

On the pious occasion of Abanindranath Tagore's 150th Birth Anniversary we are privileged to provide you with an opportunity to look into his Art and realize what a huge contribution he has made in Indian Art.

Inspired by the thoughts and nationalist ideas of exceptional personalities like Ernest Benfield Havel and the spiritual dynamo Sister Nivedita Abanindranath brought the welcome change the Indian Art field was yearning for.

Abanindranath was a magnificent bridge between the glory of ancient Indian Art and the vibrant Contemporary creative circuit which was buzzing with the ideas of reviving and resurrecting the roots of Indianness with Art as a tool to inspire and instil a pride of self-esteem.

He devoted himself to serve the cause of Bengal Renaissance with his brilliant brush.

Introduced to Art in his childhood, he got further formal training in painting from two Westerners as his teachers, Italian painter Signor Olinto Ghilardi and British artist Mr. Charles Palmer which he felt was limiting for his expression.

Like a turbulent river he moulded and melted the Oriental and the Occidental in his own manner and flowed on with his abundant creative energy and indicate new directions and bends for creative minds from which even the artists and art lovers can draw inspiration from. He blended the techniques of British Watercolour, the Japanese Wash Technique with the Gouache method of colour application seen in the Rajput and Mughal miniatures.

His works on one hand reflected the glorious legacy and magnificent brilliance of the Rajput and Mughal miniatures whereas his pastel works and sketches show how he had assimilated the skills of the Western masters with his own to create an inimitable style of his own.

He was a teacher of teachers who produced students like the great Nandalal Bose, Samarendranath Gupta, Kshitindranath Majumdar, Surendranath Ganguly, Asit Kumar Haldar, Sarada Ukil, Kalipada Ghoshal, Manishi Dey, Mukul Dey, K. Venkatappa and Ranada Ukil by inspiring them with his sheer brilliance and practical skillset of brushwork and imagination as a working artist as the Principal of Government Art College whereas as a master of Art and aesthetics theories he mesmerized the scholars at the University of Calcutta during the tenure of Sir Ashutosh Mukherjee.

Even the stones and rocks he picked up later in his life were transformed by his Midas touch to brilliant artistic shapes and artforms whom lovingly named as Katumkutums.

He was inspired by his illustrious uncle the great Poetlaureate Rabindranath Tagore, but was never overshadowed by his brilliance instead he carved his own niche from the creative corner of Bichitra Studio originated in Dakshiner Baranda (A creative club at Southern Corner Verandah at Jorasanko, an address which was Rabindranath's birthplace). He blended the mysticism of Arabian Nights with the eternal romances of Indian myths and folklore in his Art with utmost ease.

Apart from being a literary genius and a prolific storyteller for children he took part in acting, creating costumes and designing sets for the plays of Tagore too.

His creative genius had a meditative Saint at the centre of it as he was a man who never traveled physically but chose to fly his creative soul all around to gather and assimilate the components of his creations from all over the world to churn them deep in his heart to create the eternal nectar of his mystic and magical Art.

We have chosen to pay homage and attempted to pay our tribute the great master with some of his brilliant creations from the collection of Indian Museum with a hope to inspire and instil sublime joy and pleasure in the artists and lovers of art on this very special Day on which he graced the earth and our beautiful country whom he perceived and painted as Bharat Maata. His Art was a boon which had transformed Indian Art forever.