

KRISHNA REDDY : biographical journey

b. 1925, Nandanoor, a small village near Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh

LANDMARK EVENTS IN THE LIFE OF KRISHNA REDDY

1942 Krishna painted hundreds of posters for the Quit India Movement and went around pasting the posters at night. Following the nationalist upsurge, he participated in non-violent protests and also went to jail a couple of times.

1942-47 Completed Diploma in Fine Arts at Visva-Bharati University, Santiniketan, under the tutelage of Nandalal Bose. He also studied botany and biology. His love for printmaking as a medium also developed during the Santiniketan years, experimenting with woodcut, engraving, etching and lithography.

1947-49 Joined College of Fine Arts, Kalakshetra, Madras; (founded in 1938 by the legendary dancer Rukmini Devi Arundale) as Head of the Arts Department.

Reddy also started teaching Art at the Montessori Teachers' Training Centre, Madras, where he came in direct contact with Jiddu Krishnamurti, and was engaged in several discussions on art with him. During this phase Reddy was mostly painting and sculpting portraits.

Late 1940s Joined Theosophical College in the nearby town for graduate studies. Also began to spend time at the Rishi Valley School, Madras founded by Jiddu Krishnamurthy, and retained touch with the institution even after he left the college. During this time he made a series of murals about 13 metres at the Rishi Valley School.

1949 Moved to London

Joined the Sculpture Course at the Slade School of Fine Arts, University of London, and studied under the guidance of renowned sculptor Henry Moore.

He also simultaneously joined the Institute of Contemporary Art where he met other artists and art historians like Graham Sutherland, Howard Hodgkin and Herbert Reed.

While studying in London, Reddy also met Krishna Menon, the first High Commissioner of India in England, who encouraged him to travel to Paris.

1950 Moved to Paris

Met Brancusi, and became a regular participant of the café discussions on art. He visited studios of master-artists like Leger, Ossip Zadkine, Orpad, Scenishe and S.W. Hayter. Reddy came in contact with the Surrealists artists at Hayter's and in Montaparnasse, especially Giacometti and Miro.

1951 The Russian sculptor, Zadkine sent Reddy to Stanley William Hayter's 'Atelier 17', who became a significant influence and mentor for the rest of his life. Both Hayter and Reddy introduced to the art community a new intaglio printmaking process called simultaneous colour printmaking, on a single intaglio plate.

He worked with his friend Kaiku Moti to learn about controlling the amount of oil for the desired viscosity and effect.

1954 Certificate in Fine Arts, Academic Grande Chaumiere, Paris, with Ossip Zadkine
Specialised in Gravure, Atelier 17, International Center for Graphics, Paris with S W Hayter

1957-64 Graduated to Assistant Director, Atelier 17, Paris

1957 Certificate in Fine Arts, Academia Di Belle Arti Di Brera, Milan, with artist Marino Marini

- 1962 He participated in the Austrian Sculptor's Symposium, St. Margarethen
- 1964 He made a monumental marble sculpture at Mont Royale, Montreal, Canada. He was invited for the Symposium of International Sculptors in Montreal.

Reddy was invited to the American University in Washington DC as an Artist-in-Residence to teach colour printmaking for a semester. He met and revived his acquaintance with Bob Blackburn, the director of the Printmaking Workshop.

- 1964-76 On return to Paris from his first visit to America, Hayter appointed Krishna Reddy as Co-Director of Atelier 17
- 1968 The student revolution in Paris stirred severe protests and marches. At this point, Krishna made works like *Demonstrators, Praying Woman and Apu Crawling*.

Delivered a workshop and seminar on Colour Viscosity for Midwest Artists and Teachers, Stout State University, Menomonie, Wisconsin, and also at University of Minnesota, Minneapolis

- Late 1960s Reddy began travelling almost six months in a year, invited to educational institutions for lectures and workshops. He also travelled to India every year to share his experiences.

- 1973 Conducted special workshops on colour printmaking at Yale Summer School of Music and Art, Norfolk, Connecticut

- 1976 Moved to New York.

- 1976 Joined as Professor and Director of the Department of Graphics and Printmaking in New York University.

He established a special workshop for working artists and teachers called Colour Print Atelier.

- 1978 He was invited to inaugurate the printmaking studios at the Garhi Art centre of Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi,

where he also conducted a seminar and lecture demonstration

Conducted special workshops on colour printmaking at Yale Summer School of Music and Art, Norfolk, Connecticut

1979 Conducted workshops and demonstrations on Pointillist and Broken Colour Printmaking, Kala Institute of Graphics, Berkeley, California

1982 Delivered a series of seminars on New Ways of Colour Printmaking, The Bronx Museum of the Arts

Krishna Reddy has extensively lectured as Guest-Professor at various Universities such as University of Texas, Hawaii, Mexico, California, Michigan, Wisconsin, Maryland Institute College of Art, Pratt Graphic Center, Ruskin School of Fine Art and Drawing (Oxford University) etc.

He has participated as artist-in-residence at various art centres and institutions such as the National Centre for the Performing Arts, Bombay, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Visva Bharati University, Santiniketan etc.

