

BLIND POET AND BUTTERFLIES

C. Douglas.

Moving from the personal to the universal, C Douglas' evocative work speak of disconnection, dislocation and disquiet while dealing with trans-national issues of migration and memory.



Kerala-born, Chennai-based artist C. Douglas (b. 1951), charted a unique path for himself within the context of the evolving Madras Art Movement, by absorbing the discussions on regional identity and nativism and adapting it to deal with trans-national issues of migration and memory. Broken mirrors, disjointed body parts, blind figures, fragmented objects and hollow spaces are some of the images through which Douglas communicates with his fellow beings. To quote Douglas, they evoke 'The void, the hollowness, the endless emptiness within all of us.' Douglas thus begins from the personal to address issues that are universal. The sense of alienation and exile that

Douglas personally experienced in his life and in writings such as T.S. Eliot's *Wasteland* and Albert Camus's *L'Etranger* are the source of his imagery. An avid reader, his works, such as the painting from the *Blind Poet and Butterflies* series takes forward his life-long engagement with images and ideas, all the while underscoring the idea of loss and absence. His use of paper, a material that is known for its impermanence, echoes his views on the fragility of the human condition.

Education

- 1994-96 Study in Ceramics at European Ceramics Centre.
 1971-76 Diploma in Painting, Government College of Arts and Crafts, Chennai.

Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2012 'Blind Poet and Butterflies', Focus Gallery, Chennai.
 2008 'Missed Call', AkarPrakar, Kolkata.
 2008 Ashvita Arts, Chennai.
 1996 Sakshi Gallery, Bangalore, Mumbai.
 1996 Alliance Francaise, Chennai.
 1995 'View from the Edge', Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai.
 1994 Schoo`s Art Gallery, Amsterdam.
 1992 Sakshi Gallery, Chennai and Mumbai.
 1986 European Patent Office Gallery, Munich.
 1983 BayerishesVerines Bank, Garmish, Germany.
 1982 Gallery am Horwath Haus, Murnau, Germany.

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2017 'Regional Modernity-Madras Art Movement', National Gallery of Modern Art, Bengaluru.
 2017 'Hangar for the Passerby', Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, New Delhi.
 2012 'Tactile', Latitude 28, New Delhi.
 2010 'The Metaphor and Beyond', Gallerie 88, Kolkata.
 2008 'Frame Figure Field: 20th Century Modern and Contemporary Indian Art', Delhi Art Gallery, New Delhi.
 1995 'Water Colors: A Broader Spectrum', Gallery Chemould, Mumbai.

1994 100 Years of National Gallery of Modern Art, National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), New Delhi.

- 1993 'Still Life', Sakshi Gallery, Mumbai.
 1992 'Parallel Perceptions', Shridharani Gallery, New Delhi.
 1991 Touch Stone, Sakshi Gallery, Mumbai.
 1991-93 Indian Artists - European Patent Office Gallery, Munich.
 1991 Indian Contemporary Artists, Arne Geminde Museum, Amsterdam.
 1986 International Art from Munich Studio.

Participations

- 2011 'The Intuitive: Logic Revisted', from the Osians Collection at The World Economic Forum, Davos, Switzerland.
 1992 7th Triennale, Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi.
 1977-79 Kalayatra Exhibition., Chennai, Mumbai and New Delhi.

Honours and Awards

- 1994 Received the Charles Wallace Grant.
 Received UNESCO Grant.
 1992 Received National Award, Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi.
 1991-93 Received Cultural Fellowship, Government of India, New Delhi.
 1994-96 Received Cultural Fellowship, Government of India, New Delhi.
 1990 Award, Bharat Bhavan, Bhopal.
 1980-90 Award, Tamil Nadu State Lalit Kala Akademi, Chennai.

A documentary film on C. Douglas titled **Black Mirror** directed by **Gita Hudson** will be screened, followed by a Q & A session with the artist and director at InKo Centre on **10 November 2017**.
 (Language: English; Duration: 30 minutes.)

Presented in association with



The exhibition will be on view
 at The Gallery @ InKo Centre
 from **10 November to 2 December 2017**.