



Ram Kumar

1924 - 2018 Shimla

Summary

Ram Kumar was born in Simla in 1924. Completing his Masters in Economics from St. Stephen's College, Delhi University, he began his art education in the evening classes of Sarada Ukil School of Art, New Delhi, where he learnt the 'Western style' of painting under the tutelage of Sailoz Mookherjea. Around 1948, he joined the Shilpi Chakra group of artists in Delhi. In 1950, he left for Paris with fellow artists S. H. Raza and Akbar Padamsee, where he became part of the communist circle of intelligentsia, regularly attending meetings and demonstrations. On his return to India, he became friends with art critic Richard Bartholomew, and began regularly exhibiting with the Delhi Shilpa Chakra, becoming by the mid-Fifties one of India's emerging young painters. He received the national award in 1956 and 1958, and was awarded the Padma Shri by the Indian government in 1971. In addition to being a visual artist of repute, Ram Kumar is also a prolific Hindi writer.

Like several first generation post-colonial Indian artists, such as F. N. Souza, S. H. Raza and Paritosh Sen, Ram Kumar combined a desire for global success with the need to belong emphatically to his homeland. His landscapes are devoid of the usual constituents of reality. The land, trees, sky, and water are not portrayed in their natural forms, and thus are strongly suggestive of abstract landscapes. At the same time, the intensity of colour in his delightful greens and browns, mustard yellows and inviting blues of the sky and water, do not let one escape from reality either.

Education

1952	Studied Painting under Andre Lhote and Fernard Leger, Paris (1949 ~ 1952)
1950	Studied under Fernard Léger, Atelier Frenand Léger, Paris
1946	MA in Economics from the St. Stephens College, Delhi University, New Delhi
1945	Sharada Ukil School of Art, New Delhi



Solo Exhibitions

- 2016 *Ram Kumar: Traversing the Landscapes of the Mind*, Saffronart, New Delhi
- 2014 *Ramkumar Drawings from the 60's*, Aakriti Art Gallery, Kolkata, New Delhi
- 2013 *Ram Kumar and the Bombay Progressives: The Form and the Figure Part I*, Aicon Gallery, New York
- 2012 *Drawings*, Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi
Eternal Landscapes, with Paresh Maity presented by ICIA at The Arts Trust, Mumbai
- 2011 Chawla Art Gallery, New Delhi
Ram Kumar: A Retrospective, Aicon Gallery, London
- 2010 *Selected Works: 1949 -2010*, presented by Vadehra Art Gallery at Rabindra Bhavan, Lalit Kala Akademi; Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi (~ 2011)
Ram Kumar: A Retrospective, Aicon Gallery, New York
- 2009 Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi
- 2008 *Reflective Landscapes*, Aicon Gallery, New York
Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi
Homage to Kekoo Gandhi, Chemould Prescott Road, Mumbai
- 2007 Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi
- 2003 Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi
- 2002 Saffronart and Pundole Art Gallery, Mumbai, New Delhi, San Fransico, New York
- 2001 Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi
- 2000 Landscapes from New Zealand, Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi
- 1999 Pundole Art Gallery, Mumbai
- 1996 *Ram Kumar – A Journey Within*, Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi
Pages from a Sketch Book, Pundole Art Gallery, Mumbai
- 1993 Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi



- 1992 Pundole Art Gallery, Mumbai
Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi
- 1990 Center for Contemporary Art, New Delhi
Pundole Art Gallery, Mumbai
- 1988 Works on Paper, Alliance Francaise, New Delhi
- 1986 Pundole Art Gallery, Mumbai
- 1984 Pundole Art Gallery, Mumbai
- 1983 Works on Paper, Miskole, Hungary
Sarla Art Centre, Chennai
Pundole Art Gallery, Mumbai
Sarla Art Centre, Chennai
Works on Paper, Miskole, Hungary
Sarla Art Centre, Chennai
Pundole Art Gallery, Mumbai
- 1981 Works on Paper, Pundole Art Gallery, Mumbai
- 1980 Art Heritage, New Delhi
- 1979 Chanakya Gallery, New Delhi
- 1978 Pundole Art Gallery, Mumbai
- 1977 Chanakya Gallery, New Delhi
- 1976 Pundole Art Gallery, Mumbai
- 1974 Gallery Chemould, Mumbai
- 1971 Pundole Art Gallery, Mumbai
- 1968 Dhoomimal Art Gallery, New Delhi
- 1967 With M. F. Husain, Prague
- 1966 Grosvenor Gallery, London



	Gallery Chemould, Mumbai
1965	Kunika Art Center, New Delhi
1964	Gallery Chemould, Mumbai
1963	Kunika Art Center, New Delhi
1960	Wax and Ink on paper after first visit to Benaras, Kumar Gallery, New Delhi
1957	Alliance Francaise, New Delhi
1953	Alliance Francaise, Mumbai
1949	Y.M.C.A. Hall, Simla

