GLOSSARY

***alpana*:** Traditional Indian art of floor painting, generally done near the entrance of a House using powder of rice, turmeric, stone powder, natural and artificial colours; it may Also be done using grains and cereals, flowers and natural materials; an invitation to Laxmi,the goddess of wealth.

Abstract: To represent something in a way that is not naturalistic, by means of exaggeration, simplification or other manipulation. The term is also used to describe forms that are abstracted or works of art that incorporate abstraction.

Abstract expressionism: a 20th century American painting style, also called action painting. Artists working in this style applied paint freely with sweeping, flinging and dripping gestures in an effort to express their subconscious emotions.

***babu*:** a term used for a male member of western educated upper class gentry in 19th century Calcutta.

Basholi Painting: Style of painting prevalent in the foothills of the western Himalayas in the 17th and early 18th centuries, a fusion of folk and Mughal miniature style.

***baul*:** Bengali religious sect; also a type of folk music.

Battala: an area of Calcutta known for concentration of publishers of cheap books, especially in 19th century.

***Bhadrolok*:** a term for the upper class in Bengal.

***Bhaskara*:** a faction of a broader group of artisans primarily engaged in stone carving in Bengal.

***Bheestie*:** Water carrier.

***Bhava*:** emotion.

***Bhittachitra*:** wall painting.

Bengal School: Style of painting popular during the 19th and early 20th centuries, typified by its use of oil paint, often depicting religious or

mythological characters rendered in naturalistic and realistic setting with great attention to detail.

***bhakti*:** Devotion to god; in medieval times, also an ecumenical movement.

***Bindi*:** Small coloured mark or jewel worn between the eyebrows, especially by Hindu women; derived from the Sanskrit word bindu or drop, and suggests the mystic third eye of a person; may also be used to indicate the material status of a woman.

Bindu: The point without a centre from which prceeds cosmic sounds; drop; dot.

***Bibi*:** a courtesan or a female counter part of babu.

Calcutta Group: Founded in 1943, a group of Bengali artists who felt the need to respond to the intense political and social climate of their times. Driven by their humanitarian concerns, these artists sought to develop an artistic language that combined the Bengali pictorial idiom with contemporary approach.

***Chalchitra*:** In Bengal, a board, often semicircular, decorated with scenes from Indian mythology.

***Chappal*:** Indian scandal or slipper.

***Chitrakara*:** a caste of painters.

Company School: Paintings produced during the late 18th century and early 19th centuries by local Indian artists under the supervision of the East India Company. The works reveal the a hybridization of traditional and western techniques and subject matter.

***Darshan*:** Viewing of divinity; the sight of an idol or image of a god, to whom prayers are offered.

***Dhoti*:** Loincloth worn by Hindu men, often white or cream in colour.

***Diya*:** Small earthen lamp.

Durga: Hindu goddess; fierce form of the Devine mother; ego in its most extended, massed form.

Ganesha: Hindu elephant-headed god of wisdom and prosperity; son of Shiva and his consort, Parvati.

***Geet Govinda*:** Written by poet Jayadeva in the first decade of the 20th century, in the praise of Krishna and his beloved Radha.

***Guru*:** Teacher.

***ghat*:** a pot.

***Hasya*:** farcial or humorous.

***Jatra*:** a form of folk theatre popular in Bengal.

Kali: Hindu goddess; Devine Mother as time; destroyer of ego.

Kalighat Paintings: Made in the vicinity of the Kalighat temple in Calcutta in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Kangra paintings: Combination of the Mughal miniature style of painting and the Basholi School of painting that originated in the Punjab area during the mid 18th century; characterized by its fluid style and tremendous attention to detail.

***Kantha*:** Quilt work or patchwork embroidery from Bengal.

***Kathakata*:** narrator of stories.

***Kobi*:** a poet.

***Kumor*:** a potter.

Krishna Leela: Exploits of Krishna, the eight avatar of Vishnu.

***Kurta*:** Loose,long shirt worn by men and women in India.

***Leela*:** Divine sport or play.

***Mahabharata*:** Indian epic poem in Sanskrit, central to Hinduism.

***Mudra*:** Symbolic hand, face or bodily gesture forming a part of the expressive language of classical Indian dance.

***mela*:** a fair.

Naxalite Movement: Radical movement in the 60s and 70s, mainly in Bengal and Bihar, which advocated an armed revolt against the state to seek land and justice for peasants and tribals.

***nayika*:** a woman in amorous mood or a heroine of a literary work.

Pahari miniatures: Generic term applied to Indian paintings of the Punjab Hills.

***Paisa*:** Small denomination of Indian currency; after the introduction of decimal coinage, one-hundredth of a rupee.

***paan*:** a betel leaf.

***pat, pata*:** a painted panel or scroll.

***patua*:** a painter and a picture showman.

***phool-babu*:** flower-delicate fop.

***puja*:** a form of invocation and worship in Hinduism.

***putul nach*:** a puppet theatre.

***Prakriti*:** Sanskrit term in Indian philosophy signifying materialized nature, and constituting the female principle of the cosmos.

Progressive Artist's Group: Founded in 1947, a group of six young Bombay based artists who strove to develop a unique artistic language in direct opposition to the then prevalent colonial, academic art practices offered by Indian art schools, as well as the nationalist, revivalist painting style popular in Bengal.

***Raga*:** Tonal framework for musical composition and improvisation within Indian classical music.

Ragmala paintings: Literally, a garland of musical modes, a depiction of ragas, each characterized by a different mood or trait, as humans and gods, and collected in folios or albums.

***Ramayana*:** Indian epic poem in Sanskrit, said to have been written by the sage Valmiki.

***Rasa*:** Emotion or sentiment according to Hindu philosophy; one of the bases of classical Indian aesthetics; literally means taste or flavour. There are nine rasas : erotic, comic, pathetic, furious, heroic, terrible, odious, marvellous and peaceful.

Ravana: The ten-headed demon king of Lanka in the Ramayana.

***Sadhu*:** Holy man; ascetic.

***sara*:** a concave terracotta disc having painted depictions of Lakshmi, Durga or other deities.

Santhal: Tribe in eastern India residing mainly in the states of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa.

Shiva: In the Hindu trinity, the destroyer, allowing the universe to be created anew in an endless cycle.

***sutradhar*:** a caste of carpenters.

***swang*:** a pantomime theatre.

***Shadanga*:** six limbs of paintings.

Tantra: School of Indian and Buddhist philosophy which recommends the use of chanting, along with the contemplation of symbolic visuals, in the understanding of existence on a microcosmic and macrocosmic level.

Upanishads: Body of spiritual instructions which conclude the Vedas.

Vishnu: One of the primary Hindu trinity of gods, the preserver or caretaker of the universe, who must balance everything that exists, and whose constant action keeps everything running.

***Yakshi*:** Ancient Indian female fertility deity.

***Yantra*:** Refers to the visual manifestation of Tantric philosophy.

***Yoni*:** Sanskrit term meaning womb, origin, or well; an abstract or triangular pedestal associated with the shape of the female genital organ.

Zamindari: landlordship.