

Emami Art inaugurates Jogen Chowdhury's 'Reverie and Reality'

An exhibition of art celebrating over six decades of his work

Showcases more than 200 artworks of the artist between 1955 to 2015

Kolkata, September 20, 2019: Emami Art, the contemporary art gallery at the **Kolkata Centre for Creativity (KCC)** today inaugurated **'Reverie and Reality'**, a solo exhibition of one of India's most eminent artists, **Mr. Jogen Chowdhury**. The exhibition has been curated by poet and cultural theorist, **Mr. Ranjit Hoskote**. The exhibition was inaugurated by **Mr. Soumitra Chatterjee**, eminent Film & Theatre Personality, **Ms. Arundhati Bhattacharya**, former Chairman of State Bank of India, **Mr. Ashok Vajpeyi**, eminent Poet, Art & Culture Personality and **Ms. Richa Agarwal**, CEO Emami Art & Executive Director, Kolkata Centre for Creativity.

'Reverie and Reality' celebrates more than six decades of Chowdhury's art. This exhibition brings together works from all phases of his career over the years, spanning from 1955 to 2015, embracing a variety of media and themes. Renowned collectors and galleries from India as well as overseas such as Bollywood celebrity couple Shah Rukh and Gauri Khan, Masanori Fukuoka, Dadiba and Khorshed Pundole, Gallery Mirchandani and Steinruecke, Rajiv Bhargava, Prashant Tulsian, Abhrajit Mitra, Delhi Art Gallery and many more have shared Jogen Chowdhury's work from their private collection for this exhibition.

Jogen Chowdhury is one of India's most distinguished artists. His vibrant imagination reflects his dynamism, his curiosity about the enchantment of the everyday remains unabated, and he extends himself vigorously as a painter, writer, cultural organiser and institution-builder.

Speaking on the occasion, **Ms. Richa Agarwal CEO Emami Art** said, "We are privileged to showcase six decades of Jogen's exceptional work at our gallery. Reverie and Reality will offer the audiences an exclusive opportunity to go through a journey of emotions for the next two months."

Art Critic, curator and poet Ranjit Hoskote who also curated this show said "Reverie and Reality' traces a retrospective arc across Jogen Chowdhury's oeuvre, from the mid-1950s to the present – a period that coincides with our history as an independent nation, with all its crises, anxieties, hopes and dreams. We have brought together nearly 200 works, spanning diverse phases of the artist's work, and spanning several media including oils, water colour, graphite and charcoal drawings, lithographs, pastels, mixed media work, and book illustration. This exhibition is a tribute to one of India's most distinguished artists in his many roles, as creator of images, teacher, cultural activist & organizer and builder of institutions."

Jogen Chowdhury stated, “Artists express themselves through their artworks, which is a very personal and intimate experience. This is a very special occasion for me to share my journey of six decades for the first time at Emami Art, Kolkata Centre for Creativity.”

The exhibition will be open from September 21 2019 to December 7, 2019 **at Emami Art, Kolkata Centre for Creativity from 11 am to 7 pm on all days, except Mondays.**

Note to Editors:

About the Artist

Jogen Chowdhury is a distinguished painter, and is regarded as one of the most important and seminal figures in the history of postcolonial Indian art. Having come to public attention during the early 1970s, Chowdhury continues to lead the way through his practice, mentorship, writing and institution-building projects in the 21st century. Born in Faridpur, undivided India (now in Bangladesh), 1939, he graduated from the Government College of Art and Craft, Kolkata, in 1960. He received a scholarship from the French Government and went on to study at the École des Beaux-Arts, Paris, in 1965. He was professor at the Department of Painting and Principal of Kala Bhavana, Visva Bharati, and is now Emeritus Professor, Visva Bharati, Santiniketan.

It was after returning from France in the late 1960s that Chowdhury developed his individual style. Chowdhury's forte is painting in ink, watercolour and pastel. He explores the soft curves and angularities of contorted bodies using ink combined with pastels, often using a distinctive crosshatching technique.

