



Ministry of Culture
Government of India



राष्ट्रीय आधुनिक
कला संग्रहालय
NATIONAL GALLERY
OF MODERN ART



आममेकर-८२

A. A. Almelkar, Turban (Rajasthani), 1982, Water colour on paper, 34 x 32 cm, Acc No. 117, Collection: NGMA, Mumbai

Pratibimb

A Reflection of A. A. Almelkar's Art

Exhibition Date:

15th July, 2021 onwards

Tuesday to Sunday 11.00 am to 6.00 pm

(Closed on Mondays & National Holidays)

National Gallery of Modern Art, Mumbai

Ministry of Culture, Government of India

Sir Cowasji Jehangir Public Hall, M. G. Road, Fort, Mumbai - 400 032

ABOUT *PRATIBIMB*

The National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), Mumbai presents *Pratibimb* (reflection) - an exhibition that showcases selected works of the acclaimed artist Abdulrahim Appabhai Almelkar (10th October, 1920 - 12th December, 1982). Almelkar's works are a reflection of his genial personality. All his portrayals are marked by a love for life and its many facets, despite all hardships. This exhibition displays his works depicting tribal life, the myriad hues of nature and mundane activities of daily life.

A. A. Almelkar was born in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. He began painting at the young age of seven. He trained at Nutan Kala Mandir (Mumbai) between 1935 and 1940 under G. S. Dandavatimath, the revered mentor from North Karnataka. Almelkar later joined Sir J.J. School of Art, Mumbai to pursue his passion. His early works were influenced by the oeuvre of Walter Langhammer and N.S. Bendre. However, from 1955 onwards, he evolved his own style.

While Almelkar's contemporaries were adherents of the Progressive School, he remained rooted to the traditional style of art, even though his art was often termed as clichéd. He often painted on cardboard applying colours with his bare fingers instead of the brush. He did not desist from using jute, cotton rags, discarded combs and toothbrushes for applying colours. The final touch was in the form of fine lines of black waterproof ink.

Almelkar was a recipient of several awards such as the Gold Medal of the Bombay Art Society and the Lalit Kala Academy Award. He held about 40 solo exhibitions both in India and abroad.

As we celebrate the birth centenary of Almelkar, this exhibition is a fitting tribute that NGMA pays to him. Here, I would like to thank the Director General NGMA, New Delhi, Shri Adwaita Charan Garanayak and the chairman and members of the advisory committee of NGMA, Mumbai for helping us put up this exhibition in a very short period of time. I would also like to thank Shri Suhas Bahulkar, the ex-chairman of the advisory committee of NGMA, Mumbai for his special efforts in reviving the legacy of A. A. Almelkar. Lastly, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all my colleagues at NGMA, Mumbai for having worked hard to put up this exhibition in the testing times of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Anita Rupavataram
Director, National Gallery of Modern Art
Mumbai