

ART MART

t2 picks out five practising print-makers of Bengal. INA PURI on enigmatic sculptor Himmat Shah becoming an art student again

GRAPHIC IMAGES



Salil Sahani

● **Short take:** A Punjabi, if only in name, Sahani's family has lived in Dhansiri village near Belda in Midnapore for years. Salil, born in 1962, was raised and educated there, and in school he had first tried his hand at clay modelling. Initially joined Indian Art College but moved to Kala Bhaban once he got admission there.

Till 2000, he employed many techniques of print-making such as etching, engraving and lithograph. Now that he has a print-making set-up of his own in Santiniketan, where he teaches, he experiments in mixed printmaking. He uses the various techniques such as engraving, etching, woodcut and litho, depending on his needs.

Sahani tries to explore his inner consciousness and many known faces, of celebrities even, swim to the surface

● **Prices:** Rs 20,000-25,000

Pinaki Barua



● **Short take:**

Born in 1954 in Calcutta, Barua was inspired by Ramananda Bandopadhyay, who was art teacher in his school.

After Kala Bhaban, he joined Rabindra

Bharati University, where over the nine years he served, he helped set up the graphics department.

Now Barua teaches in Santiniketan. He uses lithography, intaglio and serigraphy to create his monochromatic works. But intaglio is what he concentrates on. He often takes a critical look at the situation around him. Although he has of late used colours, tonal variations of black-and-white prints are what really matter most to him

● **Prices:** Rs 8,000 to Rs 15,000

Paula Sengupta



● **Short take:**

Born in 1967, Sengupta was educated at College of Art, New Delhi and Kala Bhaban. Though trained as a print-maker, Sengupta widened her artistic repertoire in the last decade, seeking to break existing boundaries that define creative practices.

Sengupta's work is largely in the genre of autobiographical narrative and, though not overtly, addresses the issues of feminist concern. Currently, she teaches printmaking at Rabindra Bharati University

● **Prices:** Rs 15,000 to Rs 20,000



Atin Basak

● **Short take:** Born in 1966, Basak was trained at Government Art College and Baroda, where he did lithos, as zinc plates were beyond his means. Worked at Lalit Kala Akademi and later went to Caen in France to teach lithography. The litho press is too much of a strain for him now and so etching is his chosen technique. Fantasies and consciousness of death leave their mark on his prints

● **Prices:** Some works as large as 60"x40" start from Rs 25,000-30,000 and go up to Rs 60,000

Shukla Poddar



● **Short take:** Born in Calcutta in 1956, Poddar learnt print-making at Kala Bhaban and thereafter on scholarship at universities in Osaka and Tokyo where she trained in traditional woodcut. From still life with etching, and figurative at Lalit Kala Akademi and later in Japan, she tried to represent emotions such as agony in an abstract way. Now she is back to figures and depicts multiple portraits. Poddar has exhibited in Japan and South Korea

● **Prices:** 60"x40" works start from Rs 25,000 and go up to Rs 60,000 plus