Chowdhury's notable exhibitions include, 'Jogen Chowdhury: Formative to Recent' (CIMA, Kolkata, 2014), 'Lignes de Meditation' (Gallery Veda, Chennai, 2012-2013), and 'A Calligraphy of Touch and Gaze' (presented by Kalakriti Art Gallery at ICIA, Mumbai, 2008). Chowdhury has also held solo exhibitions at Gajah Gallery, Singapore; Gallerie Foundation for Indian Artists, Amsterdam; and the Fine Art Resource, Berlin.

Chowdhury has participated in major exhibitions such as the Triennale India II, III and IV (New Delhi, 1971, 1974, 1977), the international exhibition at Cagne-sur-Mer, France (1976), 'Pictorial Space', Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi, curated by Geeta Kapur (1976), the 15th Sao Paulo Biennale, Brazil (1978), Asian Art Exhibition, Fukuoka, Japan (1979), 'Place for People', curated by Geeta Kapur, Lalit Kala Akademi (1980), 'Contemporary Indian Paintings', Hirshhorn Museum, Washington DC (1982), Oxford Museum of Modern Art, Oxford (1982), Festival of India, Royal Academy of Art, London (1982), Festival of India, Paris (1985), 2nd Biennale of Havana, Cuba (1986), Festival of India, Japan (1987), Olympiad of Art, Seoul (1987), Le Monde de L'art, Paris (1995), 'Contemporary Indian Artists', Bose Pacia Modern, New York (1995), 'Tryst with Destiny - Art from Modern India (1947-1997)', Singapore, organized by CIMA Gallery, Kolkata & National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi (1997), 'Modern Indian Art', Pundole Art Gallery and Saffron Art, Metropolitan Pavilion, New York (2001), 'Crossing Generations: Diverge - Forty Years of Gallery Chemould', curated by Geeta Kapur, National Gallery of Modern Art, Mumbai (2003), Grosvenor Art Gallery, London, presented by Vadehra Art Gallery (2006), 'Compelling Presence', a retrospective exhibition at National Gallery of Modern Art, Bangalore (2016).

Chowdhury was a member of the jury for the Indian Section of Triennale India (1997), member of the Advisory Committee, National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi (1998-2000), and jury member for the Singapore Biennale (2003). He has received numerous honours and awards, among them the Prix le France de la Jeune Peinture, Paris (1966), and awards at the 2nd Biennale of Havana, Cuba (1986) and the International Print Biennale, Bhopal (1995). He has been honoured with the prestigious Kalidas Samman by the Government of Madhya Pradesh, (2001), an honorary D. Litt by Rabindra Bharati University (2010), the Banga Bibhushan award by the Government of West Bengal (2012), and the Zainul Samman (2016) by Dhaka University, Bangladesh.

Chowdhury's works are represented in important collections in India and abroad, including the Victoria & Albert Museum, London; the Peabody Essex Museum, USA; the Glenbarra Art Museum, Japan; National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi; the Kiran Nadar Museum of Modern Art, New Delhi; the Kasturbhai Lalbhai Museum, Ahmedabad; the Singapore Art Museum; and the Roopankar Museum, Bhopal.

Jogen Chowdhury lives and works out of Santiniketan, Kolkata and New Delhi.

About Emami Art

A destination for Modern & cutting- edge Contemporary Art, **Emami Art** is a one-of-a-kind art space built in keeping with international standards. Positioned as a key destination for artists, visitors and art collectors, the gallery aligns with the Emami Group's mission to support artists & artisans and contribute to society's wellbeing. A regular programme of curated exhibitions, includes the works of new talents and eminent masters of regional, national and international repute, that aligns with the promoters' ideology that while the popular contributes to the academic, the academic uplifts the popular. Spearheaded by Richa Agarwal, Emami Art's new 10,000 sq.ft. art space is located in the **Kolkata Centre for Creativity (KCC)**, a state-of-the-art multi-disciplinary interactive art centre, off Eastern Metropolitan Bypass, Kolkata, India. www.emamiart.com

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