

## **Career of Sanyasi Lohar**

### **1972**

- Born at Bishnubati / Ashadullapur, a Santal village 6 km from Santiniketan, in a blacksmith's family.

### **1989**

- School Final examinations from West Bengal Madrasa Board of Secondary Education, Kendradangal.

### **1993**

- Entered Kala Bhavan, the Art Academy of Visva-Bharati University, Santiniketan, for a Diploma and Post-Diploma Course in Fine Arts; completed in 2001.

### **1998**

- Tour through Germany, Austria and the U.K. with a Santal Cultural Group of Bishnubati & Ghosaldanga; ad hoc-exhibitions of paintings on Santal village life at each tour stop.

### **1998/1999**

- Four-month stay at the Ecole d'Humanité, a private school at Hasliberg Goldern (Switzerland ) as student and art teacher.

### **1999**

- October: two art workshops with exhibitions during an International Congress at the University of Eichstätt (Germany).
- Art classes at the Rolf Schoembs Vidyashram, a non formal Santal School near Bishnubati and Ghosaldanga.

### **2001/2002**

- Second four-month term at the Ecole d'Humanité (Switzerland) as art teacher.
- January/February: first solo exhibition of paintings at the Abbey of Münsterschwarzach (Germany).
- 25th - 11th May: first solo exhibition of sculptures at Max Mueller Bhavan (Goethe-Institut), Kolkata.
- 18th - 23rd July: co-curating the first exhibition of paintings by the Santal children of the Rolf- Schoembs Vidyashram (Ghosaldanga / Bishnubati) at Nandan Gallery, Kala Bhavan, Santiniketan.

## **2003/2004**

- Begin of production of Batiks and Leather handicrafts for export.
- 6th - 8th January: participated and paper presented at a National Seminar “Understanding Imagination among the Tribes” at Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi.
- 21st - 27th February: solo exhibition of paintings and sculptures at the Academy of Fine Arts, Kolkata.
- From 25th November: conducting a three-week course on Batik at Bishnubati.

## **2005**

- From April to end of June: third term at Ecole d' Humanite as art teacher;
- from beginning to end of July: cultural tour with a Santal group through Germany with performances of dance and music and discussion in 18 schools, exhibition at the Katholische Akademie in Aachen, opening on 8th July.
- From 18th to 30th July and 8th to 27th August: participation in two courses (“Experiment in Print”; “Humour and Wit”) of the International Summer Academy for artists in Salzburg (Austria), followed by an exhibition.

## **2006**

- Cooperation with Amarkutir Society for Rural Development, Ballavpur near Santiniketan, in the production and sale of Batiks and Leather goods.
- Establishment of a separate production unit in Bishnubati; collaboration with Ambedkar Hastasilpa Vikas Yoyana (A.H.V.Y).
- Collaboration with the West Bengal Khadi & Village Industries Board, Sriniketan Panchayat Samity as a Batik trainer.

## **2007**

- Founding a Registered Organisation under the West Bengal Government. Registered Society Act 1961. The name of the Society is *Ashadullapur Gramin Silpa & Sastha Bidhan Kendra*, Village: Ashadullapur, P.O. Sattore, P.S. Panrui, Dist. Birbhum, West-Bengal. Work started with the Adibasi Konra community in Rindanga.
- Work with the Intensive Khadi & Rural Development Centre (I.K.R.D.C), Kirnagar, Dist. Birbhum.

## **2008**

- Tour through Germany and Austria with a Santal cultural group with music programmes, discussions and ad-hoc exhibitions of batiks and paintings in ca. 20 cities and villages, mainly in schools.
- April: beginning of Nutrition & Feeding Programmes, inaugural function at Rindanga; supported by representatives of Shining Eyes e. V. (Germany): Dr. Monika Golembiewski, Nico Golembiewski and Silvia Mangatter Germany.

## **2009**

- Beginning of a collaboration with “Rare” a private Batik Production unit in Santiniketan, run by Pepe and Suchi Zalba; experiments with new techniques in batik production.
- Work as art teacher at Bergram Palli Sevaniketan High School, Birbhum, specially for the hostel students.

## **2010**

- April: established a permanent batik studio for production and sale in local and outside markets.

## **2010/2011**

- Elaborate terracotta work on a thirty-three foot gate at Sainthia–Kotasur.

## **2011**

- July: A four-day children’s art workshop at R.S.V., Ghosaldanga Dist. Birbhum.

## **Scholarships**

- Merit Scholarship from VASI, Berlin / Kolkata in 1995 - 1998.
- Junior Fellowship from HRD Ministry, Government of India, from December 1998 for two years.