

# **Delhi Silpi Chakra**

Delhi Silpi Chakra was founded in 1949.

In 1947, Delhi, the Sarada Ukil School of Art and All India Fine Arts and Crafts Society (AIFACS) were the only organizations in the City. AIFACS was governed by non-artist members where artists did not have any role to play at the level of planning and programming.

A section of artists came together and organized themselves in DSC. Motto: “Art illuminates Life”/ Manifesto – “ ...the group recognizes that art as an activity must not be divorced from life; that the art of a nation must express the soul of its people and ally with the forces of progress. The group recognized that artists had to come together to work towards the progress of art and through art, help build *virile national culture*”.

**Artists:** Pran Nath Mago, Kanwal Krishna, K.S. Kulkarni, Dhanraj Bhagat and B.C. Sanyal (elected as first president of DSC); artists who joined Later: Devyani Krishna, Harkrishan Lall, Satish Gujral, Ram Kumar, K.C. Aryan, Damyanti Chawla, Dinkar Kowshik, Jaya Appaswamy, Rajesh Mehre, Bishamber Khanna & Avinash Chandra.



## DELHI SILPI CHAKRA THE EARLY YEAR

The Statesman March 12, 1949

### DELHI SILPI CHAKRA EXHIBITION

BY OUR ART CRITIC

The first exhibition of the Delhi Silpi Chakra (Delhi Art Circle), a new society of over 30 Delhi artists, is an event of importance. Here indeed is a healthy infant. No one can say all the exhibits are first-rate; no one can deny that there are beginners among the artists; but the majority of the painters are men of fame and promise.

There is Kanwal Krishna with 10 brilliantly executed, often highly imaginative water-colours. Bhabesh Sanyal, another well-known painter, shows some of his latest work. They are uneven in quality but some are first-rate, such as his impressive "Pilgrims"—one of the finest works in the hall. Everything he touches is lifted to a level of beauty; witness his "Buffaloes".

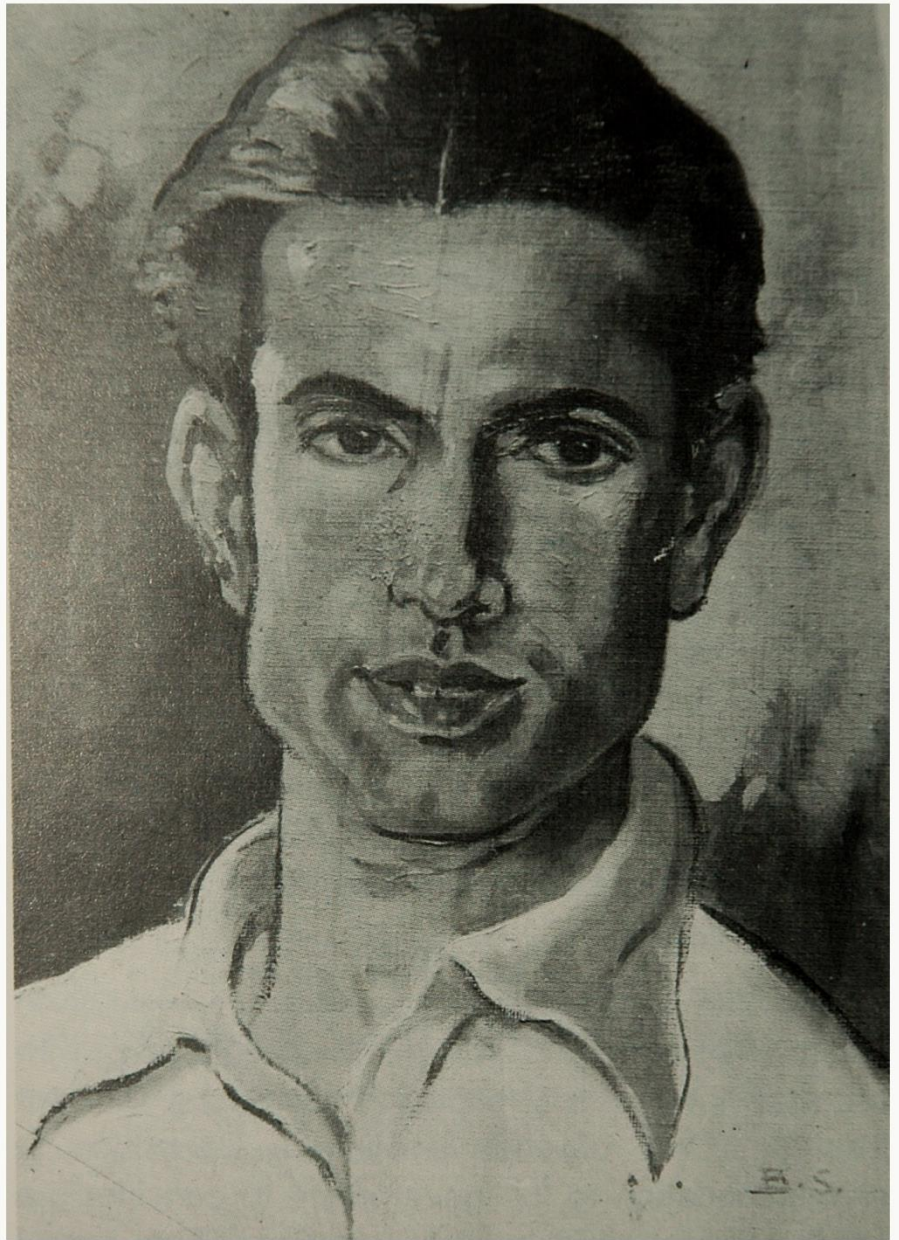
In Harkrishan Lall we have a painter of great promise, though here and there his subject or composition is forced. His palette is restricted and his colour harmonies most pleasing. "The Village Pond" is surely a first-rate work.

Mrs. Damayanti Choula, a highly gifted post-impressionist, shows six canvases, of which I pick out "Girl with Pitcher" and "The Washer-woman" two beautifully composed paintings. Then there is Pran Nath Mago, whose "Moonlight" over the Jantar Mantar is his best in this show, and Bai Moni Bhanot, with two remarkable canvases. Ram Kumar exhibits a number of Kashmir landscapes, but his "Beggars" is a far better work of imagination and composition than the rest. There are some highly attractive decorative works by Mrs. Devyani Krishna.

A distinguished contribution by Mrs. Ratna Fabri shows a mastery of intense colour combination which is hardly equalled in the exhibition. Her "Charcoal Burners" and "Storm over the Field" are arresting examples of the good artist's feeling for rhythm and balance. The placing of the main figure in "Ambujam" has made an almost conventional portrait into an excitingly composed picture. Charles Fabri's large canvas "I have touched the Earth of India" has expertly combined the soft contour of bare earth with the sharpness of bright plants and fruits. The allegory may not appeal to all but none will deny that his handling of light and shade and choice of colour blending can hardly be criticized. The "Mother and Child" in bright primary colours has a simplicity that is the fundamental basis of good art.

