

Press Release:

**First Print Biennale India opens at the Lalit Kala Akademi**

In keeping with its role as the country's National Academy of Art, India, the Lalit Kala Akademi is hosting the first-ever International Print Biennale in the country with a record number of 17 countries taking part in it. The exhibition opened today, at the Rabindra Bhavan Galleries of the Akademi. Speaking at the inauguration of the event, the eminent artist-Printmaker and **Chief Guest at the ceremony, Shri Shakti Barman** said, "It was around 1980s that I first happened to get introduced with the lithography medium of printmaking. All of a sudden lithography had become very popular. But with the time, it's trend as well as practicing spaces and studios got demolished and are now we have very few of them. I believe that this grand endeavor by the Akademi will help it in gaining its popularity back."

*Message from the Hon'ble Culture Minister of India, Dr. Mahesh Sharma-*

"Printmaking is a means of fine expression. I appreciate the outstanding effort of the Academy to contribute towards and make us aware of the contemporary trends in art. I congratulate all the participants and the LKA for organizing the 1st Print Biennale, India 2018 successfully. (The Hon'ble Minister couldn't attend the ceremony personally though his message was read out by Shri Anandmoy Banerji.)

The inaugural ceremony was graced with the presence of the Biennale commissioner Ms. Anupam Sud and its steering committee members Shri Ananda Moy Banerji, Shri Dattatraya Apte, Shri R.S. Sham Sunder, Ms. Paila Sen Gupta and Shri Vijay Bagodi. The ceremony also witnessed the launch of '**Samkaleen Kala**', a Lalit Kala Akademi journal.

In his welcoming address on the biennale, the **Administrator LKA, Shri C S**

**Krishna Setty** stated, *“The aim behind conducting such an event is to endeavor a quest for discovering new artistic trends in printmaking nationally as well as globally, and to explore new ideas in the field. The Lalit Kala Akademi is creating history once again today as in its 64 years of history, the Akademi is organizing for the first time this first ever Print Biennale of India.”*

In an interaction with veteran printmaker Anupam Sud, Commissioner, First Print Biennale India, one learnt, *“This great initiative by the Lalit Kala Akademi is expected to provide a great philip to this practice and patronage of printmaking in India.”*

In keeping with its international makeover the biennale has elicited interest globally. The participants are from countries such as USA, UK, Sri Lanka, Italy, Mexico, China, Israel, Sweden, Lithuania, Poland, Argentina, Greece, Nepal, Bangladesh, and Mauritius. A total number of 988 entries at the national level were received of which 127 have been chosen for display. The number of entries at the international level was 137 of which 50 artists have been selected. A total of 73 artworks of international artists are on display.

In accordance with the overall perspective for providing an inclusive and exclusive platform, the exhibits have been arranged accordingly. For the Eminent Printmakers of India show artists were invited to send two prints of their choice as the exhibits. In the open category, artists were asked to send upto three prints which were submitted for selection before a 2-tier International Jury.

An exhibition **Eminent Printmakers of India** showcasing master Indian printmakers, will be inaugurated on Monday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, at the National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA) by the Chief Guest **Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe**, President, Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR). Eminent printmaker Shri Devraj Dakoji will be the Guest of Honour at the

ceremony. The Administrator of Lalit Kala Akademi Sh. C.S. Krishna Setty, and the Director General of NGMA Shri Adwaita Gadanayak will preside over the ceremony.