

French artist of Indian origin

RECOGNITION: In the last 10 years Sen Shombit has exposed his Gesturism Art in different countries such as Japan, Italy, Austria, France, Belgium, Canada, the US, China and India. He has been selected to showcase his works in numerous famous French Salons (created by King Louis XIV inside the Carre de Louvre) in Paris such as Societie Nationale des Beaux Arts, Salon d'Automne and Salon des Art Capital.

EARLY LIFE: Sen was born in 1954 in a refugee camp near Calcutta with no potable water, no electricity, no sanitation. In such an environment his dream of becoming an artist seemed unattainable. Close to his refugee camp, at age 12, he suddenly discovered Chandernagore, the erstwhile territory of France. So the French artistic wave and culture grabbed his subconscious mind from an early age. Against all odds he persisted with sharp focus on art, and drove himself to get admitted to Government College of Arts and Craft in Kolkata (the first Western art college in India since 1860).

IN SEARCH OF HIS DREAMS: At age 19, with \$ 8 in his pocket and his first paintings under his arm, Sen landed in Paris. Without papers, without work, without friends, Sen was nevertheless sure of his destiny to be in art in France. He was first illegally employed as a sweeper in a lithographic printshop by its kindhearted proprietor who was impressed by his paintings. Here he rubbed shoulders with painters such as Leonor Fini, Alain Bonnefoit, Yves Brayer and many others. At the same time, he studied at the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts (1974-76) and Academie Julian Penninghen (1975-77). French art and culture became his foundation of life. Simultaneously with his creative work, he had to pursue applied art as a designer for livelihood earning where he very successfully worked for the biggest French and international brands across the world. Sen lived in France from 1973 to 2003, became a French citizen in 1984, and now divides his time between India and France.

INSPIRATION: Sen finds that French society has phenomenal imaginative artistic power, is conscious of the intangible aspect and can absorb the shock of the new. That's why so many foreign artists are inspired and drawn to France as the world's prime country of art. The artistic inspiration and skill that artist Sen has experienced from French people and the French community of art has overwhelmed him. From his age of 19 when he too arrived in France, Sen has been carrying this inspiration with him always. Intensely searching for an ideology of his own to transcend Post Modern Art in France, Sen immersed himself totally into Western European, particularly French art movements since 1870. Imbibing the creative discipline of art in France, he understood that it is important for a painter to have an ideological anchor for his new artistic vision.

VISION: He started to create a new vision of art from 1994; he called it Gesturism Art. Grappling with contradictory cultures, Sen has a way of painting without

limits to show that which is not seen, but which is nevertheless essential. His painting practice is akin to inherently spontaneous writing that freely flows from imagination, just as Gesturism Art is his personal pictorial narrative.

GESTURISM ART: Abstract with hidden figuratives

PAINTINGS: Sen's interaction with the canvas is guided by the spirit of the painting where the lines, curves, volumes, colours intermingle and complement one another, creating shapes and figures for the viewer to discover and intuitively grasp. His paintings are like brain-teasers. They require viewers to untangle the riddle and share the artist's vision so as to perceive what is hidden and awaiting discovery.

IRREVERENT COLOURS: Sen began to feel trapped in Cartesian discipline and order of Western art, in terms of control of colour, form and shape. So on returning to India in 2003, although his art continues to be structured by the Cartesian discipline he acquired in France, the free and irreverent use of colour in Indian social life enveloped him and began to complement his works of art.

SEN SHOMBIT: Major Exhibitions

France, Paris 2020, Galerie Sonia Monti

France, Paris 2020, Salon Société des Artistes Français, Art Capital 2020 Grand Palais

France, Paris 2019 Salon des Beaux Arts 2019 Carrousel du Louvre

France, Nogent-sur-Marne 2019 Carre des Coignard

France, Paris 2019 Salon d'Automne 2019 Avenue des Champs Elysees

France, Collioure 2019 Ancienne mairie, Place du 18 Juin

France, Paris 2019 Salon Société des Artistes Français, Art Capital 2019 Grand Palais

France, Paris 2019 Académie Européenne des Arts Galerie de Nesle

China, Xi'an 2019 Xi'an International Art Museum, Shaanxi Sheng

India, Bangalore 2019 Gallery Time and Space

France, Paris 2018 Salon des Beaux Arts 2018 Carrousel du Louvre

France, Paris 2018 Salon d'Automne 2018 Ave des Champs Elysees

France, Barbizon 2018 Horizons 4 expo Espace Culturel Marc Jacquet

France, Paris 2018 Salon du Dessin et de la Peinture à l'Eau, Art Capital Grand Palais

Canada, Montréal 2018 Galerie 203

France, Paris 2017 SNBA Salon des Beaux Arts Carrousel du Louvre

France, Barbizon 2017 l'Académie Jacques Boitiat

France, Barbizon 2017 Galerie AlfArt-LBK
India, Bombay 2016 ICIA Gallery
France, Barbizon 2016 Espace Culturel Marc Jacquet
Italy, Milan 2015 Museo Arte e Scienza
Austria, Blindenmarkt 2015 Château Hubertendorf
France, Paris 2015 Carrousel du Louvre
India, Calcutta 2015 Academy of Fine Arts
Italy, Venice 2015 Palazzo Ca' Zanardi
Japan, Tokyo 2015 Harajuku
India, Calcutta 1999 Information Center
India, Calcutta 1999 Information Center
India, Bombay 1998 Jamaat Art Gallery
France, Paris 1994 Galerie Polaris
France, Paris 1993 Musée de l'Affiche
India, Calcutta 1992 Oberoi Grand Hotel
India, Calcutta 1991 Academy of Fine Arts
France, Cannes 1989 Hotel Carlton
India, Calcutta 1982 Academy of Fine Arts
India, Calcutta 1980 Academy of Fine Arts
France, Paris 1974 Indian Tourist Board

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About 3 Paintings: **Abundance of love** - 2017 - Water color on paper, 102 x 152 cm

Gaiety - 2017 - Water color on paper, 102 x 152 cm

Chasing a reverie - 2017 - Water color on paper, 102 x 152 cm

Theme of all 3 paintings: **Irreverent melody**

In the slum-like refugee camp I grew up in, pigs were everywhere. They were my childhood domesticated friends.

Imagination beyond social boundary: So in my imagination I wanted to break what's largely considered as ugly (pig) and bring it together with beauty I revere and cherish (woman) to make a new imagination in my painting.

I found an emotional connect and irreverent dynamism between the woman with the pig or boar. I know that the pig has some negative connotation of being ugly, dirty and being a glutton, but all these characteristics have been symbolized by human beings. By themselves, I find pigs have a nonchalant attitude of not caring what others think; in fact their faces have a smiling look!

History: For your information, in early Egyptian, Celtic and Greco-Roman cultures, the pig stands for fertility (great mother goddess, patron of nature and magic) and is an icon for abundance. For the Chinese, the pig was a symbol of virility, strength, and fertility in ancient cultures, and considered a symbol of sincerity, honesty, and determination. Greek farmers sacrifice pigs to deities for bumper crops, while Native American plains tribes link pigs to abundance, fertility and agriculture.

Pig characteristics: Pigs are one of the most social and intelligent farm animals. Contrary to belief, pigs are generally clean animals. They choose their toilet far away from their food, water troughs and shelter. Pigs are easy to domesticate and highly trainable too as they have good sense of smell, are smart and so can be trained to retrieve or hunt something.