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***ART EXHIBITION***  
***A LIFE IN WATERCOLOR: AN EXHIBITION OF WATERCOLOR***  
***PAINTINGS BY ARTIST SATYEN CHAKRABORTY***

**By Angana Dutta**



Exhibition-cum-sale, titled *Life in Water Color*, was inaugurated on Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at Chemould Art Gallery (Park Street) by eminent dignitaries in field of art and literature as Sahitya Akademy award winning poet Subodh Sarkar, President of Academy of Fine Arts, Kolkata, Swapnesh Choudhury, eminent artists Alok Bhattacharya and Apurba Pal. The exhibition-cum-sale of 31 water colour paintings of Chakraborty will be on display till 13<sup>th</sup> April 2016.



Chakraborty was awarded the '**Dhiren Krishna Deb Burman Smriti Puraskar**' by the Tripura state Government in 2009 for his valuable contribution towards the art and cultural development of the state.

Born in 1941, Satyen Chakraborty graduated in Applied Art from the Govt. College of Art and Craft, Kolkata in 1964. He joined as a Teacher of Applied Art in the Govt. College of Art, Agartala, right at its inception and taught the subject for his entire career and retired in 1999. During this career he travelled to the interiors of Tripura and studied the local tribal communities. Tribal art and culture have been a constant subject of his paintings. While Chakraborty specialises in transparent watercolour, he is at ease with sketches, acrylic and oil, collage and mixed media. In his more than fifty years of career as an artist, there have been numerous exhibitions of his works in Tripura.



Chakraborty, now 74, has organised Exhibition: Life in Water Color, with a renewed zeal. The programme was inaugurated on the 9<sup>th</sup> of April by eminent dignitaries who gave short speeches.

Sahitya Akademy award winning poet Subodh Sarkar, appreciated Chakraborty's gentle strokes and ample relief, which soothes the eye. Reflecting on his independent style of presentation, Sarkar was reminded that once Picasso had commented that he started out wanting to become a painter, but he became Picasso. Drawing an analogy Sarkar noted that today's artist started to become a painter, but he became Satyen.



President of Academy of Fine Arts, artist Swapnesh Choudhury stressed that in an age of rapid globalisation, uniformity and monotony often limits the field of art. In that context, Chakraborty's creations still had the freshness of the local, a connection with indigenous India.

Acclaimed painter and illustrator Alok Bhattacharya appreciated Chakraborty's confident strokes with water colours, which needs firm decisiveness, as there is no scope for corrections in water colours.



Ever since his retirement, Chakraborty has been painting all on his own. It was eminent painter Apurba Pal who greatly motivated Chakraborty, aged 74, to come out with his works in an exhibition. Pal congratulated Chakraborty on his courage to organise the exhibit at this age, and expressed his conviction that this was the beginning of a continuing effort of reaching out to more people.

### **Bio**

**Angana Dutta is** Assistant Professor of Sociology at Jogesh Chandra Chaudhuri College 8yrs of teaching experience. Also [Co-author of the first translated book of Bengali Dalit literature.](#)

**Sabitri Chakraborty is** Snr. IT Security & Risk Consultant and daughter of the artist Having 12yrs of Consulting experience with major firms such as PWC and IBM.

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