Dhanraj Bhagat's wood carvings in the sculpture section must be mentioned; superb works of plastic art, and surely the finest exhibits in an anyhow excellent show.

The exhibition is held in the Freemasons' Hall—a real discovery for a town without galleries—and will remain open daily from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. from November 13 to 20.



B.C. Sanyal, *Self Portrait*



Bhabesh Chandra Sanyal



Bhabesh Chandra Sanyal



Kanwal Krishna, Bergen ( Norway); 1953; Oil



Kanwal Krishna





Kanwal Krishna



K. S. Kulkarni, *Lady with a Child, Gauche*



**K. S. Kulkarni**



**K. S. Kulkarni**



Dhan Raj Bhagat, *Punjabi Bride*, Wood



Dhan Raj Bhagat



Dhan Raj Bhagat



Pran Nath Mago





Pran Nath Mago



P.N. Mago, *Jalianwala Bagh*, Charcoal



Harkishan Lal



Harkishan Lal



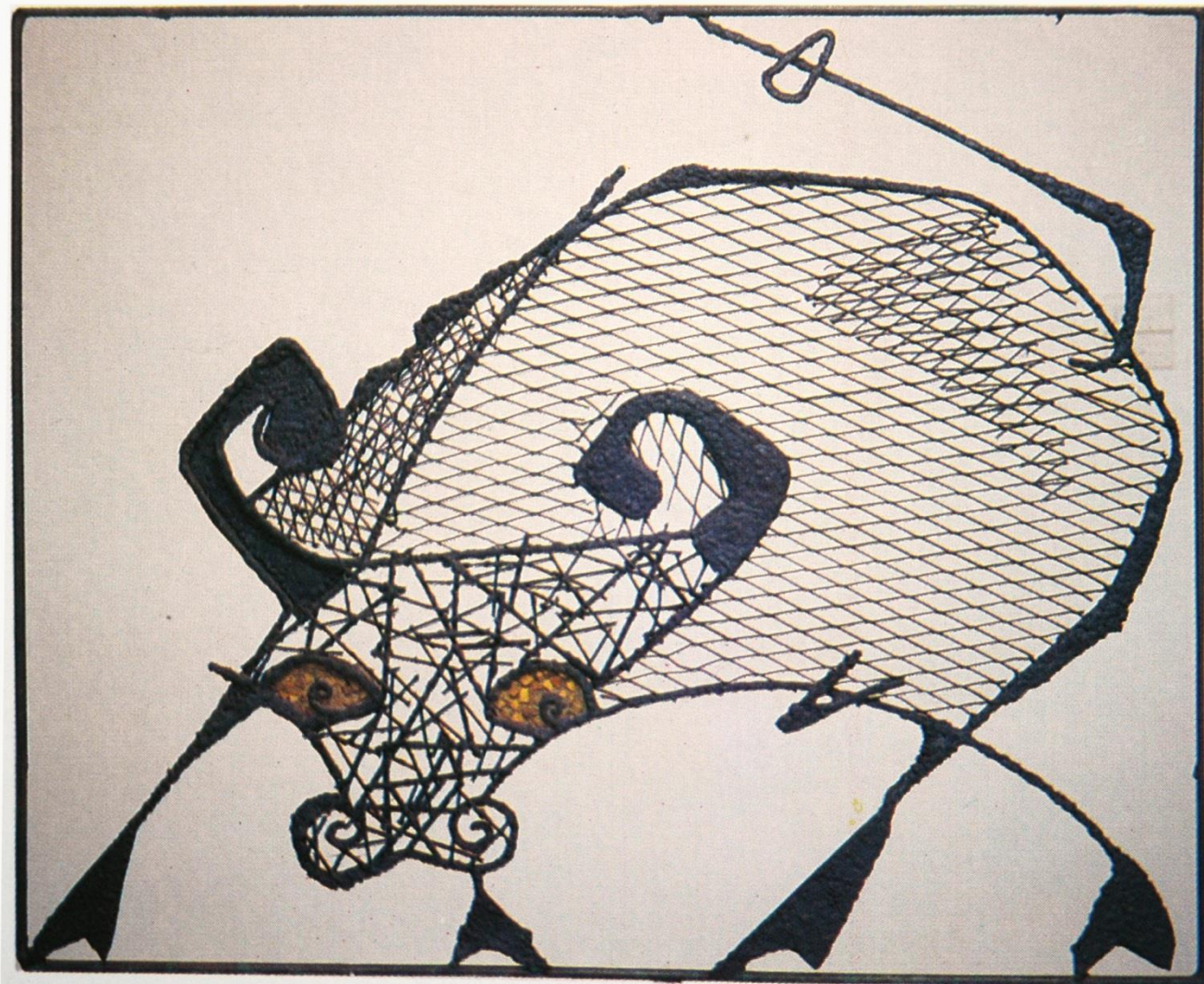
Satish Gujral



Satish Gujral



Satish Gujral, Untitled 1963

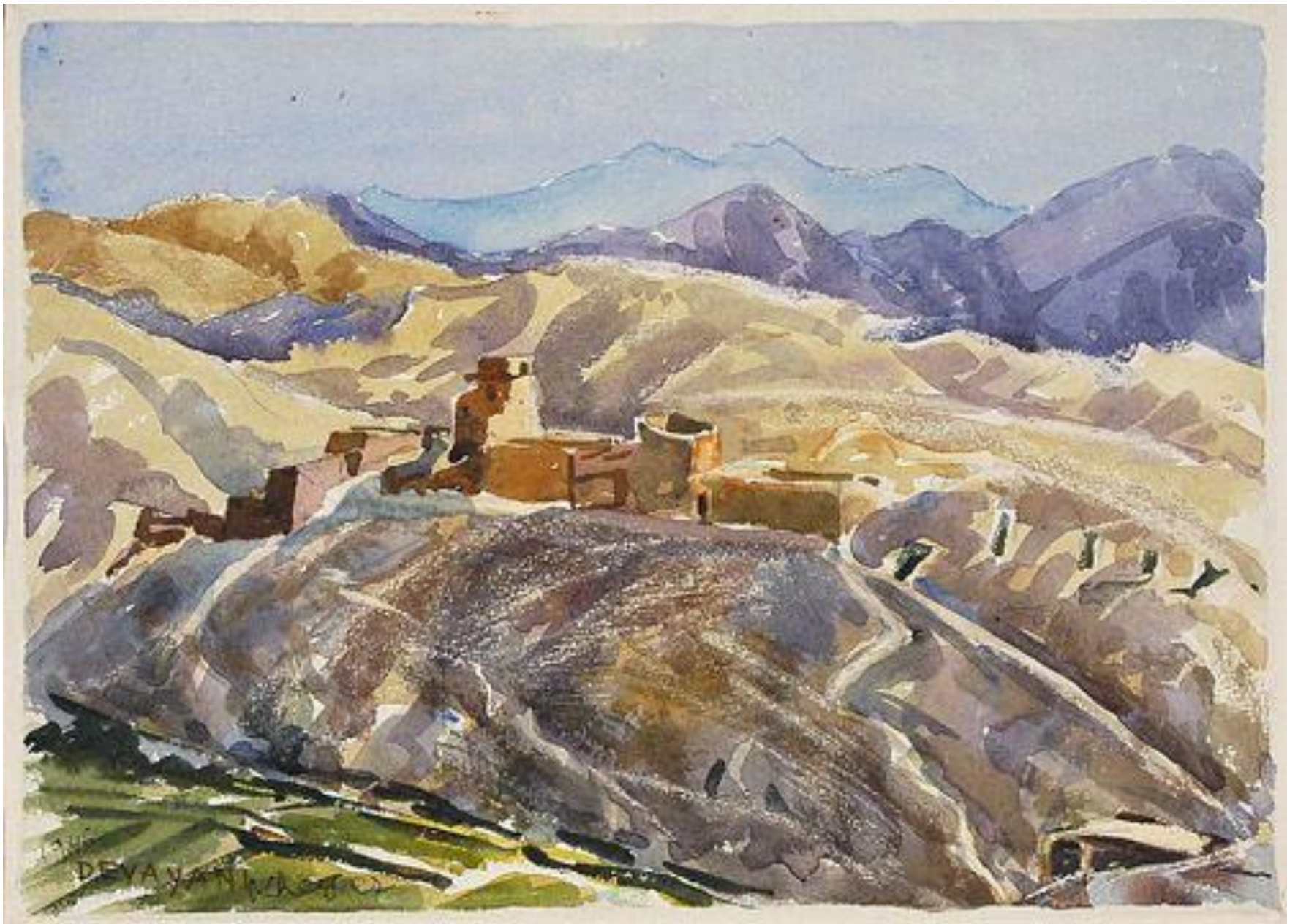


K. C. Aryan

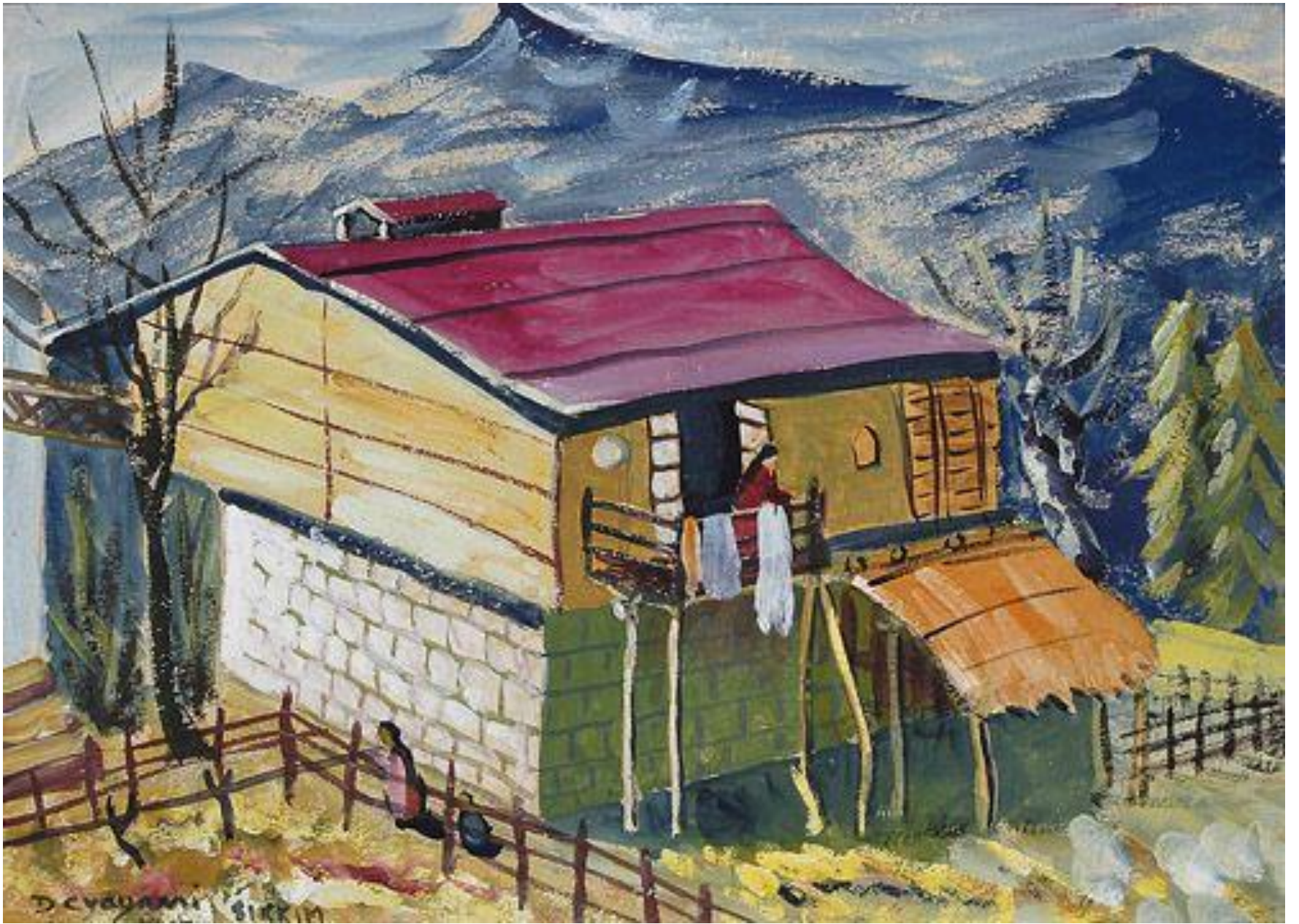




K. C. Aryan



Devayani Krishna, Khyber; 1946; WC



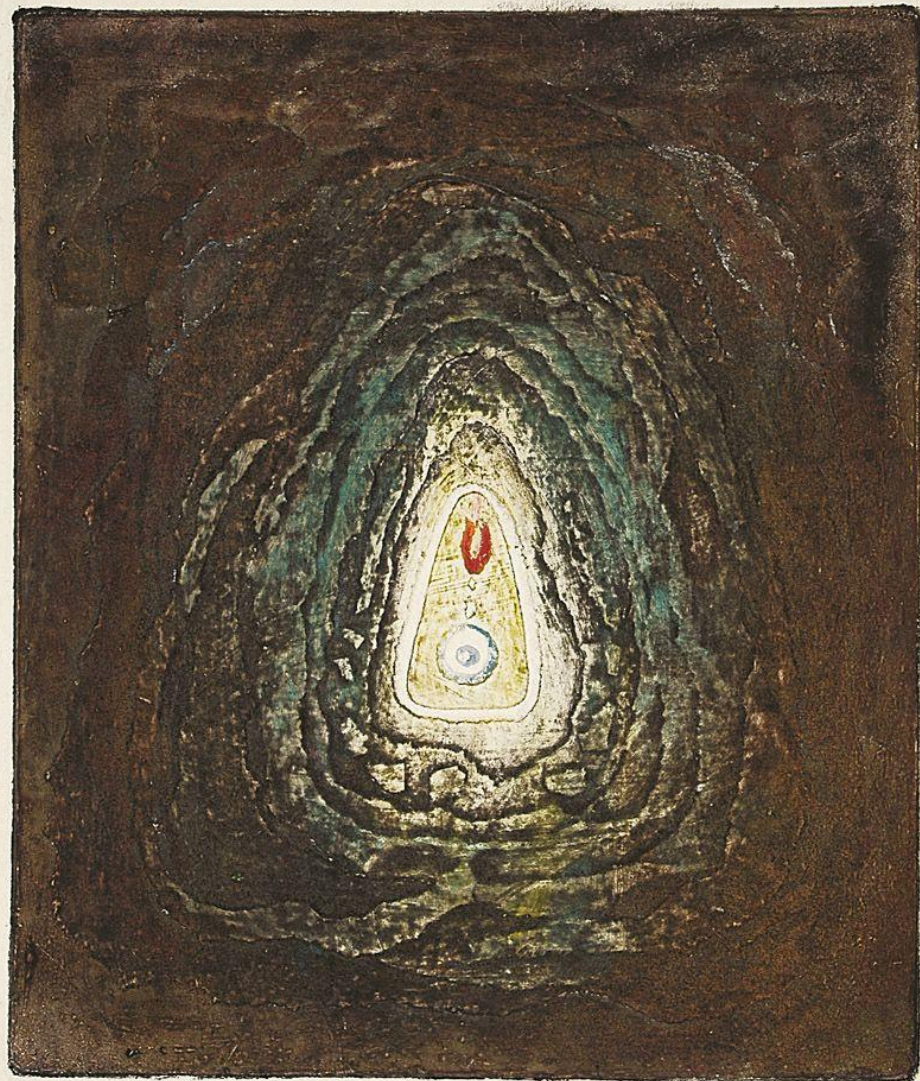
Devyani; Sikkim; 1950; Gouache



A.P.I  
XII

"OLD DEHLI"

