childhood, figures, nature, architecture were everywhere in my paintings. I saw art in the sprawling old architecture, human anatomy and in all the other objects around me. During my under graduate days in Kolkata I used to visit the Victoria Memorial Hall and Indian Museum to see western paintings and Indian sculptures. I saw works by Rembrandt, Picasso and all the Western masters as well as Indian sculpture and paintings from Ajanta to Konark. I admired both the styles and they are reflected in my paintings consciously and unconsciously. I liked the way Rembrandt used light, admired the Impressionists and the Cubist phase of Picasso, all these great work have influenced me to find my own style. To make the medium completely independent I sometimes experiment with these forms and techniques to realize my emotions and perceptions in the characters while portraying as a union of reality and imagination. Human figures were always a focal point in my painting, Travel is part of my life and it influences my canvases with different forms and emotions.

Impulse is always there, it is inherent, whatever I paint I try to represent that inner essence on paper and canvasses. Spiritual elements are more important to me in my paintings than the natural ones. After all one can replicate a character but the attempt would only result in a 'photograph' not a work of 'art'. Thus the search for the soul persists, the search to look within, and feel being one of them. In life while we try to capture what we see, we also keep changing because our way of seeing changes. The way I looked at a subject 20 years ago is not what I see now. I see less and exact now, there is a foundation of minimalist moods that has entered that approach, and it dictates what I translate onto the canvas.

As an artist, I have splashed my brushes and pens with various media. Be it watercolors, oil, acrylic or gouache, I am equally adept in all painting styles and have experimented with almost all types of medium. Over the years after experiencing all these mediums and mastering them, I often use multiple media. My paintings are often multi-layered and textured based. One can see the lowest layer through the top layers.

Education:

Bachelor degree of visual arts, from the Government College of Art and Craft, Calcutta, India.
Master degree of visual arts, from the Rabindra Bharati University, Calcutta, India.

Achievement:

Member of Arts Commission for City of Milpitas, CA, USA

Past Exhibitions:

Solo exhibition at Birla Academy of Art and Culture, Kolkata, India, 29th December 2009
Group show in Stanford Art Spaces (Stanford University, CA, USA), May 22, 2009 to July 24, 2009
Group show in Galerie Karma (Kolkata, India), From November 10, 2008 to November 16, 2008
2008: Group show - Kynkyny Art Gallery, Bangalore, India
2008: Solo exhibition at Phantom Art Gallery, City Hall, Milpitas, CA, USA. 2008.
May '08, Artist of the month, Gallery of International Art (www.goiart.com), 2008
2007: Group Show - HMP Gallery, Palo Alto, CA, USA,
2001: Group Exhibition, Academy of Fine Arts, Calcutta, India.
2000: 5 men Group Exhibition, Lalit Kala Academy, Delhi, India.
1999: Summer Group Show, Art Today.
1999: 5 men Group Exhibition, Birla Academy of Art & Culture, Calcutta, India.
1998: 5 men Group exhibition, Academy of Fine Arts, Calcutta, India.
1995, 1997: Participated in Academy of Fine Arts Annual Exhibition.
1994-1995: Calcutta Information Center Annual Exhibition.
1992-1995: Government College of Art & Craft, Annual Exhibition
1996: Rabindra Bharati University, Annual Exhibition.