

## Reverie 'n' reality

Come 20 September, Emami Art Kolkata Centre, 777 E M Bypass, Anandapur, Adarsh Nagar will showcase a major exhibition of Jogen Chowdhury's work, which will historically contextualise his oeuvre across the decades. This exhibition, which will continue to 7 December is curated by the cultural theorist and poet Ranjit Hoskote. The exhibit comprises more than 150 works which together reveal the exceptional range and depth of the artist's work. At eighty, Jogen Chowdhury is one of India's most distinguished artists. His vibrant imagination retains its dynamism, his curiosity about the enchantment of the everyday remains unabated. 'Reverie and Reality' celebrates more than six decades of Chowdhury's art. This exhibition brings together works from all phases of his career, embracing a variety of media and themes. Chowdhury was refugeeed by Partition and his cross-hatching works, their velvety black textures rendered against crisp white, have evolved from his childhood experience of sketching by the light of a hurricane lamp. The electricity, like the people's confidence in a utopian future, often failed in the refugee



colony where he grew up. His work straddles the boundary separating the graphic from the painterly. His paintings are often as spare and supple as drawings. His preferred idiom is the compelling black line - thick as a rope or cross-hatched like a net that will not allow the smallest nuance of emotion to escape - he has also opened his frames to tints of muted grey, chalky blue and ochre. In more festive or frenzied compositions, he even permits a tinge of pink or yellow.