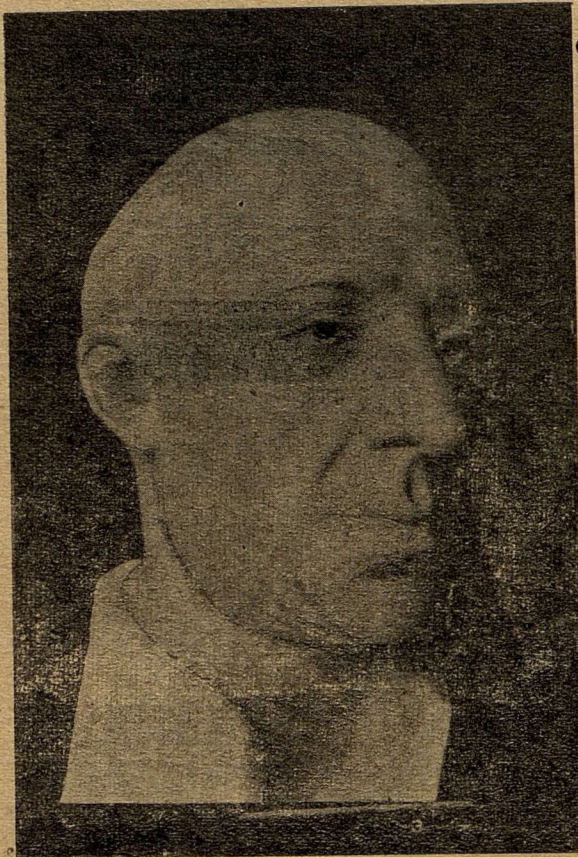


Sudhir Khastgir as an Artist & Sculptor



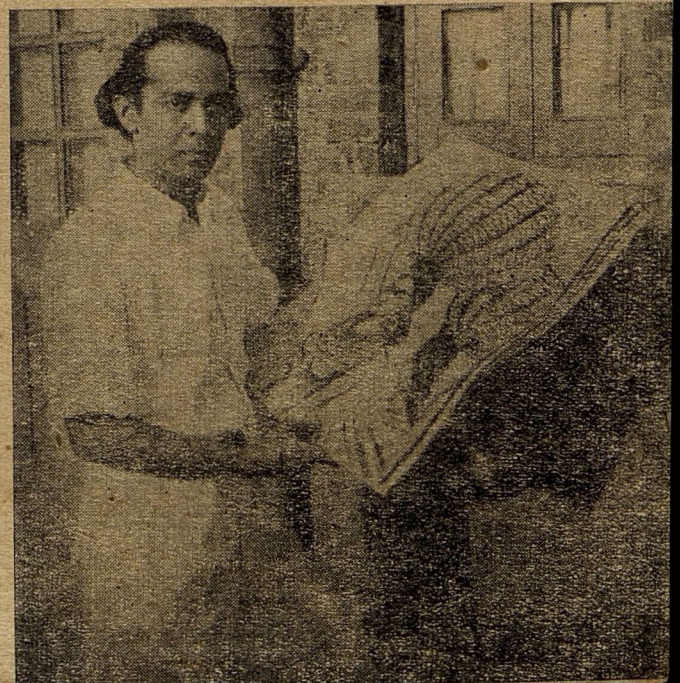
Head Study of Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru.

Sudhir Ranjan Khastgir is "as happy with his pen and brush as with his chisel. And his works as a sculptor appear to supersede the products of his brush."

He says, "I work for the sheer joy of working..... joy of creation and nothing else — that supplies the motif of all the works of mine."

He is claimed to be "an artist of the people, of his own people, the ordinary people who, ultimately, are the most interesting."

He studied at 'Kala-Bhawan', Santiniketan and was the pupil of Acharya Nandalal Bose.



Right: ARTIST WITH HIS WORK

Third All India Art Conference

Bombay has traditions of doing things on a grand scale and the Third All India Art Conference held on the 19th and 20th June, certainly lived upto those traditions. Just short of a red carpet leading from the steps, it had every thing. The modest and even obliging, the Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bombay, Mr. B. G. Kher inaugurated the proceedings in the presence of a large and distinguished gathering of business men, contractors, representatives of the smart set, fashionable ladies in their best, and all combined, presented a magnificent spectacle. Among the prominent painters Svetoslav Roerich, Ravi Shanker Raval, Ishwar Das, and N. S. Bandre were present; other forms of fine arts such as music, dancing and handicrafts, were conspicuous by their absence. Among the important invitees from the outside were Mr. G. Venkatachalam, (Bangalore), Dr. Nihar Ranjan Roy (Calcutta), Mr. Mukandilal, (U. P.) Dr. Herman Goetz (Baroda) Mr. B. Sanyal (Delhi) and Mr. Madhava Menon (Trivandrum).

