

## **Abanindranath Tagore**

Indian

Born- August **1871**, Jorasanko, Calcutta

Died -December **1951**

Lived and worked in West Bengal, India

Medium: Painting, trained in the use of oils and pastels in the early days, later gave them up for the use of water colour in favour of Japanese brush stroke technique to develop a more uniquely Indian style blended with the orient.

Abanindranath, hailing from the distinguished, multifaceted family of the Tagore's was also a renowned writer of children's book.

### **Education:**

**1880-1889:** Studied at Sanskrit College, Calcutta

**1890:** Special student at Xavier's College, Calcutta

Took private lessons from Signor Gilhardi in Pastels and Water Colours

Took private lessons from the English painter Charles Palmer in life-study, oils and portraiture.

Worked closely with E.B. Havell developing his Mughal and Rajput styles in Miniature painting.

Learnt oriental techniques of composition, details on gestures and Japanese brush and wash technique from Okakuru, Taikan and Shunso.

### **Awards**

**2012** Inaugural Medal of Art, US Department of State (AIE), Washington DC

**2005** Tamgha-e-imitiaz, National Medal of Honour, Government of Pakistan

### **Selected Artworks**

#### **Exhibitions:**

##### **Solo:**

**1996:** Art of Abanindranath, Nandan Gallery, Shantiniketan

##### **Group Exhibitions:**

**1928:** Athena, Geneva, Switzerland

**1924:** Traveling exhibition, USA, organised by Indian Federation of art and Indian Society of Oriental Arts

**1915-16:** Indian Society for Oriental Arts, Calcutta and Young Man's Indian Association, Chennai

**1914:** 22<sup>nd</sup> Exhibition of Societes des Peintres Orientales Fracois, Grand Palais, Paris, Traveling to Belgium, Holland, Imperial Institute, England.

**1911:** Festival of Empire, Organised by Indian Society for Oriental Arts for George V's coronation, Crystal Palace, England

**1911:** Indian Society for Oriental Arts, Allahabad

**1900:** American federation of Art, USA

**1900:** Govt. School of Art and Crafts Exhibition.

#### **Text**

He was noted for his literary genius too; his critiques of fine arts are notable for their refined artistic judgement. His important writings include *Shakuntala* (1895), *Ksireer Putul* (The sweetmeat doll,

1896), *Rajkahini O Bharatshilpa* (The story of the Raj and Art of India, 1909), *Banglar Vrata* (Festivities of Bengal, 1919), *Khajanchir Khata O Priyadarshika* (Ledger-book and the Fair Lady, 1921), *Chitraksar* (Painting, 1929), *Bageshvari Shilpa* (Art of the Muse, 1941), *Jodasankor Dhare* (Living at Jorasanko, 1944), *Sahaj Chitra Shiksha* (Easy way to learn paintings, 1946), four volumes of stories (1846), *Apan Katha* (My own stories, 1946), *Bharat Shilper Sadanga* (Six Components of Indian Fine Art, 1947), *Alor Phulki* (Sparks of fire, 1947), *Bharat Shilpe Murti* (Image in Indian arts, 1947), *Shilpayan* (Fine Art, 1955), *Kishor Sanchayan* (Stories for the Young, 1960), *Badshahi Galpa* (Stories of Kings, 1976), etc. He died in Kolkata on 5 December 1951.

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