THE ENVIRONMENTAL SITUATION ROOM
A SPECIAL FEATURE BY THE KALA CHAUPAL TRUST – MAY 2020

ANANYA PATRA
ARGHYA PANJA
BACHCHU CHANDRA
DEEPANWITA DAS
LALI MAKAL
MUNMUN DAS
JAYANTA NASKAR
NAWAJ SARIF
NILANJAN DAS
PARAG ROY
PATHIK SAHHOO
PAULA SENGUPTA
PRITI ROY
RACHITA BHOWMIK
SAHELI PODDAR
SANJU BASAK
SANONDO BASU
SANTANU CHAKRABORTY
SHAikh PARVEZ AL MAMUN
SHUVRA BISWAS
SOUMYABRATA KUNDU
SHREYASI SAHA
SRIKANTA PAUL
SUJAY MUKHERJEE
SWARUP BASAK

THE STUDIO AS REFUGE
FOREWORD BY
DR. PAULA SENGUPTA

CONTRIBUTED AS A COLLECTIVE BY THE DEPT. OF GRAPHICS-PRINTMAKING DEPARTMENT RABINDRA BHARATI UNIVERSITY,
The Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata discontinued on-campus teaching from 16 March 2020 due to the looming COVID-19 pandemic. Realising we were in for a long haul, the Department of Graphics-Printmaking started working virtually soon after. The challenges were considerable, teaching “online” not being a clear possibility in our case. Under any circumstances, teaching printmaking virtually is a near impossibility. Coupled with this, is the fact that many of our students lack both personal computers and also regular connectivity in the remote rural locations where they now are due to the ongoing lockdown in India. And because the lockdown was announced overnight, many of us have next to no materials to work with either!

Taking all of these challenges in our stride, the students and faculty have taken to work, engaging with each other through a combination of WhatsApp groups, phone calls, emails, and video interactions. Thrown unexpectedly into isolation, the students and faculty have engaged in an enthusiastic creative camaraderie over a month of lockdown, finding refuge in their personal work spaces on the one hand, and energy from sharing virtually with peers and mentors on the other.

An odd sense of dislocation and anxiety characterises most of these “lockdown works” - an unprecedented focus on one’s immediate closeted environment both in terms of content and choice of material, juxtaposed against the interminable battle that rages outside one's doors, with no end in sight. The only way artists know of internalising trauma is to take solace in the space of making, resorting to whatever is at hand to express the anxiety growing within each one of us.

As it slowly dawns on us that the Earth is resetting its clock and we are no longer able to keep time, we share with you the studio as refuge, where the clock ticks loudest.

Dr. Paula Sengupta  
Professor & Head  
Dept. of Graphics-Printmaking  
Faculty of Visual Arts  
Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata

“Virtual teaching is a new demanding experience for academics world-wide, especially in studio classes such as printmaking. Admiration goes to the team members of Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata for being able to inspire the prints that are featured in the article by Paula Sengupta. While the faculty are managing the expectations that the students must have in relation to completing their course work, they also, under lockdown, have asked their students to dig deeply into a timely assigned subject, each in their own “closeted environment”. The result is a body of very accomplished works. The students were empowered to probe such heartfelt innovative visual commentaries, possibly beyond what might have been accomplished in a physical classroom environment. The faculty, who met the daunting challenges through collaborative efforts, now are experiencing new platforms of communication: the demand to institute unplanned virtual applications for problem solving, currently accelerated and shared globally in academia.”

