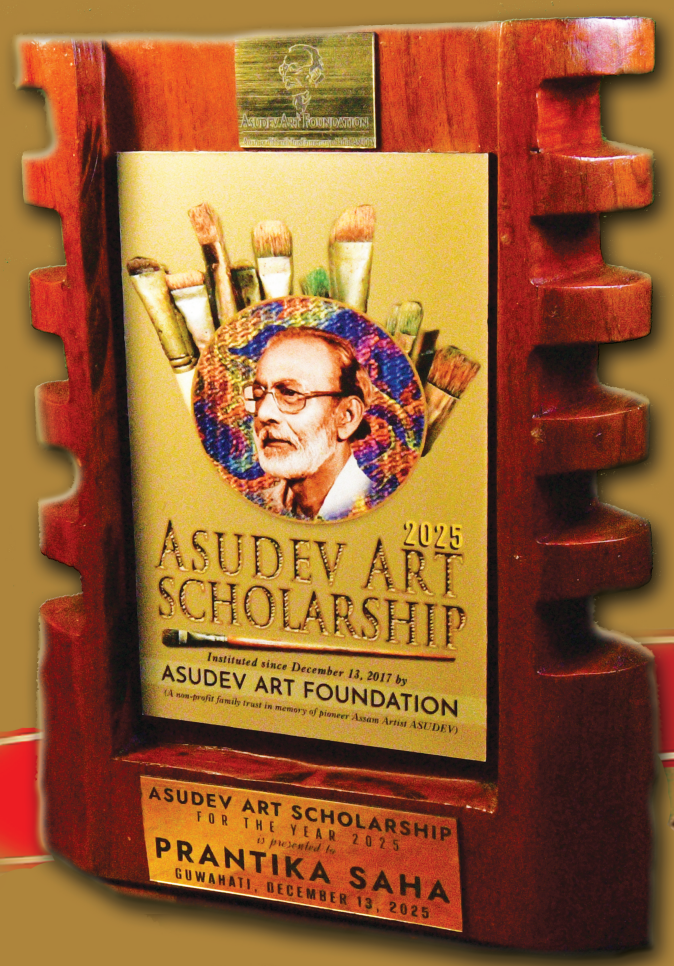
ASUDEV ART FOUNDATION
A Non-Profit Trust in Memory of Artist Asu Dev

presents



2025 ASUDEV ART SCHOLARSHIP

Instituted on December 13, 2017 by

ASUDEV ART FOUNDATION

(A non-profit family trust in memory of ASUDEV a pioneering artist of Assam)

ASUDEV

ASU DEV, a pioneering visual Artist of Assam, was born on December 13, 1917 in Dhubri, Assam to Kadambini and Umesh Chandra Deb. Umesh Chandra Deb worked as 'Revenue Shrestadar' under the then British Government in the undivided Assam. He was also a scholar and researcher on Srimanta Sankardeva, the 15th–16th century Assamese polymath; a saint-scholar, poet, playwright, dancer, actor, musician, artist and social-religious reformer. Umesh Chandra Deb published his research work, in 57 pages in Bangla, on Srimanta Sankardeva, in 1327 (Bengali calendar) i.e.1920, which was printed by Sribhumi Publication Company, Calcutta. This publication was again later re-printed by Dr. Nagen Saikia in November 1989.

ASU DEV completed his schooling in Cotton Collegiate School, Guwahati. His interest in textile designs, took him across India to the different Textile Mills in Ahmedabad, Surat, Calcutta and Khulna. In his later years he worked as Textile Designer at the Weavers Service & Training Centre, Dimapur,Nagaland.

ASUDEV was a self-taught Artist, and his involvement with the intricacies of textile designing and weaving, creating designs on the graph papers, could have played an intense surge in his experimenting with dots, that now many of his admirers often refer as 'pointillism'.

