

# THE PHOENIX SINGS A SONG... II

## The Eternal Harmony...



9<sup>th</sup> Solo Exhibition of Paintings by  
Shukla Chowdhury  
4<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> August, 2010

Lalit Kala Akademi  
Rabindra Bhavan,  
New Delhi: 110001







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## The Eternal Harmony...

Ever so gently the sky opens its pristine eyes to the warm glow of the sun. Sprinkling its light over dawn-coloured vistas, the sun ambles softly onto the greater horizon. Her graceful advent on earth is welcomed by ecstatic elements- the wind runs wild, butterflies spread their velvety wings and glide on the sea of light. Jasmynes, lilies and tulips are at their perfumed best; they dance with abandon as the wind caresses their delicate petals. As the sun shines brighter, it seems as though every bit of the earth's weary body is bathed with the rejuvenating nectar from paradise.

Oh! The joy the earth feels! Blooming red lotuses sit on their throne of leaves proudly, and the water around them sparkles with delight. Pure golden light is reflected from tiny dew drops clinging to emerald green leaves. Passing through the still woods, the playful wind runs through the little birds' feathers- the ones that sing joyously in celebration of a beautiful day. They flutter over the little brook that flows by the stiff woods.

Suddenly, majestic thunder brings with it a dramatic spell of rain. Meadows are awash with the vibrant colours of the rainbow. A vibrant ribbon reaches out to unite the east and the west in a soulful embrace, which lasts only momentarily. They fade away as quickly as they come together.

"Is this heaven?" thinks the Phoenix. The rainbow, the wind, the meadows, the birds, the flowers and everything else on earth that is bathed in the sun's early light becomes pure and divine. Alas, this is, but, for a moment. Just like the self, which is, but, a moment in the unending universe. The temporalness of this magnificent moment kindles a desire, in the Phoenix, to extend the precincts of the self- a desire to experience, discover and express more. The energy that is, thus, created within leads to the growth of the self, and it is this growth that allows the self to overcome an unpredictable existence.

When the self culminates its journey in the real world, the Phoenix is reminded of the momentariness of life. Only a moment is what the self is. Time is a collection of many such moments and hence, even when nothing of the self exists, the universe lives on.

The infinite sky is the Phoenix's abode, from where it pores over the glorious natural world. But it realises this glory lasts only a moment in the eternal harmony of life. The Phoenix desires, thus, to seek the shrine of life's absolute truth. This is a quest which it undertakes to merge its understanding of the transience of the self and the immortality of the universe.

The Phoenix is both, the moment and the universe.

As articulated to Ushamrita



Light Over Darkness  
48" x 60"





Where the Wind Comes From  
48" x 48"



Carried by the Wind  
48" x 48"





Into the Deep Blue Sea  
48" x 48"



Beyond the Sky  
36" x 48"





Light in the Morning  
48" x 60"



One is Great  
48" x 36"





Twists & Turns  
24" x 30"



Blooming Trees  
36" x 48"





Meeting with Lilac  
36" x 48"



At the Palace of Creation  
60" x 48"



8<sup>th</sup> November, 1954  
B.F.A (Painting)  
Santiniketan  
University of Pune  
(Stood 1<sup>st</sup> in the University of Pune)

● PREVIOUS SOLO SHOWS:

The Flight of the Phoenix 1, Kolkata, 2005  
The Flight of the Phoenix 2, Mumbai, 2006  
The Phoenix in Celebration of Life, Mumbai, 2006  
The Dream of the Phoenix, Mumbai, 2007  
The Search of the Phoenix, Kolkata, 2008  
Glorious Days of the Phoenix 1, Mumbai, 2009  
Glorious Days of the Phoenix 2, Mumbai, 2009  
The Phoenix Sings a Song I, New Delhi, 2010

● WORKSHOPS:

'Spirit of India' Artists' Camp, Alibagh  
'Prarambh' International Artists' Camp, Shimla  
10<sup>th</sup> Kalavart International Art Festival, Ujjain  
'Kalavart' National Art Fair, Indore  
National Art Festival, Kalavart Nyas, Ujjain  
India Art's Oil & Water Colour Workshop, Pune

● GROUP SHOWS:

All India Exhibition of Art by INFAC, November 2010  
'Nandan' by Santiniketan's Alumni Association, 2009, 2007  
Artists' Centre Annual Show, 2009, 2008, 2006, 2005  
Group Show at AIFACS, New Delhi, 2008  
Group Show at D.D Neroy Art Gallery, Mumbai, 2008  
Birla Academy's Annual Show, Kolkata, 2008, 2006, 2005  
Jagriti Art Foundation's Annual Show at Birla Academy, Kolkata, 2007  
Western Regional Art Show at Birla Academy, Kolkata, 2007  
Gallery Sanskriti, sponsored by Art Space India, Kolkata, 2006  
Kitab Mahal, sponsored by Indiaa.net, Mumbai, 2006  
Monsoon Show, sponsored by Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai, 2005  
Maharashtra State Painting Exhibition, Pune, 2003, 2001  
India Art's Exhibition on Oil & Water Colour, Pune, 2002  
Chitari Academy's Annual Art Show by the Atur Foundation, Pune, 2005, 2001, 1999  
Pune Women's Association by Chitari Academy, Pune, 1998







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