Dwivedi 1960



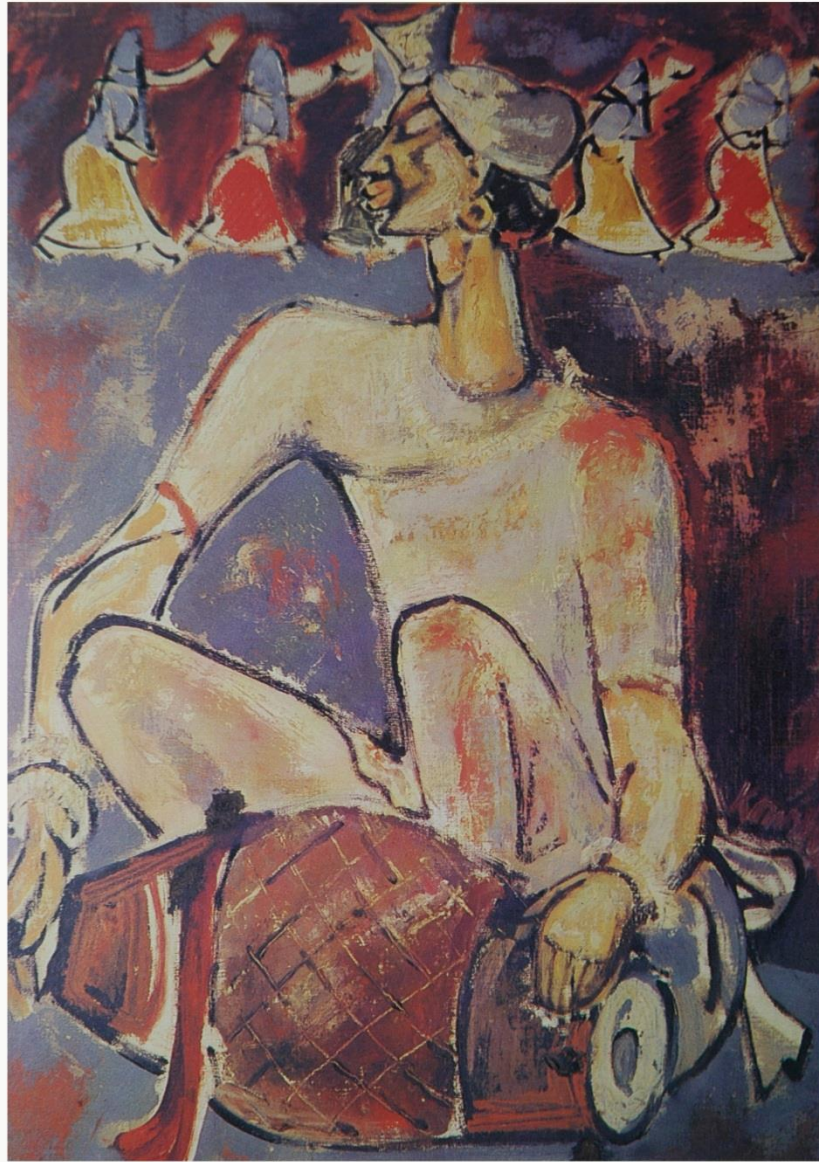
A/P

"GANESH" S. NO 1

Swayam 1970



Dinkar Kaushik

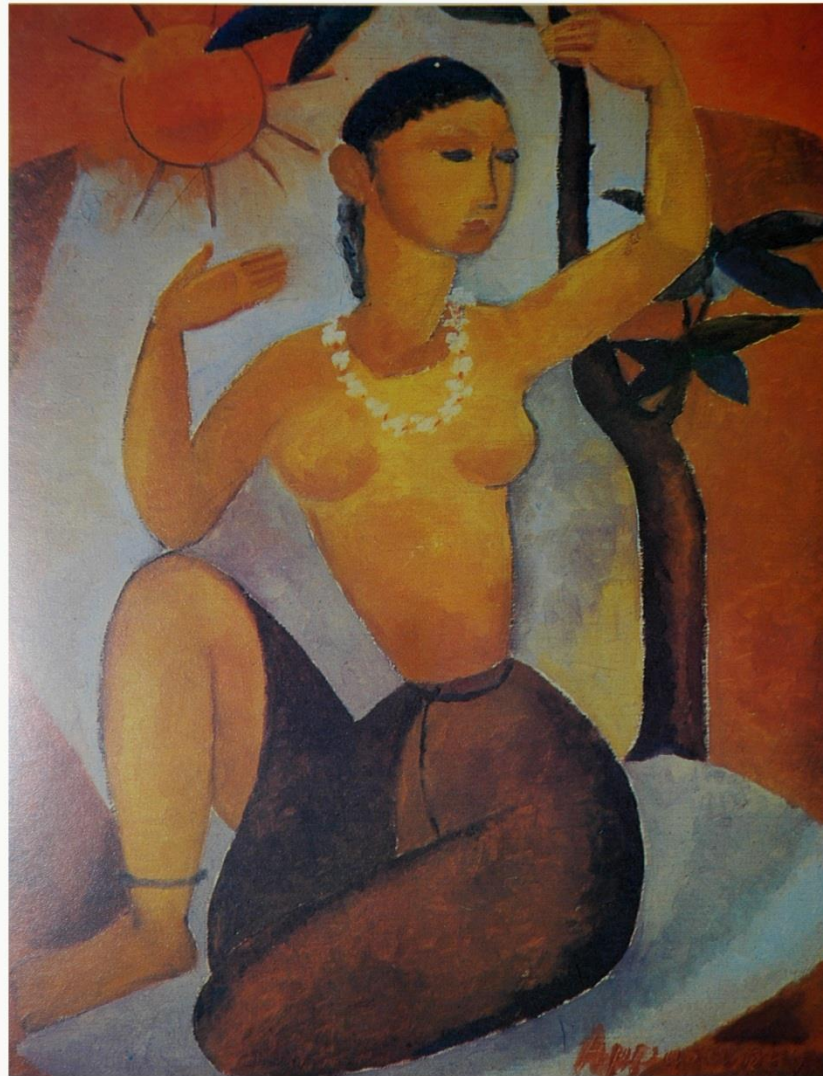


Dinkar Kaushik

