

Press Release 15/04/13



presents

Under the patronage of the Embassy of India in Paris

VERNACULAR INDIA 2013
Sacred art of the Gond and Bhil tribes

May 2nd – June 9th 2013

Following Jangarh Kalam exhibition in 2012, **VERNACULAR INDIA** exhibition unveils certain aspects of Indian tribal art diversity, questioning their relationship with the sacred : sacred art by the Bhil from almost forgotten rituals ; consacred art by Gond artists gaining international recognition. Anders hus Gallery aims to promote contemporary artists who contribute to artistic movements in India today : Dhurga Bai, Venkat Singh Shyam, Nankusia Shyam, Gareeba Singh Tekam, Pema Fatya, Ladoo Bai et Bhuri Bai.

Through these paintings, India's complex and modern identity is called into question. Even the terms used to describe this art deal with a more or less ethnocentric view of the viewer : vernacular art, tribal art, adivasi art (those who were there first), non metropolitan art.

The Bhil and Gond artists paint by necessity, but quite naturally, almost by instinct. Their work is full of exuberance, joy and subtlety, sometimes nostalgia, with constant references to mysteries and traditions. These powerful influences, however, in no way diminish from the technical quality of the paintings, whose vibrations remind us of Australian aboriginal work.

« In India, aborigenes no longer belong in museums of mankind [...] They are now front row performers on the contemporary indian art scene, exhibiting in museums and selling in galleries throughout the world [...] Jangarh Singh Shyam has left a large number of heirs who, like him, are members of the Gond tribe. »

Julien Bouissou, *Le Monde*, 18th February 2011.



Jangarh Singh Shyam,
untitled, 75x55cm,
acrylique on paper



The exhibition will be held in two venues :
Anders hus Gallery and **Impressions Gallery**
which will also be hosting two talks :

- Wednesday May, 22nd at 19h : **Christian Journet**, DUPPATA (ngo) President, and **Padmaja Srivastava**, Gond art specialist from Bhopal (MP – India)
- Wednesday May, 29th at 19h : **S. Anand**, editor and publisher presenting *Bhimayana*, a graphic novel about Ambedkar, illustrated by Durga Bai & Shubbash Vyam (edited by MéMo in French). The book and the artists' works are presented in the exhibition.

Galerie Anders hus
27 rue charlot 75003 Paris
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Tuesday to Saturday from 14h to 19h
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www.andershus.fr



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