On looking at ASU DEV's paintings:

-Navakanta Barua

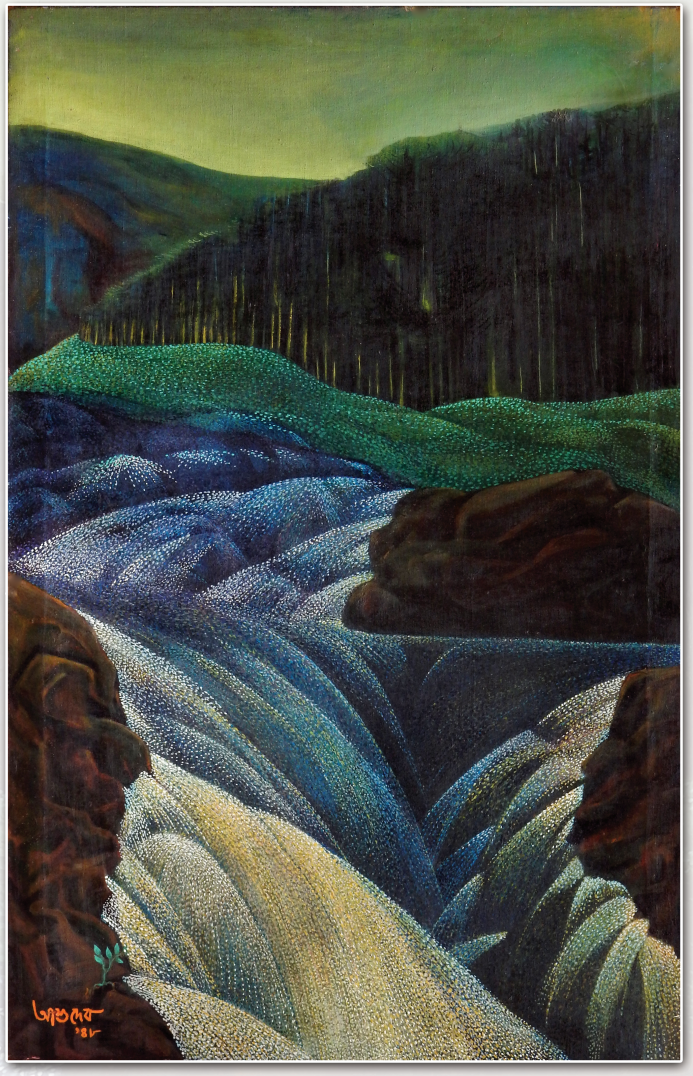
" There are no lines in nature, only shapes"*-Asuda (the Late Asu Dev) used to tell us,**"and that's why I break up outlines into dots."*

It is not a mathematical voice stating that lines do not exist-they are a continuum of points. Nor was it a distant-echo of Seurat and his delving deep into the optics of colour perception. Nevertheless, in most of Asu Dev's paintings we face a granular or celular texture created by his similar ways of applying pigments. This is something which no viewer would fail to observe. Instead of dabbing paints with a spatula as is the want of many contemporary painters, or even with painters, or even with a flat brush. Asu Dev painstakingly covered large areas with dots too big to be called points and too small to be called impressionistic patches.Even the powerful strokes with which he made his sketches were subdued by these dots as if to break up the lines into converging shapes...'

Excerpts from an article written in 1983

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: **Navakanta Barua:**
A pioneering Assamese novelist and poet.
A Padma Bhushan & Sahitya Akademi Awardee.

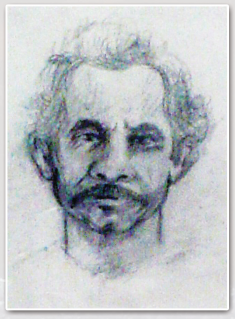
Scan the QR code or search the URL in a web browser to read the complete article
https://artofasudev.org/life-times/on-looking-at-asu-devs-paintings-navakanta-barua



'The Wake' c.1948 Oil on Canvas 112 x 73 cms Collection of ASUDEV Art Foundation, Guwahati



'On way to work' c.1964 Oil on Canvas 122 x 81 cms Collection of ASUDEV Art Foundation, Guwahati







Sketches

ASUDEV ART SCHOLARSHIP-2025: AWARDEE

PRANTIKA SAHA



Presently pursuing her Masters of Fine Arts in Design (Ceramics & Glass)
at Kala Bhavana, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan
2021-2025: Bachelor of Fine Arts, Design (Ceramics & Glass) from
Kala Bhavana Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan
Schooling from PM SHRI Kendriya Vidyalaya New Bongaigaon
A resident of New Bongaigaon, Assam.



Adjustment c. 2025 Ceramics 35 X 16 X 17 inches

AWARDEE's IMPRESSIONS...

Through my Art, I try to show how life can be formed through different objects.I work mainly with ceramics and glass because I feel a strong personal connection to these materials. Both of these mediums allow me to express my emotions in a way that feels natural and meaningful to me. Ceramics and glass have a way of capturing delicate, fragile feelings while also showing strength and resilience.This balance is something I find very appealing and important in my artwork. Each piece I create carries its own unique set of emotions and stories. Each one represents different feelings and experiences. Every piece is a reflection of my thoughts, my feelings and my connection to the world around me.

