

## MY MYSTICAL JOURNEY THROUGH SALBITHI...

Rabindranath Tagore has been omnipresent in my life through texts and artwork authored by the great man himself. His teachings have imbued, in me, the spirit of simplicity. My work revolves around nature. It is about how I understand and interpret the diverse aspects of nature, and articulate these interpretations in an expressionistic way. I could look at the sky, and paint it red, because the sky has no definition, no limit. It is blue during the day, but black at night. During the monsoons, the sky is grey, but when *Gowdhuli* strikes, it takes on a shade of gold. Art is not about logic and realism; it is about responding from the heart and feeling, rather than viewing. I try to look beyond the obvious, and find that something which will make me realise the truth of beauty.

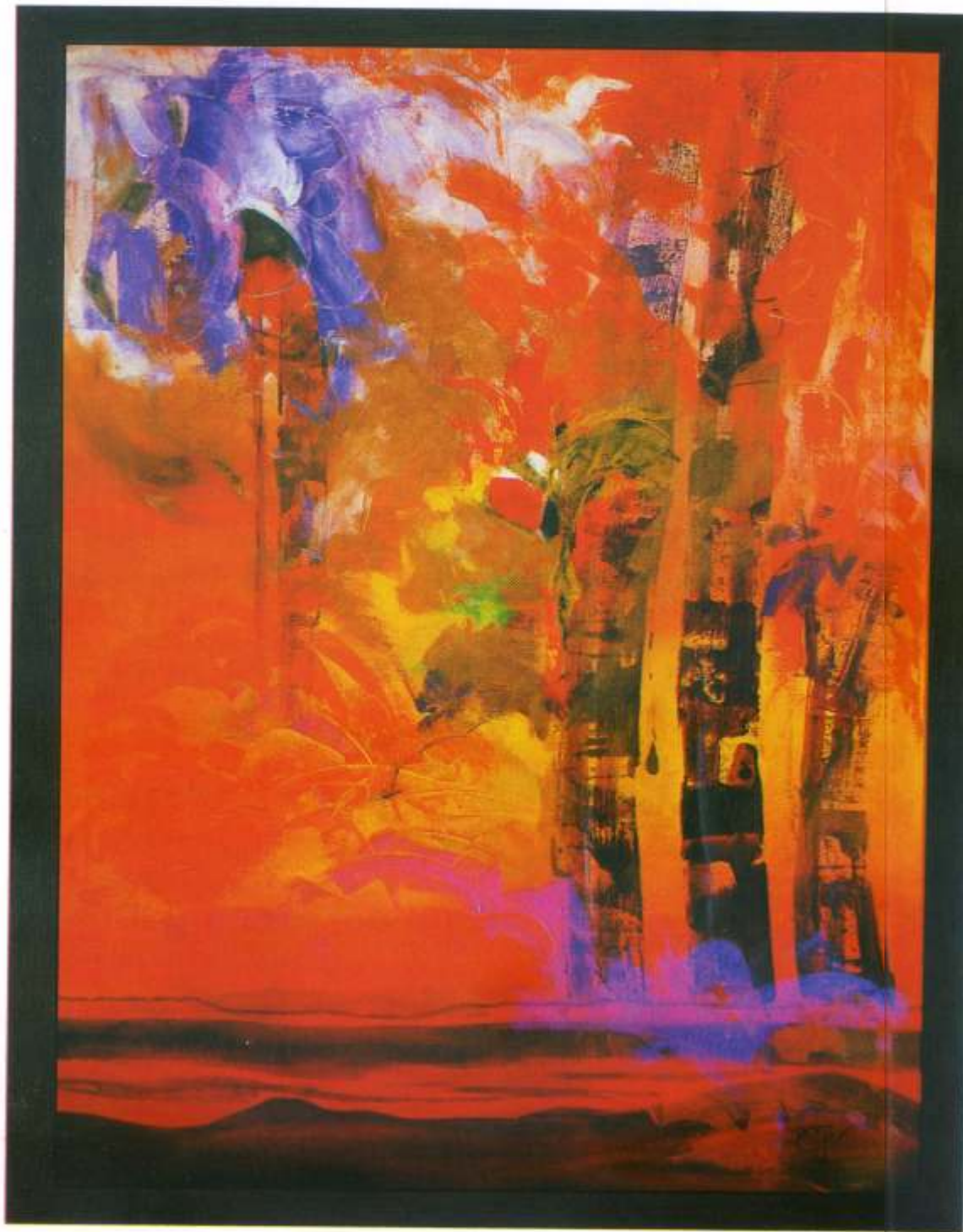
Tagore's myriad expressions sometimes say that nature may not necessarily be aesthetically beautiful. There is an intrinsic loveliness in every entity. One needs to search for the inner beauty of life. Through my art, I express the beauty of this reality, which is often overlooked. My work tries to capture the essence of that which cannot be seen, but felt. My mind's eye looks beyond an image or object, and interprets the reality behind it.

The language of Tagore's literature, poetry, music, art, dance, drama and philosophy has influenced me ever since I can remember. I have gained a lot of knowledge from the rich tapestry of *Rabindric* culture. This is my tribute to the legendary Rabindranath Tagore, on His 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary.

Said He, the man of immortal words, "I DID LOVE THIS EARTH; YES I DID LOVE IT..."

Shukla Chowdhury\*

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Painting by Shukla Chowdhury