

Benode Behari Mukherjee

Indian Modern Artist

Born 1904, West Bengal, India

Lived and worked in India, Nepal, Tokyo

Died 1980

Education

1919 [Kala Bhavana](#), Kolkata, India

Benode Behari Mukherjee is one of the pioneers of 20th century Indian Contextual Modernism, taking inspiration from ancient Indian and foreign art styles. He was born with a chronic eye problem and completely lost his eyesight in 1956. He painted with a vast variety of mediums including watercolors, pen and ink, tempera, woodcut prints and all of these seem to be conveying the same message- that of finding respite and spirituality in the mundane everyday life.

Selected Exhibitions

Solo

1969 "Retrospective," New Delhi	
1964 "Retrospective," Benares	
1959 "Retrospective," Calcutta	
1921 "Exhibition," Indian Society of Oriental Art, Calcutta	

Group

1997 "Santiniketan: The Making of Contextual Modernism curated by R. Sivakumar," National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi	1
1995 "Man & Nature: Reflections of Six Artists curated by Keshav Malik with Indian National Trust for Art & Cultural Heritage," National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi	2

Posthumous exhibitions

2013 "Nandalal Bose & Benode Behari Mukherjee," Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi	
2012 "Exhibition," Akar Prakar, Kolkata	
2011 "Manifestations VI," Delhi Art Gallery, New Delhi	http://www.delhiartgallery.com/exhibitions-images.asp?id=24
2011 "Ethos V: Indian Art Through the Lens of History (1900 to 1980)," Indigo Blue Art,	http://www.indigoblueart.com/site/exhibitions/ethos-v/

Singapore	
2008 "Freedom 2008: Sixty Years of Indian Independence," Centre for International Modern Art (CIMA), Kolkata; Museum Gallery, Mumbai	3
2007 "Benodee Behari Mukherjee: A Centenary Retrospective curated by Gulammohammed Sheikh & R Siva Kumar," National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi	http://ngmaindia.gov.in/benodebehari_early.asp

Text

News EYE CATCHERS, The Hindu, 2005	http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-features/tp-sundaymagazine/article3232514.ece
Review Benodebehari Mukherjee- Murals, R. Sivakumar GM & Nilima Sheikh, NGMA, 2006	http://ngmaindia.gov.in/benodebehari_murals.asp
Feature , The Blind Master, Paroma Maiti, ArtSlant, 2007	http://www.artslant.com/ind/articles/show/31220
Feature POSTCARDS FROM BENODE BEHARI MUKHERJEE, Paroma Maiti, Take on Art, November 2012	https://takeonart.wordpress.com/2012/11/02/postcards-from-benode-behari-mukherjee/
Feature Clarity of vision beyond sight, Soumitra Das, The Telegraph, October 2005	http://www.telegraphindia.com/1051001/asp/cuttta/story_5291489.asp

Videos

Documentary The Inner Eye, Satyajit Ray, Kolkata, 1972	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XjaSB7JkFqU
Short film A letter in the dark, Mahan J Dutta, 2011	https://vimeo.com/25999195
Work Paintings by Benode Behari Mukherjee, India, 2010	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GPIRjOZ02nl

Awards

1980 Bharatiya Bhasha Parishad Award

1980 Rabindra Puraskar

1977 Desikottama, the honorary doctoral degree, Visva Bharati, Santiniketan

1974 Padma Vibhushan, Govt. of India

Selected Images

1. Benode Behari Mukherjee, *Laughter*, tempera on paper

2. Benode Behari Mukherjee, *Sunflowers*, oil on cloth
3. Benode Behari Mukherjee, *The Tree Lover*, 1932, tempera on paper
4. Benode Behari Mukherjee, *Studio*, tempera on paper
5. Benode Behari Mukherjee, *Lotus*, water colour & ink on paper
6. Benode Behari Mukherjee, *Picture Dealer's Shop in Japan*, 1938, water colour on silk
7. Benode Behari Mukherjee, *Banaras ghat*, 1942, water on paper
8. Benode Behari Mukherjee, *Sar Grass*, 1938, tempera on paper
9. Benode Behari Mukherjee, *The bridge*, 1932, tempera on cloth
10. Benode Bihari Mukherjee, *Ceramic tile mural at Kala Bhavan*, 1958
11. Benode Bihari Mukherjee, *Santhal Boys with Bullock Cart*, 1952, tempera on paper
12. Benode Behari Mukherjee, *Massage boy*, 1944, woodcut on paper
13. Benode Bihari Mukherjee, *Patna: Figure with Fish Pond*, 1957, tempera on paper
14. Benode Bihari Mukherjee, *Trees*, 1938, pen and black ink and watercolour on paper
15. Benode Bihari Mukherjee, *Village Life in Birbhum*, 1940, mural in egg tempera
16. Benode Bihari Mukherjee, *Life of Medieval Saints, (detail)*, 1947, mural in fresco buono, 23.07 X 2.44 m
17. Benode Bihari Mukherjee, *Sthala Padma*, 1947, tempera on Nepali paper, 35 x 29 cm
18. Benode Bihari Mukherjee, *Man Seated on Chair*, 1962, marker on paper
19. Benode Bihari Mukherjee, *Figure on Buffalo*, 1958, wax
20. Benode Bihari Mukherjee, *Jatra*, paper collage, 25 x 19 cm
21. Benode Behari Mukherjee, *Nepal*