The ASUDEV Art Scholarship- for the year 2025 will help me to work more effectively and collective. I could try more ways to explore my way to work. For me, the process of creating art is a communication without words. It allows me to share emotions and ideas that can be hard to express through speech alone.

In this way, my artwork becomes a language of its own speaking directly to the viewer and allowing them to feel and experience the emotions I've put into it.



Mother shell c. 2024 Glass casting 18 X 13 X 10 inches



Untitled c. 2025 Ceramics 13 X 6 X 10 inches



'Humanity uprooted' c.1968 Oil on Canvas 125 x 87 cms Collection of ASUDEV Art Foundation, Guwahati

'Talking of ASU DEV— The man and the Artist' by Dr. Birendranath Datta.

'...That brings us to Asu Dev's almost complete commitment to this part of the country – the land where he was born and which had given him sustenance. Thus it is that the entire range of his landscapes represents the hills and plains of this region and his life-studies almost invariably feature the traditional rural milieu of Assam or what formed parts of Assam till the other day. The very fact that he was the pioneer in discovering the practical potentialities of the traditional paintings of this region – he was indeed the first artist to transfer Chitrabhagavat miniatures into large-size mural's – bears testimony to the whole some truth that Asu Dev did not have a merely "romantic" attachment to the nature and the people of this region, but also had a genuine love and respect for its artistic traditions. That also includes his concern with the textile designs which form such a significant part of the art heritage of the region...'

Excerpts from an article published in 1983

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: *Dr. Birendranath Datta was an Indian academic, linguist, author, researcher of folklore, singer, and lyricist. A Padma Bhushan awardee.*

Scan the QR code or search the URL in a web browser to read the complete article

https://artofasudev.org/life-times/talking-of-asu-dev-the-man-and-the-artist-dr-birendranath-datta/



'Hide and seek' c.1964 Oil on Board 92 x 48 cms Collection of ASUDEV Art Foundation, Guwahati



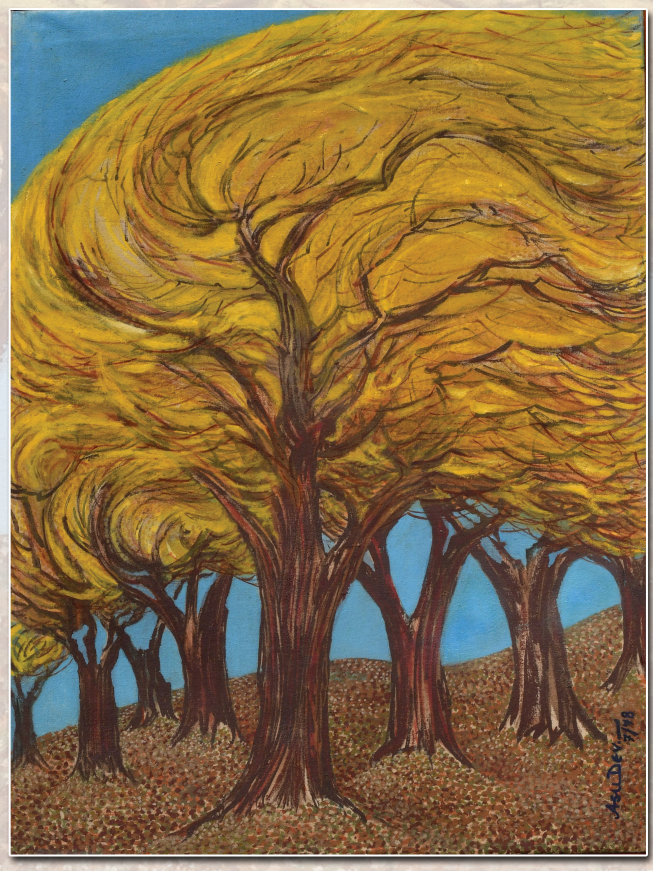
ASUDEV's painting c.1965 Water Colour Tempera
'Looking for fish' Collection of The Assam State Museum, Guwahati



'Gossip' c.1936-40 Water Colour Tempera 35 x 24 cms
Collection of ASUDEV Art Foundation, Guwahati



'Night awake' c.1978 Oil on canvas 82 x 61 cms
Collection of ASUDEV Art Foundation, Guwahati



'Spring time' c.1978 Oil on canvas 82 x 61 cms
Collection of ASUDEV Art Foundation, Guwahati

'A Sketch of an Artist' by Subroto Ghosh

"...AsuDev was an artist of solitude and nature.He found his free self were the canopy of the sky borders on the horizontal line,where the cataracts reverberate the tranquility of the solitude, where the stratus of the wood raise its mellifluous chorus with the blowing of wind; and all these reaction of his sincere artistic mind came out in bold-relief vibrant with life on his canvas..."