- Helen Frederick, Organisation Curator, The Kala Chaupal Trust

HELEN FREDERICK is recognized as a distinguished artist, curator, educator, coordinator of international projects, and as founder of Pyramid Atlantic, a center for contemporary printmaking, hand papermaking and the art of the book. As an advocate for and an active participant in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area arts scene, she has served on the directorial boards of alternative art spaces, various local and national boards including the College Art Association, and national peer-review panels. Her work has been exhibited at the Phillips Collection in Washington, D.C., The Eleanor D. Wilson Museum at Hollins University, Dieu Donne Gallery, New York, Henie-Onstad Museum, Norway, and the Museum of Modern Art in Kyoto, Japan, and is in collections of the Whitney Museum and Brooklyn Museum in New York, the National Gallery of Art, Library of Congress, and Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, D.C., among many others. Frederick who is a Professor Emeritus in the School of Art at George Mason University, has fulfilled speaking engagements around the world, always emphasizing collaboration across disciplines.
ANANYA PATRA  
BFA, SEMESTER 4

UNTITLED

WATER COLOUR ON PAPER

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ARGHYA PANJA  BFA, SEMESTER 8

MAY BE THE FUTURE

FOUND MATERIALS  9”X6”X10”
BACHCHU CHANDRA MFA, SEMESTER 4
UNTITLED

MIXED MEDIA ON PAPER 13”X15”
DEEPANWITA DAS  
BFA, SEMESTER 6

SITUATION

PEN AND INK  12”X19”

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LALI MAKHAL  
BFA, SEMESTER 8

UNTITLED

MIXED MEDIA  7.5”X16”

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MUNMUN DAS  MFA, SEMESTER 4
UNTITLED
WATER COLOUR ON PAPER 15”X 22”
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NAWAJ SARIF  MFA SEMESTER 4
ATTACK

MIXED MEDIA 15”X 22”
NILANJAN DAS  PHD SCHOLAR

IN SEARCH OF A COMFORT ZONE

FOUND PLYWOOD BARK, ACRYLIC AND PENCIL ON ACID FREE PAPER 15”X 11”

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PARAG ROY PROFESSOR
RANDOM THOUGHTS-1

ACRYLIC ON ACID FREE BOARD 12”X 16”
PATHIK SAHOO  
MFA SEMESTER 2
THE STORIES NEVER END

TEMPERA ON PAPER 5”X 7” each
PAULA SENGUPTA  PROFESSOR & HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

THE CORONA CACTI-1

ACRYLIC ON TERRACOTTA 12” ROUND
PRITI ROY  
BFA SEMESTER 2

UNTITLED

WATER COLOUR ON PAPER
RACHITA BHOWMICK  MFA SEMESTER 4
BLURRED WINGS

MIXED MEDIA 7.5” X 7”
SAHELI PODDAR  MFA SEMESTER 2
UNTITLED

OIL ON CANVAS 8” X 12”
SANJU BASAK  MFA SEMESTER 2
SOCIAL PREDICAMENT

MIXED MEDIA ON ACID FREE PAPER 8” X 11.5”

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SANONDO BASU  MFA SEMESTER 2

MY ROOM

CHARCOAL ON PAPER 8” X 11.5”
SANTANU CHAKRABORTY  GUEST FACULTY

REVENGE

LITHOGRAPHY  12” X 9”
SHUVRA BISWAS MFA SEMESTER 2
DESTINY 3

MIXED MEDIA 15” X 22”
SOUMYABRATA KUNDU  BFA SEMESTER 8
UNTITLED

MIXED MEDIA  18” X 10”
SREYASHI SAHA MFA SEMESTER 4

BIFURCATION

PAPER PULP  40” X 24”

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SRIKANTA PAUL  GUEST FACULTY
THE CIRCUS

PEN AND INK, BRUSH AND PHOTO COLOUR  22” X 30”

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SUJAY MUKHERJEE ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

EPIDEMIC—PANDEMIC
FROM THE SERIES ASSISTED READYMDES A LA DUCHAMP FROM A GROUP OF ONGOING DURATIONAL PERFORMANCES

SERIGRAPH PRINTS ON T-SHIRT (SIZE VARIABLE)
FOR FURTHER ENQUIRIES OR INTEREST IN THE ARTWORKS KINDLY CONTACT:

**Dr. Paula Sengupta**, Professor & Head, Dept. of Graphics-Printmaking, Faculty of Visual Arts, Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata **on email:** paulasengupta@gmail.com