

## JAMINI ROY

Born 1887, West Bengal

Born in 1887 in a small village in the Bankura district, West Bengal, Jamini Roy joined the Government School of Art, Kolkata in 1903. He began his career by painting in the Post-Impressionist genre of landscapes and portraits, very much in keeping with his training in a British academic system. Yet, by 1925, Roy had begun experimenting along the lines of popular bazaar paintings sold outside the Kalighat temple in Kolkata. By the early 1930s, Roy began to use indigenous materials in his works, painting on woven mats, cloth and wood coated with lime. His inspiration for painting on woven mats was the textures he found in Byzantine art, which he had seen in color photographs. It occurred to him that painting on a woven mat might make for an interesting mosaic-like surface.

The Santhals, tribal people who live in the rural districts of Bengal, were an important subject for Roy. A series of works done a decade before World War II is a prime example of how he captured the qualities that are a part of native folk painting and combined them with those of his own. He fused the minimal brush strokes of the Kalighat style with elements of tribal art from Bengal (like that of the terracotta work found in the Bishnupur temple, where terracotta was often composed into elaborate, decorative units over portals and across exterior walls of the temples).

Roy's rejection of the then modern style of painting and his foray into the realm of Bengali folk paintings marked a new beginning in the history of Indian modern art. The mother and child, Radha, and animals were painted in simple two-dimensional forms, with flat color application and an emphasis on the lines. The main subjects were often enclosed within decorative borders with motifs in the background. The figure of the Christ was also one of Roy's common subjects.

Roy held several one-man exhibitions and numerous group shows. His works can be found in several private and public collections, institutions and museums all over the world, including the Lalit Kala Academy in Delhi and museums in Germany and the United States of America.

Died 1972, Kolkata, India.

### Education

1903-08      Diploma in Fine Arts, Government School of Arts and Craft

### Select Solo Exhibitions

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| 2019 | <i>Jamini Roy</i> , Gallery 7, Mumbai   |
| 2018 | <i>Conserving Treasures: Jamini Roy and Modern Indian Art</i> , Harn Museum of Art, Gainesville, Florida                              |
| 2015 | <i>Living Folk</i> , Aicon Gallery, New York  |
| 2012 | <i>Jamini Roy &amp; Somnath Hore: Figuration in the Bengal School: Part I – Jamini Roy: A Retrospective</i> , Aicon Gallery, New York |
| 2003 | <i>Exhibition of Works of Jamini Roy</i> , Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi  |
| 1995 | <i>From Seeds to Flowers – Jamini Roy and His Roots</i> , Romain Rolland Galerie, Alliance Francaise, New Delhi                       |
| 1938 | British Indian Street, Calcutta   |

### Select Group Exhibitions

- 2013 *Panoplism'*, Nature Morte, New Delhi
- 2013 *The Naked and the Nude: The Body in Indian Modern Art'*, Delhi Art Gallery, New Delhi
- 2012 *Gallery Collection*, Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi
- 2012 *Contemporary: A Selection of Modern and Contemporary Art*, presented by Sakshi Gallery at the Park, Chennai
- 2011 *The Body Unbound*, Rubin Museum of Art, New York
- 2011 *The Emergence of Indian Modern Art*, Aicon Gallery, New York
- 2011 *Ethos V: Indian Art Through the Lens of History (1900 to 1980)*, Indigo Blue Art, Singapore
- 2011 *Manifestations VI*, Delhi Art Gallery, New Delhi
- 2011 *Manifestations V*, Delhi Art Gallery, New Delhi
- 2011 *States of Departure: Progressives to Present Day*, Aicon Gallery, London
- 2011 *Masterclass*, Dhoomimal Art Gallery, New Delhi
- 2011 *Time Unfolded*, Kiran Nadar Museum of Art (KNMA), New Delhi
- 2011 *The Fish Eyed Cosmos*, Apparao Galleries, Chennai
- 2011 *Roots in the Air, Branches Below: Modern & Contemporary Art from India*, San Jose Museum of Art, San Jose
- 2010 *Modern Folk: The Folk Art Roots of the Modernist Avant-Garde*, Aicon Gallery, New York
- 2010 *Manifestations IV*, Delhi Art Gallery, New Delhi
- 2010 *Celebration 2010*, Annual Exhibition, Kumar Art Gallery, New Delhi
- 2009 *Indian Art After Independence: Selected Works from the Collections of Virginia & Ravi Akhoury and Shelley & Donald Rubin*, Emily Lowe Gallery, Hempstead
- 2009 *In Search of the Vernacular*, Aicon Gallery, New York
- 2009 *Kalpana: Figurative Art in India*, presented by The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) at Aicon Gallery, London; The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)
- 2009 *Moderns and More*, Aicon Gallery, Palo Alto
- 2008 *Multiple Modernities: India, 1905-2005*, Philadelphia Museum of Art
- 2008 *Post Independence Masters*, Aicon Gallery, New York
- 2005 *Manifestations III – 100 Artists of Contemporary Art*, organized by Delhi Art Gallery at Nehru Centre, Mumbai, Lalit Kala Akademi, Rabindra Bhavan, New Delhi and Delhi Art Gallery, New Delhi
- 2004 *Manifestations II – 100 Artists of Contemporary Art*, organized by Delhi Art Gallery at Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai and Delhi Art Gallery, New Delhi
- 2003 *Manifestations I – Indian Art in the 20th Century*, organized by Delhi Art Gallery at World Trade Centre, Mumbai and Delhi Art Gallery, New Delhi
- 2003 *Poetry and Patriotic Fervor*, Delhi Art Gallery, New Delhi
- 2003 *Indian Art Pre-Independence*, Delhi Art Gallery, New Delhi
- 2000 *Face Off 1900-1980s. An Exhibition of Indian Old Masters and Moderns*, Delhi Art Gallery, New Delhi

2000	<i>Art of Bengal: Past and Present 1850-2000</i> , Centre for International Modern Art (CIMA), Kolkata
1998	<i>Art of Bengal 1850-1950: Calcutta Metropolitan Festival of Art</i> , Birla Academy of Art and Culture, Kolkata
1998	<i>Temperas and Sketches</i> , Art Bazar, Kolkata
1995	<i>The Simplicity of a Pioneer</i> , The Window, Mumbai
1990	<i>Centenary Exhibition</i> , Cymroza Art Gallery, Mumbai
1987	<i>Centenary Exhibition</i> , National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), New Delhi
1987	<i>Centenary Exhibition</i> , Birla Academy of Art and Culture, Kolkata

#### **Awards & Honors**

1967	Awarded honorary D. Litt., Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata
1956	Elected Fellow, Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi
1955	Awarded Padma Bhushan, Government of India
1935	Awarded Viceroy's Gold Medal for 'Mother Helping the Child to Cross the Pool.'

#### **Special Projects**

2020	India Art Fair 2020, Focus Section, Grosvenor Gallery, New Delhi
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