Excerpts from an article published in 1983.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Subroto Ghosh, *worked in the Indian Railways posted in NFR Maligaon HQ, Guwahati and had lot of interactions with the Artist very often.*

Scan the QR code or search the URL in a web browser to read the complete article

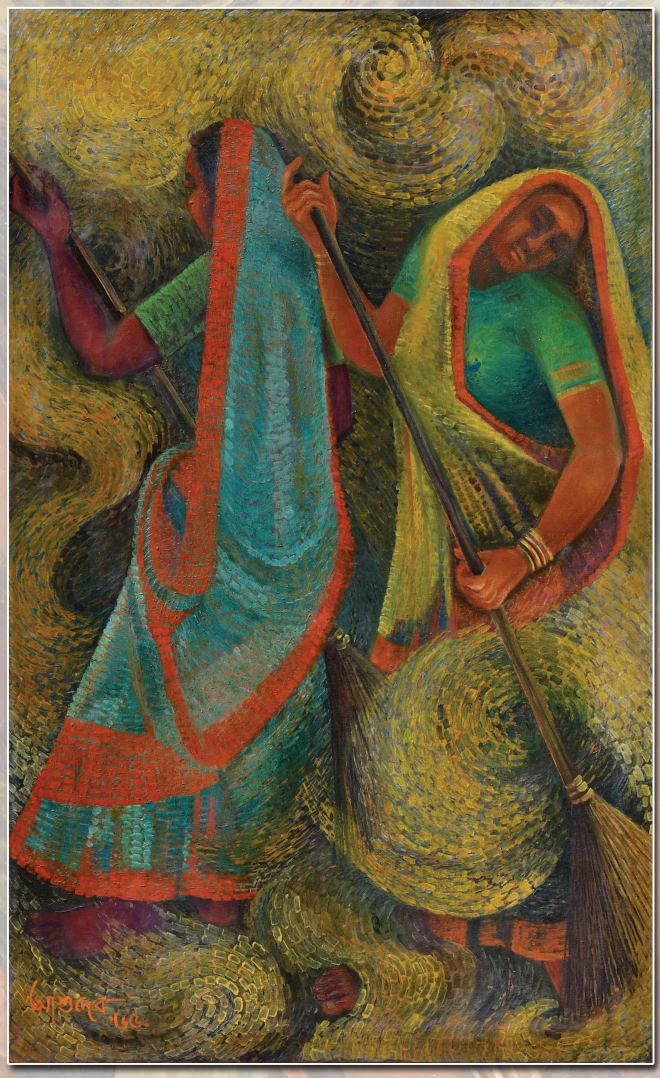
https://artofasudev.org/life-times/a-sketch-of-an-artist/



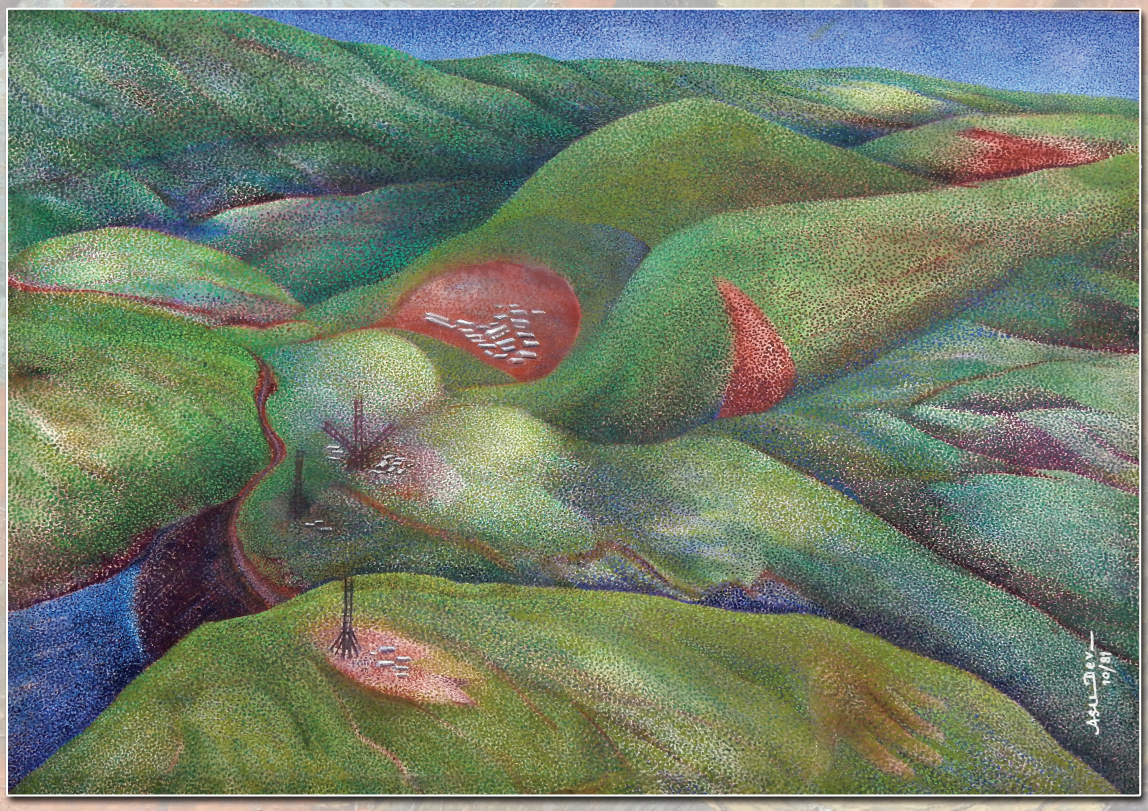
ASUDEV's painting 'Symphony' c.1973 Oil on Canvas 102 x 65 cms
Collection: The Directorate of Cultural Affairs, Government of Assam



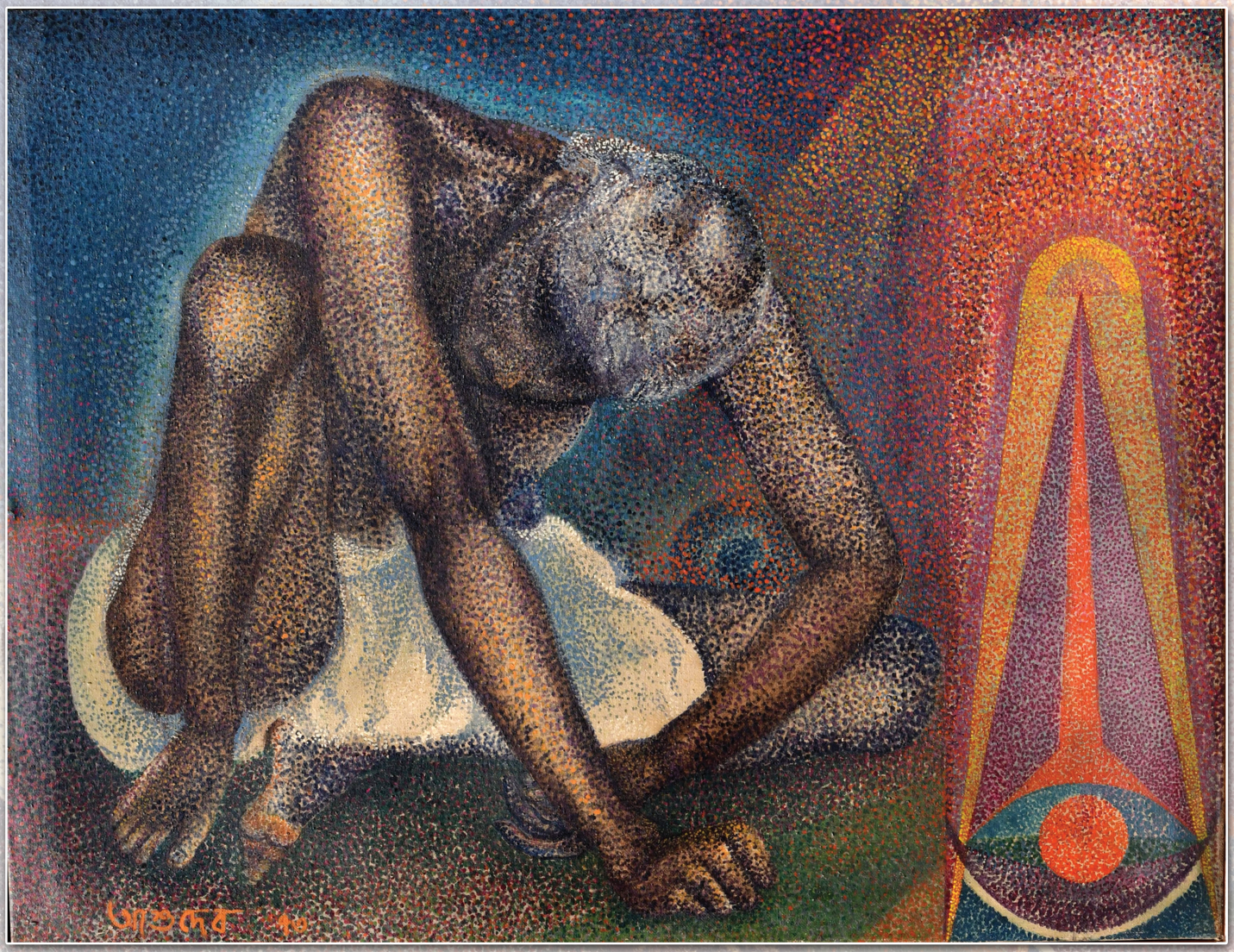
'Picnic' c.1950 Oil on Canvas 61 x 46 cms
Collection of ASUDEV Art Foundation, Guwahati



'Harijan' c.1965 Oil on Canvas 132 x 82 cms
Collection of ASUDEV Art Foundation, Guwahati



'Birth of a new Rhythm' c.1981 Oil on Canvas 120 x 84 cms Collection of ASUDEV Art Foundation, Guwahati



'Life moves on' c.1973 Oil on Canvas 93 x 71 cms Collection of ASUDEV Art Foundation, Guwahati

ASUDEV ART SCHOLARSHIP

The 'ASUDEV ART SCHOLARSHIP', was initiated in 2017, the birth centenary year of ASUDEV (1917-1983) a pioneering artist of Assam to support and foster the study of Visual Arts for the greater cause that ASUDEV had always envisaged, during his lifetime awakening in his students, a deep perception of the intricacies of Fine Arts studies. The 'ASUDEV ART SCHOLARSHIP' carries a citation, a memento and one-time financial grant of ₹50,000,solely funded by ASUDEV's family, and is offered annually through 'ASUDEV ART FOUNDATION' (A non-profit family trust in memory of ASUDEV a pioneering artist of Assam), sustaining aspiring and promising young students under 28 years of age, a domicile of Assam, and is pursuing Masters in Visual Arts, outside the North-East India, and is admitted as a regular student in Institutions accredited by the University Grants Commission(UGC) & the Government of India.

The ASUDEV Art Scholarship is presented annually on the birth anniversary of ASUDEV on December 13.

ASUDEV's ART GALLERY (A private Art space)

A permanent display of selected artworks of ASUDEV representing a period (1936 to 1983) taken care through professional cleaning & restoration, was inaugurated by eminent Artist, Shri Noni Borpuzari and Senior Journalist, Shri Udayan Biswas in the presence of eminent Artists Shri Biren Singha, Shri Aminul Haque, Dr.Nilima Thakuria Haque, and members of Gauhati Artists' Guild, students of AAFTAA, distinguished guest, and media person on ***13 December 2024.***

The Gallery is open Monday to Friday (2-7 PM), for students of Visual Arts, Art Researchers & Connoisseurs.

Visitors are requested to confirm their visit with the date & time on +91 98640 39964.

RECIPIENTS OF 'ASUDEV ART SCHOLARSHIP'

2017: Seemanta Bhagawati (Graphics) Kala-Bhavana,Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan (A resident of Mangaldoi, Assam)
2018: Debangona Paul (Graphics) Kala-Bhavana,Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan (A resident of Silchar, Assam)
2024: Jyotishmriti Bordoloi (Painting) Faculty of Fine Arts, M.S.University of Baroda (A resident of Golaghat, Assam)

ASUDEV ART FOUNDATION 45 BARTHAKUR MILL ROAD ULUBARI GUWAHATI 781 007 ASSAM
+91 98640 39964 www.artofasudev.org asudevartfoundation@gmail.com

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