

# ASIT PODDAR

## Artist Statement



Among the many mediums like acrylic, pastel, and watercolor, watercolor is my preferred choice. I enjoy painting both figurative and landscape subjects. My alma mater, the Government College of Art in Kolkata, has a rich tradition of watercolor painting. Additionally, I spent two years studying art in Japan, where watercolor is a highly respected medium. Legendary artists like Nandalal Bose, Jamini Roy, Ganesh Payne, Jogen Chowdhury, Shyamal Dutta Roy, and others have significantly contributed to the Indian watercolor tradition.

In March 2020, India imposed a nationwide lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a frequent traveler, I was grounded due to the suspension of all flights. The news from Italy, France, Spain, and my home country was grim. I stopped going to my studio and focused on spending time with my family. The world was engulfed in a sense of despair.

Fortunately, my house has a rooftop garden filled with a variety of flowers. Inspired by the morning glory, rose, cosmos, zinnia, sunflower, and others, I began painting them daily in watercolor. I shared these works with my artist friends, poets, and art lovers on WhatsApp, and they eagerly awaited my new creations.

Flowers, with their vibrant colors and blooms, symbolize friendship, purity, forgiveness, and even death. They hold profound spiritual meanings, representing oneness, unity, connection, and unanimity. Flowers bring joy and pleasure to humankind.