

VIGNETTES • PASSAGES • PARABLES
THE MADRAS MOVEMENT



Gallery Time & Space
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Douglas

"Douglas's figure is that of an unbearable being, one that would be grateful not to have been brought forth at all. The way he vouches for it is expressive of his extraordinary meekness and tenderness of spirit. His artistry, finely drawn as it was at this stage, was to the fore as to turn the picture surface into the fictional ground or recess which his vexed figure might stray into and haunt. When his figure first appeared in his student days, there was little he could do to give it a setting for lack of appropriate ground and over-all design. Such impediments have been worked through in recent years and his figure had been found in a variety of situations most of them, however, of a dark design."

Techniques for creating antinomies that the figure creates: figure and ground, inside and outside, space and mass, live and inert and so on, have been developed and reworked from time to time, including most recently in the expressionist revival. The issue apparently is one that stays open all the same, leaving it to the spirit of ones workmanship to effect some kind of the plastered finish of oils on canvas, worked instead with chalk and crayons on crumpled and muddied paper glued on cloth. He stuck to unobtrusive colour; grays browns and blacks which kept thickening and receding as he worked his pictures to a finish. These detours helped him to arrive at an uneasy middle ground, an odd state of undifferentiated being where it is night when it is day, where each part of the picture is outside as much as inside, where the figure, is as unresisting as the ground and possessively gone over and over again until the picture was exhausted and done. In that kind of a finish which Douglas is able to achieve in his late works his figure turns decidedly picturesque. It turns out in the end to be amazingly constant, only a great deal more pictorial than at the beginning when he thought he was no more than seeded and conceived to be.

— Josef James







POET & BUTTERFLY - I
Mixed Media on Wood
Size : 4' Diameter





C. DOUGLAS

Born 1951, Kerala

1971 - 76 - Diploma in Fine Arts, Govt. College of Arts and Crafts, Madras.

SOLO SHOWS

- 1982 - Gallery Am Horwath Haus - Murnau, Germany
- 1983 - Bayerisches Verines Bank, Garmish
- 1986 - European Patent Office Gallery, Munich
- 1992 - Sakshi Gallery, Madras - Bombay
- 1993 - Schoo's Gallery, Amsterdam
- 1996 - Sakshi Gallery, Bangalore, Madras & Bombay
- 2006 - Ashwitha Gallery, Madras 2006 - Akar Prakar, Calcutta - Jehangir Gallery, Mumbai
- 2012 - Focus Art Gallery, Madras

GROUP SHOWS

- 1995 - View from the Edge - Sakshi Gallery, Artists who went over the Boundaries, Netherlands
- Water Colour, A Wide Spectrum Gallery Chemould, Mumbai
- 1996 - Looking Glass Self - Lakeeran Gallery, Bombay
- Indian Art Since Post Independence - Vadchra Art Gallery, New Delhi
- 1997 - Rediscovering Roots, Lima, 1998-Cryptograms - Lakeeran Gallery, Mumbai
- 1999 - Embarkations, Sakshi Gallery, Mumbai
- 2000 - Intersection - Guild Gallery, Mumbai
- 2003 - Sites of Recurrence, Dakshanachitra, Chennai and Boras Museum, Sweden
- 2012 - Tactile - Latitude - 28, New Delhi

AWARDS

- 1980, 1990 - L.K.A. Madras, Bharat Bhavan Biennale Award, Bhopal
- 1991-93 - Government of India - Cultural Fellowship.
- 1992 - National Award for Painting, LKA, New Delhi
- 1994-96 - Cultural Fellowship, Government of India, New Delhi.
- 1994 - Invitation to work in Ceramics, UNESCO-Aschberg, Bursary for Visual Arts, European Ceramics Centre, Netherlands; Charles Wallace Trust Award, UK.