



HEMANGINI BARDOLOI

Musing On Myriad Colours

“Her paintings were on display in a number of art exhibitions. Hemangini Bardoloi was awarded “Bishnuprasad Rabha Bota” and Artist pension from the Government of Assam.”

A kind hearted lady who led a simple life but was always thinking high was Hemangini Bardoloi, an Assamese artist of repute during 1950's.

Hemangini Bardoloi was born in the year 1925 in Dibrugarh town. Her father was Surendra Nath Bardoloi, a renowned artist and her grandfather was the great novelist “Natya Samrat”– Rajani Kanta Bardoloi.

From the days of her childhood, Hemangini was very much interested in art and paintings. She was influenced by her father, who received gold medal and silver medals from Art College, Calcutta in the early decades of the twentieth century.

Hemangini got married to Upendra Nath Bardoloi in the year 1937 and lived thereafter in North Guwahati in the bank of mighty river Brahmaputra. The obligations of family life could not detach her from her passion. As she was interested in devoting her time to some creative works she continued painting and sculpture works with unflinching devotion. She dwelt upon a wide variety of subjects in her paintings ranging

from eminent figures like Karmabir Nabin Ch. Bardoloi to mythical figures like Lord Krishna and Sakuntala, from cultural themes such as Bihu dance to flowers and animals as well. She could express her creative passion through her paintings, an evocative feast for the eyes and minds of the sensitive viewers.

Bishnu Ram Medhi, the then education minister of Assam, was so impressed by her paintings that he immediately arranged for her appointment as the art teacher in North Guwahati Girls' High School in the year 1953. She served the school till 1983. She was awarded Assam Govt. Scholarships to get her name enrolled in the Bengal School of Arts at Santi Niketan in Calcutta in the year 1957. She completed her education in Fine Art a course of four years duration from Santi Niketan. She was the first Assamese lady to receive such an honour in the field of art. There, in Santiniketan she had the opportunity to interact with a good number of famous artists of national repute, who influenced her a lot. In Santiniketan she gathered the knowledge of the history of development of different art forms including modern art. Hard work enabled Hemangini to earn name and fame both in India and in foreign countries like Japan and Germany.

She enjoyed drawing so much that once, besotted by the beauty of the scene of Devi Meenakshi's marriage ceremony in the Meenakshi Temple in the South, she remained so deeply engrossed in painting the scene on her canvas that only much later she came to her senses that her friends had left her much before. Her paintings were on display in a number of art exhibitions. Hemangini Bardoloi was awarded "Bishnuprasad Rabha Bota" and Artist pension from the Government of Assam. In the year 1992, she lost her husband but she could find out her own therapy for loneliness by associating herself with a bigger cause. She established "Axom Saru Karu Kala Prasikshan Kendra" in her own little house and trained children, free of cost, in water colouring, painting, tempera, transparency and wash, dry pastel, ink painting etc. Hemangini Bardoloi donated her institute "Axom Saru Karu Kala Prasikshan Kendra" along with her paintings to Guwahati Artists' Guild.

On 5th June, 2007, Hemangini Bardoloi left for her heavenly abode. She will always be in the hearts of all the art loving people of Assam as a simple, kind hearted woman with an enriched mind suffused with creative impulses. □□