Group Exhibitions

2018	<i>India's French Connection: Indian Artists in France</i> , DAG, New York (~ 2019) <i>India's French Connection</i> , Visual Arts Gallery organised by DAG, New Delhi
2014	<i>Immutable Gaze Part I: Masterpieces of Modern and Pre-Modern Indian Art</i> , Aicon Gallery, New York
2013	<i>Pioneers of Modernism</i> , Sovereign FZE, Dubai <i>Ideas of the Sublime</i> , presented by Vadehra Art Gallery at Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi <i>Nothing is Absolute: A Journey through Abstraction</i> , The Jehangir Nicholson Gallery at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (CSMVS), Mumbai <i>The Discerning Eye: Modern Masters</i> , Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi
2012	<i>Iconic Processions</i> , Aicon Gallery, New York <i>Gallery Collection</i> , Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi <i>Aqua</i> , Gallery Beyond, Mumbai <i>Contemporary: A Selection of Modern and Contemporary Art</i> , presented by Sakshi Gallery at The Park, Chennai <i>Through the Ages: South Asian Sculpture and Painting from Antiquity to Modernism</i> , Aicon Gallery, New York <i>Sightings</i> , Sakshi Gallery, Mumbai
2011	<i>Reprise 2011</i> , Aicon Gallery, New York (~ 2012)



- Modern Masters*, Aicon Gallery, New York
POP: Progressives on Paper, Aicon Gallery, New York
Anecdotes, Sakshi Gallery, Mumbai
Masterclass, Dhoomimal Art Gallery, New Delhi
- 2010** *Paper Trails*, Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi
The Progressives & Associates, Grosvenor Gallery, London
From Miniature to Modern: Traditions in Transition, Rob Dean Art, London in association with Pundole Art Gallery, Mumbai
Master Class, The Arts Trust, Mumbai
- 2009** *Indian Art After Independence: Selected Works from the Collections of Virginia & Ravi Akhoury and Shelley & Donald Rubin*, Emily Lowe Gallery, Hempstead
Progressive to Altermodern: 62 Years of Indian Modern Art, Grosvenor Gallery, London
Tracing Time, Bodhi Art, Mumbai
Moderns and More, Aicon Gallery, Palo Alto
- 2008** *Modern and Contemporary Indian Art*, Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi
Post Independence Masters, Aicon Gallery, New York
Freedom 2008 – Sixty Years of Indian Independence, Centre for International Modern Art (CIMA), Kolkata
- 2006** *Shadow Lines*, Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi
Moderns Revisited, Grosvenor Vadehra, London
- 2005** *Ashta Nayak: Eight Pioneers of Indian Art*, Aicon Gallery, New York
- 2004** *Concept and Form*, Vadehra Art Gallery, New Delhi
- 2001** *Ashta Nayak*, Tao Art Gallery, Mumbai
Modern Indian Art, organized by Saffronart and Pundole Art Gallery, Metropolitan Pavilion, New York
- 1997** *Image-Beyond Image*, a Traveling Exhibition of Works from the Glenbarra Art Museum, Japan, at New Delhi, Kolkata, Bangalore and Mumbai
- 1996** *The Moderns*, National Gallery Of Modern Art (NGMA), Mumbai
- 1991** *Remembering Kali Pundole*, Joint Exhibition with M. F. Husain, V. S. Gaitonde, Akbar Padamsee and Krishen Khanna, Pundole Art Gallery, Mumbai



- 1988 *Three Indian Artists*, Karachi, Pakistan
- 1971 *Ten Indian Artists*, a traveling exhibition in U. S. A.
- 1959 Tokyo Biennale, Tokyo
Sao Paolo Biennale, Sao Paolo
Sao Paolo Biennale, Sao Paolo
- 1958 *Eight Indian Artists*, Graham Gallery, New York
Seven Indian Painters in Europe, Gallery One, London
Graphic exhibition with M. F. Husain, Tyeb Mehta and V. S. Gaitonde, Mumbai
Venice Biennale, Venice
- 1957 Tokyo Biennale, Tokyo
- 1952 Delhi Shilpi Chakra, New Delhi

Grants & Awards

- 2003 Officers Arts et Letters, French Government
- 1986 Kalidas Samman, Madhya Pradesh State Government
- 1972 Premchand Puraskar, Uttar Pradesh State Government for short stories in Hindi
Padma Shri, Government of India
- 1970 J. D. Rockefeller III Fellowship, New York
- 1958 National Award, New Delhi
- 1956 National Award, New Delhi

Collections

- National Museum, Prague
National Museum, Berlin
Punjab Museum, Chandigarh



B.A.A.C, Kolkata

Government State Museum, Shimla

National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi

Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi

Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi