

Gallery Art Exposure Presents River of Faith –A Solo Exhibition of Jayasri Burman

Press Release

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India is a country steeped in myths, traditions and folklore. The Ganga which occupies a foremost place among all its sacred rivers has many stories surrounding it which have fascinated students, historians and many alike. The Ganga winds its way for over fifteen hundred miles from the Himalayan glaciers through twenty-nine cities and seventy towns of India to finally merge into the Bay of Bengal. Among the many myths, there are those revolving around her descent, about a wish-fulfilling cow and several others that are as varied and as interesting. Centering around this backdrop of the mystic and tales, the mighty river holds, **artist Jayasri Burman** chose her magnum opus, “**River of Faith**”, which will be opening at Bikaner House, New Delhi in December, 2021.

Having been strongly influenced and mesmerized by our rich spiritual beliefs and sacred texts, Jayasri as an artist expresses her creativity with a certain poetic lyricism that is a part fairytale and part organic. The Ganga has had an indelible impact and holds over her and she has painted the river through myriad forms in all its unique glory with a charming fable around each. Her vibrant imagery of metaphors and elements like swan, flowers, vines, fish, stand as symbols and allegories of her own personal interpretations. The recent devastation and destruction of the holy waters of the holy river as an aftermath of the pandemic greatly stirred her. It was a driving force that evoked strong emotions that later culminated in “Rivers of Faith.”

Statement 1

“As an artist and humanist moved by the extreme desecration and pollution of the sacred waters of Ganges, she has presented a vibrant ensemble of creations in her show, “River of Faith” that questions, arouses, sensitizes and soothes, calling the audience attention to the river as a life force that instills strength, hope and spirit of preservation albeit the upheavals that frequent it. As the world awaits to rediscover normalcy and happiness leaving behind the sadness and shadows of the last two years, the River of Faith would be a beautiful tribute to the river and serve to gently remind us about restoring balance and tranquility in our lives and repose our faith in nature and its powers”, states, **Somak Mitra, Director, Art Exposure**

Statement 2

“If I could paint sound, I would try and capture the mystical notes of the Ganga. But how does one express the many facets of the mighty river - its tranquility, wilderness, movement and immortality. Ganga is how I attempt to compose the balance between its fluidity and the rootedness of faith it evokes. Over 2020 and 2021's pandemic gloom, I have witnessed the abuse faced by Ganga on multiple occasions. Through my work I wish to spread the message that it's a circle we all inhabit, and only if we nurture nature and not make her suffer, will humanity be able to live harmoniously”, states, **Jayasri Burman**

Statement 3

“Deeply rooted in Indic wisdom, Burman has delved deep into the mythology of the Ganga and created riveting paintings and sculptures centered around the divinity of the Ganga. Her magnetic colour palette, soothes, shakes, and reinvigorates the deep faith and devotion to the healing and nurturing qualities of the River of Faith”, states, **Dr Alka Pande, Art historian**

Statement 4

“Transitioning through forms of beauty, in its heroic, graceful and mythopoetic characteristics, is what defines Jayasri Burman’s art practice. Beauty for Jayasri is the epitome of all life that reflects through her art. A concept of beauty that finds resonance in the traditional aesthetic theories of India, based on both the empirical order of beauty as well the transcendental order. Imbibing the dialectics of reason and intuition, she traverses these regions just as the river traverses through crevices, ravines, ridges that finally break open into their own magnitude. This is the crux of Jayasri’s practice, although her works may appear to be mythological narratives, they are rooted in a deeper allegory of questions pertaining to the self and its relation with nature. Negotiating her own spaces of psychological and spiritual inquiries, she allows the line to determine the course of the compositions. The line, which flows like the force of a river, imprints the myriad abstract forms as envisioned from a vantage point of a flowingness. They manifest as imaginative elements from nature (saguna) - but at its core carry in them the abstract energy (nirguna), a duality that sustains all life. To flow, to emanate, to originate are the core aspects that define Jayasri’s aesthetics”, states **Jesal Thacker, Art writer**

Statement 5

“Aesthetically straddling the diverse mediums of sculpture and painting, Burman proves once again her mettle as an art practitioner who is at the top of her game, unafraid to explore newer ideas. The artist’s flowing compositions seem to question the distinctions the viewer often makes between matter and spirit because aren’t they relative modifications of one or the other? After all, the boundaries drawn should not be too definite. The seeker within her is inspired by beauty, harmony and the eternal truth of the Scriptures she has heard recited by her father from her girlhood days.

While the world came to a standstill during the pandemic, Burman, an optimist continued to believe that the darkness would lift; her faith gave her that hope. So she painted, creating a vast body of work, consumed by restless energy that saw her make massive sculptures in Kumartuli, Kolkata when she wasn’t painting in her Delhi studio, every day, every hour. River of Faith, Jayasri Burman’s most significant exhibition to date that opens at a time when the world is gradually making a recovery, it is as if the prayers of the faithful have finally been heard”, states **Ina Puri, Art writer**

The exhibition opens to viewers **from 11th December, 2021. It will be on view from 12th to 19th December, 2021 from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Bikaner House, Centre for Contemporary Arts (CCA) & Ground Floor Art Gallery (Main Building).**