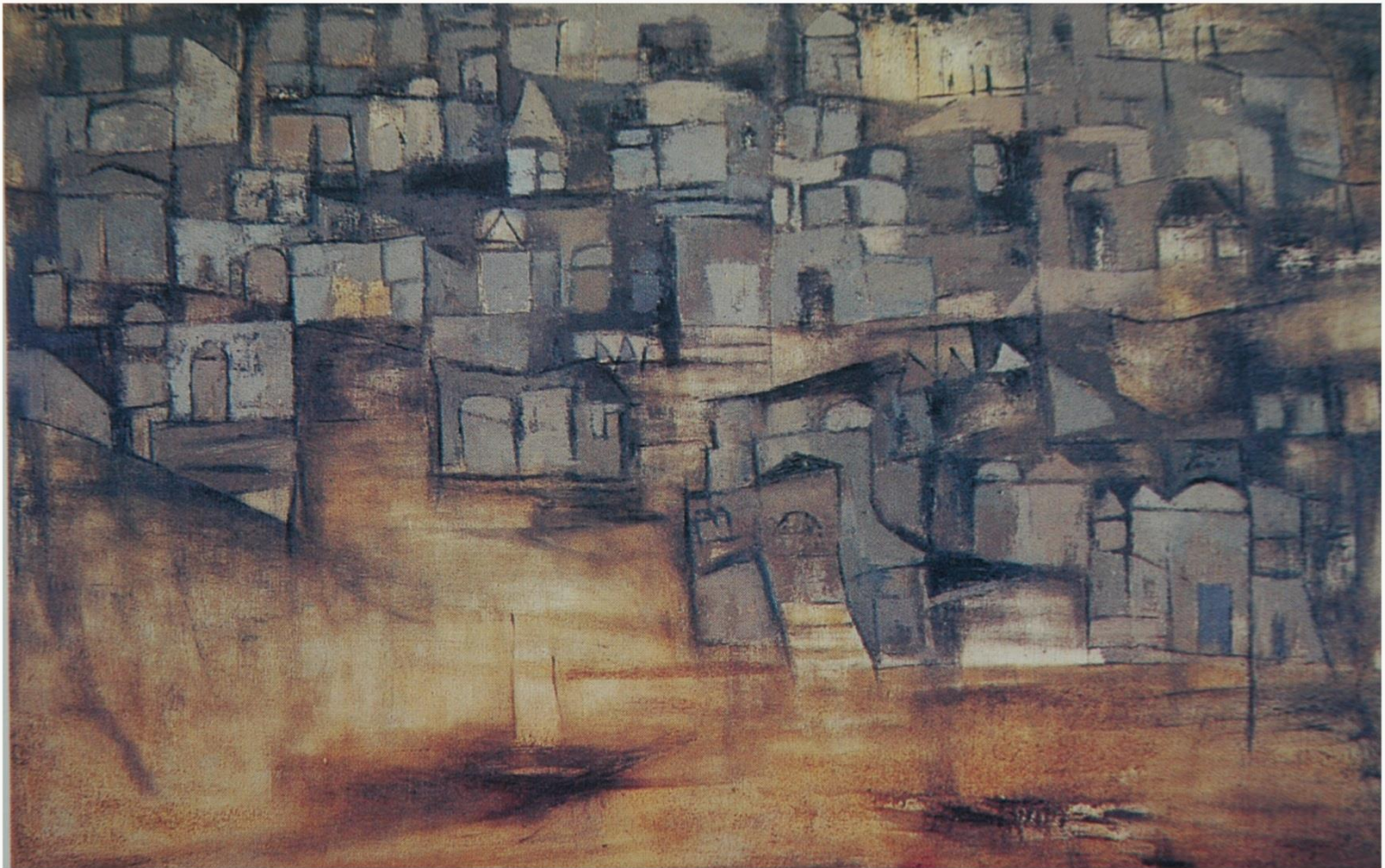


Jaya Appasamy





Jaya Appasamy



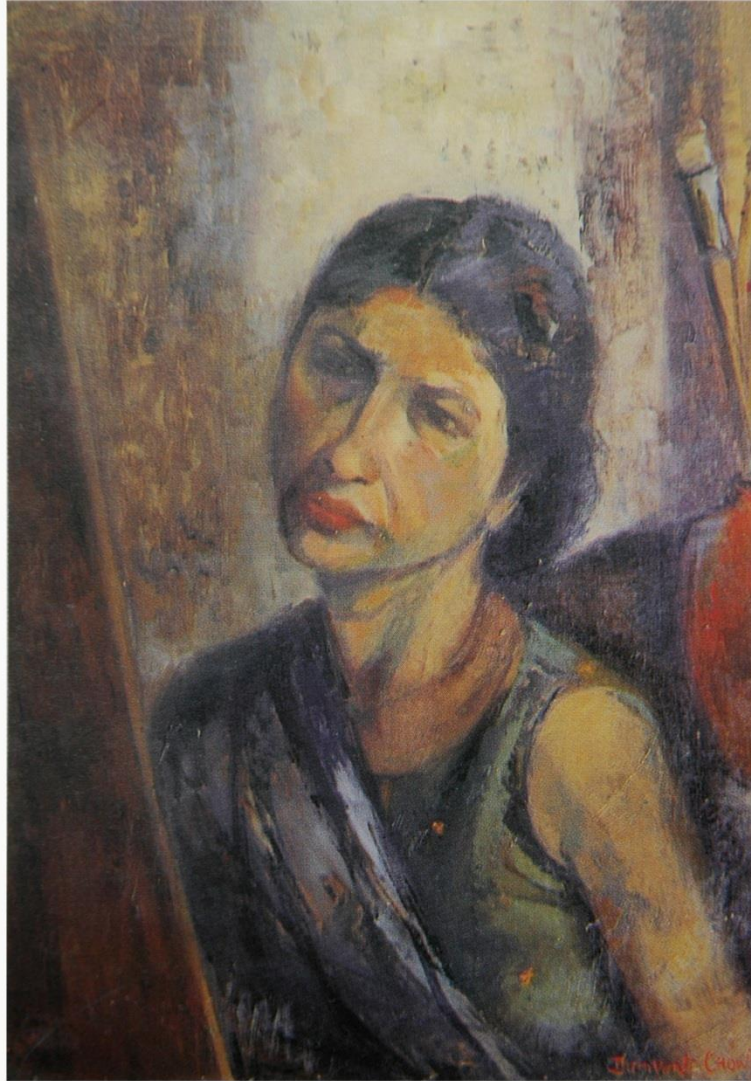
Ram Kumar



Ram Kumar

Ram Kumar  
Spring 1961





Damyanti Chawla



