
PRESS RELEASE

Gallery XXL presents ***Kya nadi ke paar sukoon hai?***

A solo exhibition of the works of Bikash Chandra Senapati

Opening: **5 PM, Friday, September 11, 2026**

Location: **Gallery XXL, A-277, 2nd Floor, Defence Colony, New Delhi – 110024**

Gallery XXL presents ***Kya nadi ke paar sukoon hai?***, a solo exhibition of **Bikash Chandra Senapati**, opening **Friday, September 11, 2026**. The exhibition brings together works made between 2019 and 2026, across woodcut, etching, pen on paper, and acrylic on canvas.

Rooted in the artist's memories of Kendrapara, a coastal town of Odisha, where he spent his formative years, the works trace Bikash's practice and travels across New Delhi, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Udaipur, and now Vadodara, where he currently resides. The exhibition puts forth an inquiry into the observations made during these transitional periods, opening onto a persistent tension between urban and rural life — where Bikash's search for tranquility lies in the metaphor of the river systems he grew up around, holding within them love, memory, and loss.

Sukoon carries this same double weight. In Arabic grammar, sukūn is a small loop (ـ) placed above a letter to show it carries no vowel — a mark of stillness, a natural pause where sound stops. In Islamic tradition, the word is used to describe peaceful states of remembrance. For Bikash, home is a place he can return to, and sukoon is the stillness that return holds.

The recurring circle in Bikash's drawings and woodcuts represents a portrait of this journey — of leaving and returning. It has an earlier life: as a child, he would turn marks into free birds, shapes that could move, migrate, transition. That same impulse still drives the work. Around the circle, lines gather into entangled experience: dots and marks chart the struggle of travel held within the line, one point moving toward another. Feelings take on geometric form; lines behave like musical notes; trees appear as circles.

Among the works on view, the woodblock *Ancestral Lines* anchors the exhibition, built from months spent observing a single banyan tree in the Vadodara forest. *Meditative Mindscape* and *Unnamed Landscapes* depict trees fading with memory, even as the work insists on preserving what is disappearing, while the pigmented woodcuts *Jawai* and *Colours of Udaipur*, made during a residency in Udaipur, hold trees in water as the day turns from dusk to dawn, their colour drawn from the plateaus and rock formations of Rajasthan. A *Straight Line*, a body of black-and-white acrylic works, marks a different register within the show, made through the artist's father's illness and after his death, where stories of the past surface against the depth of the black.

His materials and mediums become points of reflection and distance as a way to process the chapters of a life in which each moment shapes the next. The exhibition design invites viewers to wander through the works as if walking through these phases of Bikash's life. ***Kya nadi ke paar sukoon hai?*** foreshadows what lies before, between, and beyond the river for Bikash, evoking marks driven by a desire to live in the duality of simplicity and complexity.

Address

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About the Artist

Bikash Chandra Senapati is an artist from the coastal town of Kendrapara, Odisha. He completed a BFA in Painting from Chitra Kala Parisath, Bengaluru, in 2013, and an MFA in Printmaking from Indira Kala Sangeet Vishwavidyalaya, Khairagarh, in 2019.

His early interest lay in acute observation of his environment; he sketched and drew throughout his youth before formally studying visual art from Grade 11. His undergraduate years in Bengaluru marked a significant transition leaving home, and navigating language, distance, and the unfamiliar rhythms of city life. Afterward, he travelled across New Delhi, Bangalore, Hyderabad, and Udaipur before settling in Vadodara, where he now lives and works. Engaging closely with varied social and cultural contexts during this time shaped his sensitivity to lived experience, and drew him toward experimenting with materiality and process; an interest he carried into his postgraduate work in printmaking.

His practice spans woodcut, etching, acrylic on canvas, and pen on paper, foregrounding memories and observations of the tension between rural and urban life. As a child, he turned marks into free birds as shapes that could move, migrate, transition. That same impulse still drives his work: he neither sketches nor photographs beforehand, resisting the urge to fix a moment immediately. He reminisces, then builds from memory rather than record. Working in pen and ink rather than pencil is a deliberate refusal of the eraser — every addition and deletion stays visible, nothing taken back.

