

## Press Release

### **Lalit Kala Akademi to Commemorate Dhanraj Bhagat's Centenary**

Lalit Kala Akademi will celebrate the birth centenary of renowned Sculptor Prof. Dhanraj Bhagat in a grand manner from December 20th, 2017(Which happens to be his birthday). The Akademi shall organise year-long events which include the Talk shows, Lectures, Workshops and Camps at various Centres of the Akademi. Prof. Bhagat was a fellow of Lalit Kala Akademi.

According to the Administrator, Lalit Kala Akademi Shri C.S. Krishna Setty, 'Dhanraj Bhagat was one of the most innovative sculptors in this sub continent, who created a new and distinct idiom with desi modern style. Amalgamation of folk and western modern is reflected in his use of geometric and subtle shapes.' Mr Setty described Bhagat's contribution to art as him being one of the top Indian sculptors, who showed the celebration of Indianness to the world. He appealed to the Artist community that to pay a true tribute and respect, I request all the art associations and academies all over India to celebrate Dhanraj Bhagat's birth centenary throughout the year.

Prof. Bhagat apart from being an eminent Artist and Sculptor was also the Head of Sculpture department at the Delhi College of Art(DCA). He frequently experimented with new and unusual media in his long and distinguished career as an Artist as well as an art teacher. He worked with the DCA since the dawn of independence in 1947 to 1977, till his retirement. He died in 1988.

Born in Lahore in 1917 Prof. Bhagat received his diploma in Arts from the Mayo School of Art in Lahore. He was one of the most innovative sculptors in the history of Art in the subcontinent. He received the following awards for the distinguished work in the field of Art:

- 1977 Padma Shri, Government of India
- 1978 Fellowship of the Lalit Kala Akademi
- 1969 State Award, Sahitya Kala Parishad, Delhi
- 1961 National Award, Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi
- 1948 Gold Medal, Academy of Fine Arts, Calcutta
- 1948, 1949 Bombay Art Society Award
- 1947, 1949 First Prize, All India Fine Arts and Crafts Society, New Delhi
- 1937, 1945 First Prize, Punjab Fine Arts Society, Lahore

**The programmes to commemorate Dhanraj Bhagat's birth centenary**

**include a Talk show on his Contribution to Art, in NewDelhi, a lecture on Dhanraj Bhagat at Chennai, National Sculpture Camp in wood carving at the Kolkata center etc.. In the hundred year's memory of Dhanraj Bhagat the Lucknow centre shall organize an Arts festival and a Multi disciplinary workshop and the Bhubneshwar centre shall organize a Sculpture Camp for Stone Carving along with other programs.**