Damyanti Chawla



Prabha Rastogi

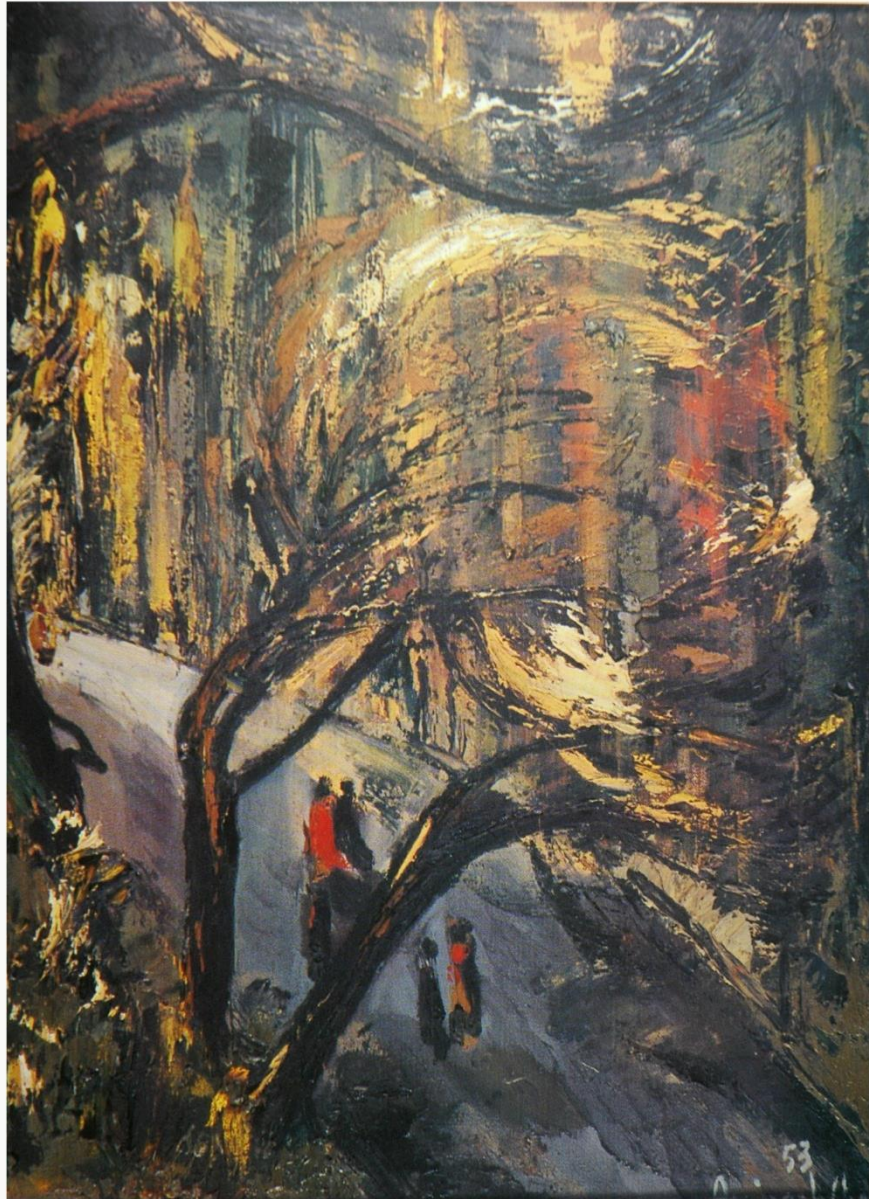


Prabha Rastogi

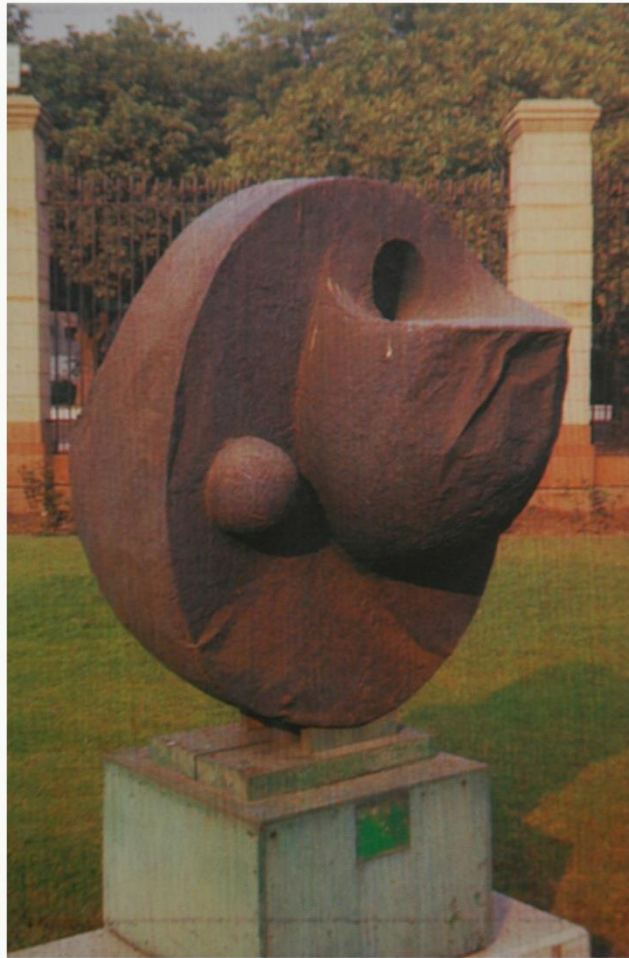




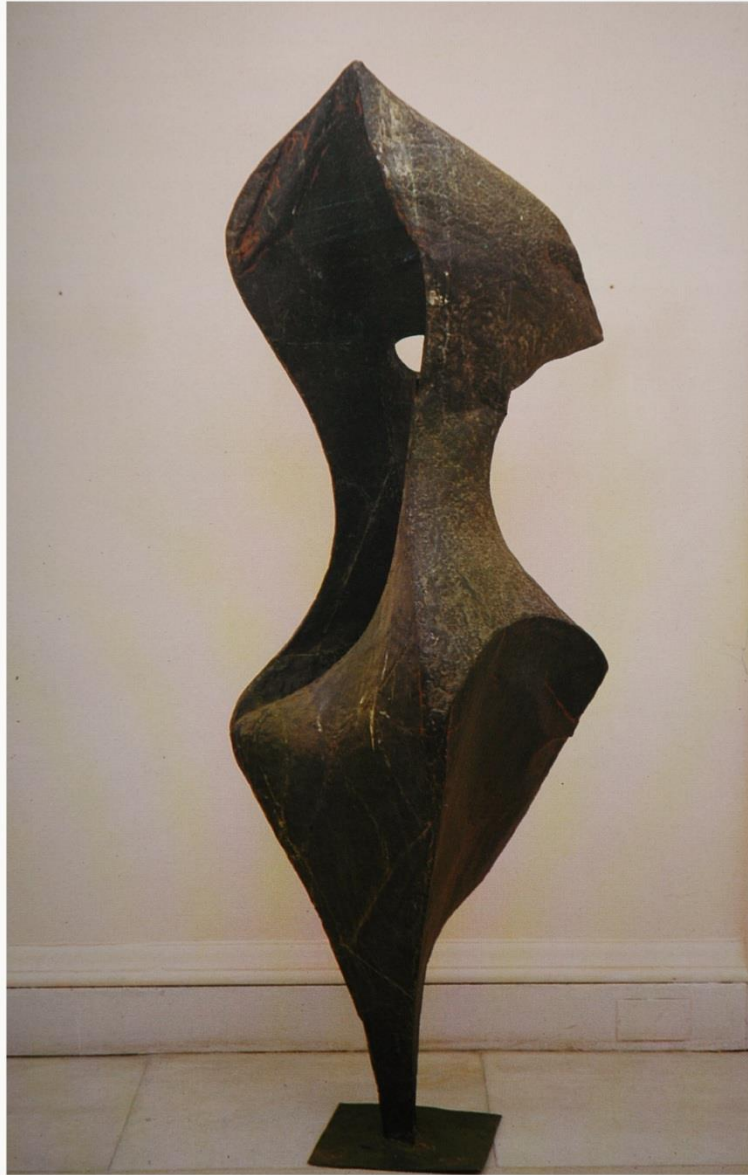
Avinash Chandra