Drawing remains his primary language. It is a meditative, grounding process through which forms open onto conversations between past and present, movement and stillness. As he puts it: *"my lines emerge intuitively: sometimes quiet and organic, echoing the fluidity of rural terrain; sometimes structured and geometric, responding to the order and pressure of urban spaces."* Recounting from memory, observation, and encounters with people across geographies, he builds layered narratives of displacement and belonging.

His solo exhibitions include *SAMA*, Udaipur (2025) and *NIROOPAN: Representation of Nature's Eternal Journey* at Triveni Gallery, New Delhi (2021). He has participated widely in group exhibitions across India, including *Open Fences* at Gallery XXL, New Delhi (2026), *Baroda Unbound: City as Studio* at Exhibit 320, New Delhi (2025), *HYD Art*, Hyderabad (2025), the New Delhi Satellite Event of the 8th International Biennale of Non-Objective Arts (2025), *Shape Shifters & Storytellers* at Archer Art Gallery, Ahmedabad (2025), *Voices From India* by SOS Art at Nine Fish Art Gallery, Mumbai (2025), *Print From Our Adda* at Nine Fish Art Gallery, Mumbai (2025), *IMPRINT* Printmaking Art Exhibition at The Art Route Gallery, Gurugram (2025), *Printed Voices From India* by SOS Art at Kennedy Heights Arts Center, Cincinnati, Ohio, USA (2024), *Memories 2: The Book Art Show* at The Art Route Gallery, Gurugram (2024), and the Kochi-Muziris Student Biennale, Kochi (2019), among others.

Bikash has received several awards and fellowships, including the Chandraangan Residency, Udaipur (2025), Summer Residency at Space Studio, Baroda (2025), Junior Fellowship by the Center for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT), Ministry of Culture, Government of India (2023–24), the 96th AIFACS Award in Drawing, New Delhi (2023), the ABIR First Take Award, Ahmedabad (2022), the State Award in Printmaking from Odisha Lalit Kala Akademi, Bhubaneswar (2021), the KHOJ Support Grant, New Delhi (2020), and the J.D. Gondhalekar Award at the Lokmanya Tilak 33rd Art Exhibition, Pune (2020).

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About the Gallery

Established in 2023, Gallery XXL is an urban contemporary art gallery in New Delhi. Gallery XXL represents and showcases a roster of Indian and international artists whose practices are rooted in a variety of disciplines that broaden the understanding of established categories and catalyse diverse exchanges through processual exhibitions, treating the gallery as a fluid institution which presents dynamic negotiations to the idea of a 'white cube.'

With its name echoing Jean-Michel Basquiat's city walk from Downtown 81 (Dir. Edo Bertoglio,) when he described his medium as "extra large," Gallery XXL extends a desire for imaginations to be XXL, an abbreviation for 'extra, extra, large' and brings it to the city of New Delhi in order to examine the ambitious scale of visuals and conversations prevalent in urban art.

Arjun Bahl, Giulia Ambroggi, Thanish Thomas, and the late Hanif Kureshi, the founders of St+Art India Foundation (established in 2014) came together to initiate the space-time for Gallery XXL. St+Art India has been supporting street art in the country through public art projects for over a decade. Leveraging this engagement and experience of creating artistic interventions in public as well as private spaces in order to widen engagement with urban art, aesthetics and culture work in the Indian context, St+art extends its vision to facilitate institutional representation for urban contemporary artists through exhibitions and events at Gallery XXL.

Team XXL

Akmal Shaik, Aarti Jain, Archana Khurana, Arjun Bahl, Ashu Khanna, Dinesh Kumar, Faraz Khan, Giulia Ambroggi, Kanishka Porwal, Muskaan Jain, Rajan, Rutva Trivedi, Sarah Malik, Shivani Sharma, Shweta Rathaur, Thanish Thomas.

Annexures

For additional information please contact sarah@galleryxxl.com or info@galleryxxl.com. The attached drive link contains artist portraits, photographs of public works, high resolution artwork images, along with the artwork captions and credits.

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