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS / RETROSPECTIVES: In INDIA

- 1958 Gallery Kumar, New Delhi
1962 Kunika Art Centre, New Delhi
1966 Chemould Gallery, Bombay
1973 Academy of Fine Arts, Calcutta
1974 Associated American Artists, New York
Chemould Gallery, Bombay
1978 Galerie Vivant, Tokyo
En Gallery, Kotchi City, Japan
Clark Gallery, Sapporo, Japan
1984-85 *Retrospective*, Birla Academy of Fine Arts, Calcutta
Retrospective, J J School of Art, Bombay
Retrospective, Rupankar Museum, Bhopal
1985 *Artists Indiens en France*, Centre Nationale l'Arte Plastique, Ministry of Culture, French Government, Paris

- 1986 *Selected Engravings*, Chemould Gallery, Bombay
- 1993 *Retrospective Exhibition*, Chitrakala Parishath, Bangalore
- 1994 Gallery Espace, New Delhi
- 1994-95 Chemould Gallery, Bombay
- 1995 Galerie 88, Calcutta
Prints and Beyond, Curated by Kay Lee, Gallery Korea, New York; Sakshi Gallery, Madras
- 1997 *Krishna Reddy: Early Engravings 1950s & 1960s*, Gallery Espace, New Delhi
- 1998 *Krishna Reddy: Early Engravings 1950s & 1960s*, Galerie 88, Calcutta
Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi

SELECTED RETROSPECTIVES ABROAD

- 1989 *Retrospective*, Ex-Convento del Carmen, Guadalajara
Retrospective, Piacoteca del estado de Tlaxcala, Tlaxcala
Retrospective, Taller de Artes Plasticas Rufine Tamayo, Oaxaca
- 1990 *Retrospective*, A travelling show in Mexico
Krishna Reddy: Colour Intaglios, West Room Gallery, Yonkers Educational & Cultural Art Center, Yonkers
Clown Juggler – Colour Improvisations, Kenkeleba Gallery, New York
- 1992 *Historic Intaglios of Krishna Reddy*, Noel Fine Arts Gallery, Bronxville, New York
- 1996 *Krishna Reddy: Early Engravings 1950s & 1960s*, La Maison Francaise, New York University, New York
- 1997 *Krishna Reddy: A Retrospective*, Printmaking Council of New Jersey, Sommerville, New Jersey
- 2008 A Retrospective, Thomas Erben Gallery, New York City

SELECTED INTERNATIONAL GROUP EXHIBITIONS /PARTICIPATION

- 1954 Annual International Print Show, Seattle Art Museum,
Washington
- 1962 *Hayter and Atelier 17:1927-62*, Institute of Contemporary Arts,
London
- 1956, 1965 Biennale of Ljubljana, Yugoslavia
- 1966 *Hayter and Atelier 17*, Azuma Gallery, Kyoto, Japan
Hayter & Contemporaries of Atelier 17, Original Prints Gallery, San
Francisco
- 1971 *Five Artists from Atelier 17 and S W Hayter*, La Tortue Gallery,
Los Angeles
- 1972 Biennale of Tokyo, Buenos Aires, Tokyo
- 1977-78 *50 Years of Atelier 17*, a 50th Anniversary Retrospective,
Brooklyn Museum, New York
- 1979 *The 57th National Print Exhibition*, The Society of American
Graphic Artists, at Parsons Exhibition Center, New York
- 1980, 1981 *Innovations in Intaglio: Atelier 17 & S W Hayter*, a travelling
show, Baltimore Museum, Baltimore
- 1982 *Contemporary Indian Art*, Festival of India in England, the Royal
Academy Galleries, London
Thirteen Innovative International Contemporary Printmakers, The
Ashmolean Museum, Dep. Western Art, Oxford
- 1984 *Legend and Analogies of Printmaking: Past and Present*, Museum of
Archaeology, Drew University, Madison, New Jersey
- 1985 *Contemporary Works by Five Indian Artists*, Festival of India,
Great Neck Library, Great Neck, New York

- 1986 *Through A Master Printer: Robert Blackburn and the Printmaking Workshop*, Bronx Museum of the Arts, Bronx
- 1987 *International Printmakers*, Chiang Mai University, Chiang Mai, Thailand
- 1987-88 *Contemporary Prints from India*, Kansas State University Collection & Manhattan Arts Council, Manhattan, Kansas
- 1989 International Biennial Print Exhibition, The Westlake Print Festival, Hangzhai, China
- 1991 *Rembrandt to Warhol: The Art of the Print*, Acquisitions from the Gordon Gilkey Curatorial Years, Portland Museum, Portland, Oregon
- 1992 Art Multiple Dusseldorf, International Kunstmarkt fur Grafic Stadthalle, Dusseldorf
- 1993 *Hayter's Atelier 17*, Le Musee Du Dessin et de l' Estampes Originale, Gravelins, France
- 1994 *Rainbow: Prints from Bob Blackburn's Workshop*, two year travelling in sub-Saharan Africa
- 1996 National Print Biennial, sponsored by Pace Editions, Silvermine Guild Art Center along with Chuck Close, Jim Dine, Schnabel, Peterdi, N Caanan
- 1997 *International Print Exhibition*, Portland Museum, Oregon
- 2002 Pacific States Biennial Print Exhibition, University of Hawaii, Hilo, Hawaii

SELECTED HONOURS & AWARDS

- 1972 *Padma Shri* awarded by the President of India, Shri V V Giri
- 1980 *Gagan Abani Puraskar* of Visva Bharati University, Santiniketan, conferred by Indira Gandhi, the then Prime Minister of India
- 1980 Conferred with Honorary Doctorate of Literature, S V University, Tirupati
- 1997 *Kala Ratna*, All India Fine Arts and Crafts Society
- 1985,1995 Honoured Guest Artist, Chitrakala Parishath, under the Ministry of Culture, Government of Karnataka, Bangalore
- 2000 Artist-Printmaker Emeritus of the Year, awarded by Southern Graphics Council of America, University of Miami and Florida
- 2002 Designated Professor Emeritus of Art and Art Education, by the President of New York University, New York

Krishna Reddy lives and works in New York, USA