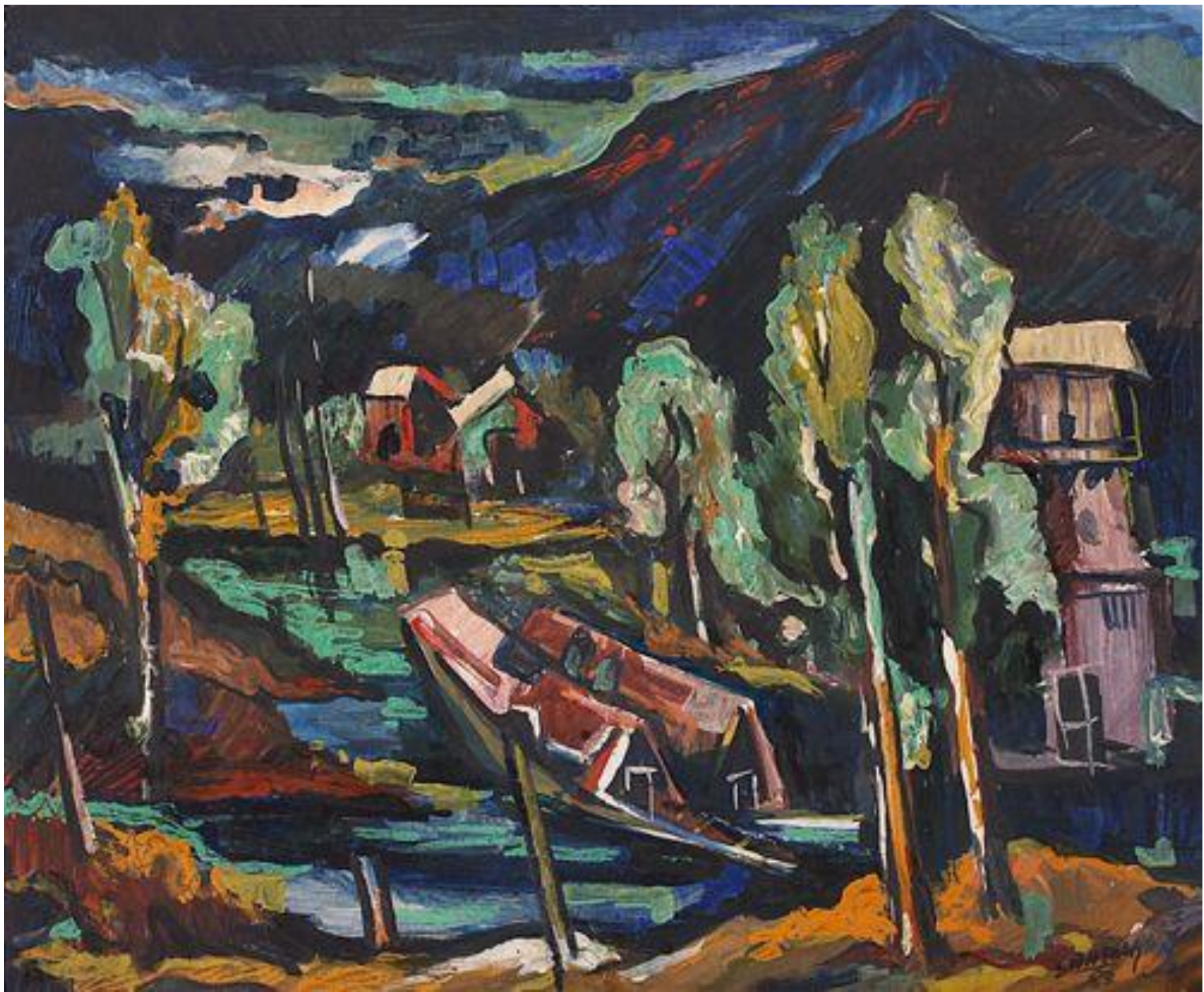
Avinash Chandra



Kewal Soni

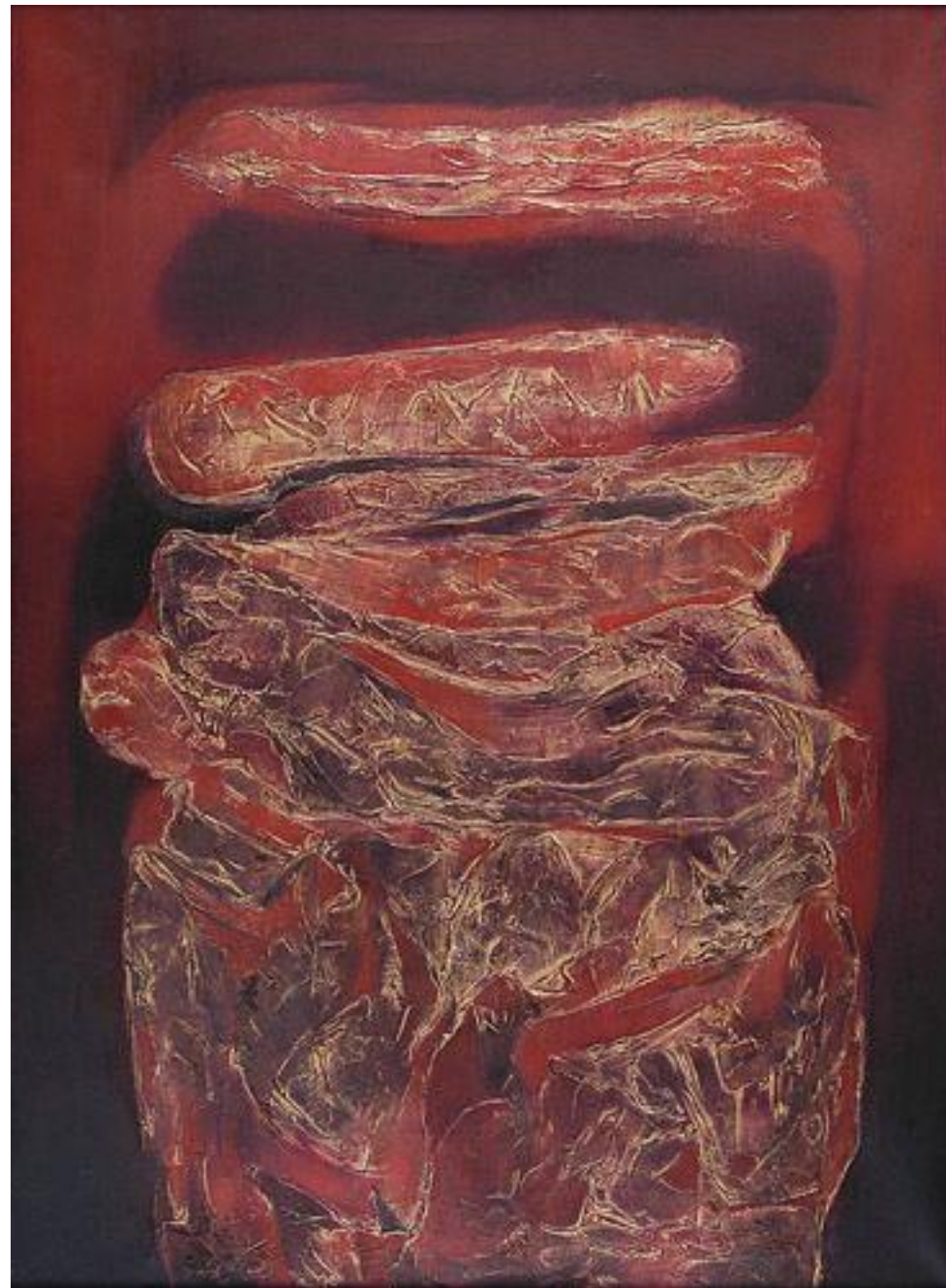


Kewal Soni

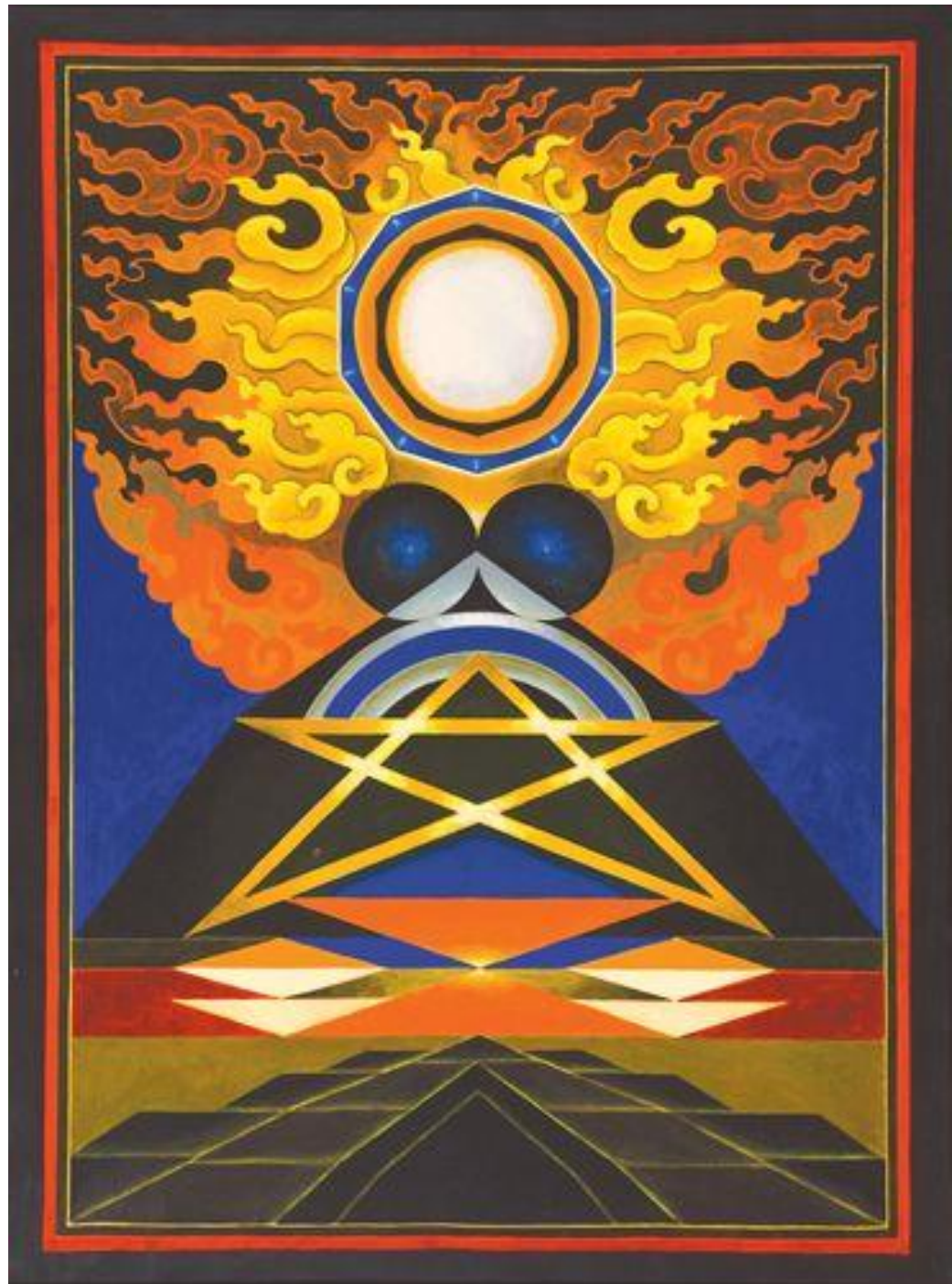


GR Santosh; Backwaters, Dal Lake, Kashmir - 1953

GR Santosh; Untitled; 1965



G R Santosh; Untitled;





Mohinder Kaur





Bishamber Khanna



Bishamber Khanna



Rajesh Mehra



Rajesh Mehra