The first All India Art Conference was sponsored by the promoters of the All India Fine Arts and Crafts Society in Delhi in 1946 with the idea of co-ordinating the activities of the various artists all over India and get the various art societies and art associations and organisations work under one Central Body. Though small the gathering was well representative of the prominent personalities in the Indian Art circle; but those present did not have delegatory powers and no constructive work could be achieved.

The second Art Conference was also held in Delhi in 1947 during Inter Asian Art Exhibition, and finally adopted a

resolution to form an All India Association of Fine Arts representing all institutions and art societies of all Provinces in India. An All India Committee of twenty four was formed to frame the constitution, but very little work was done during the year. An emergency meeting of the All India Committee met in Bombay and decided to hold the Conference here.

Mr K. M. Gandhi, the enthusiastic Secretary of the Bombay Art Society, Mr. Manu Thacker, Dr. Mulk Raj Anand, and Miss Sushila Daphtary—they all worked hard and the arrangements of the delegates to the conference left nothing to be desired.

A Reception Committee of sixty three was formed with Her Excellency Rani Maharaj Singh as the Patron and Mr. Dharamsey Khatau as the Chairman; delegates who came from outside were treated at the Taj; All India Radio made a running commentary of the inauguration function; many of the important papers even wrote editorials; everything was as it should be.

Just one month before the Conference, All India Fine Arts and Crafts Society, New Delhi, warned the organizers of the Third All India Art Conference that they as a result of the move taken by some delegates and prominent artists had already altered the rules of the All India Fine Arts & Crafts Society in Delhi, to enable it to act as a Central Body and that they had already enlisted a few art societies as members and that they considered the decision of the Second All India Art Conference to organise a new Association as *ultra vires* and at the beginning of the

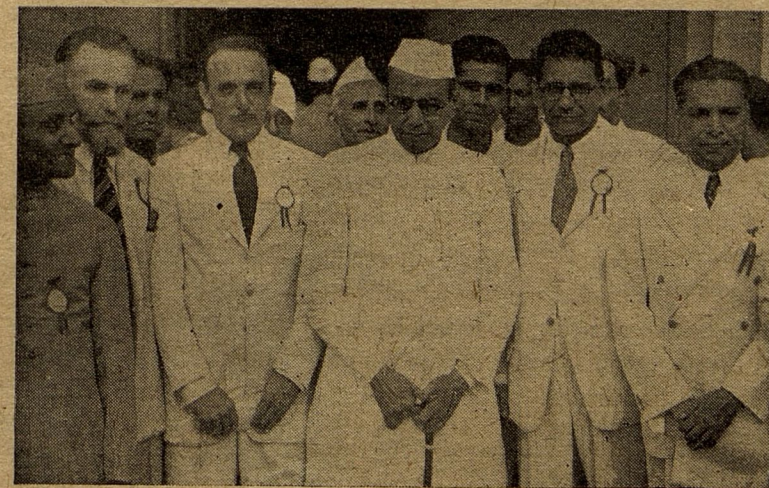
present conference they by a telegram protested against the holding of the present conference and officially abstained from it. That is as far as the Delhi Group is concerned, which is important because Delhi inspite of its small Provincial town character has in the past taken a great interest in art exhibitions etc. and now being the capital of our National Government is very important.

Compared to the First All India Art Conference very few delegates came from outside the province and it was not clear whether the few that came, were present there on their individual capacity or as representatives of the respective organisations they belonged to.

Mr. Karl J. Khandalawalla presided over the function which was a bit unconventional as usually the presidential chair in such conferences are always given to persons from outside the place where conferences are held.

Mr. Kher's interest in literature and art and other cultural pursuits is well known and his three and a half page printed

speech was not just a platform speech. In a few brief sentences he draws the development of Indian art through different centuries and its decay consequent on a new life imposed on us by a foreign rule. As he said himself, "I should in particular, like to stress the point that, in the recent past, we have, on the whole, been rather like poor recipients in the field of Art and Science and Literature. We have not had the opportunity to make, adequate contributions of our own to the cultural wealth of the world. That is a state of affairs which must end for when any individual or nation can only *take* and has nothing to *give* when it is only assimilative and not *creative* it spells intellectual and spiritual death. We have no doubt produced a few great men in the field of Arts and Letters but nothing like what a great country like ours should have done. With the increasing spread of education and with improved method and and technique of teaching—in the domain of Art as well as ordinary schooling—we should be able to release the creative impulses of the nation on a larger scale and produce not only a few great artists and litterateurs but raise the general.



Shri B. G. Kher
Premier of Bombay,
after the inauguration
of the Conference.

standard and quality of art in our life, improving the taste and appreciation of millions of our fellow citizens. In a democracy, great and living Art does not and cannot flourish on the foundations of general ignorance or apathy: it can only be the finest fruit of a widespread artistic and cultural movement which has its roots deep down in the soil. Such a movement is now visible. So I hope and pray that, while you will carry on your various projected activities and do all that you can to make Indian Art better known outside and outside Art better known in Indian art circles, you will not content to assume the position of a high brow organisation—a preserve of the great 'specialists' unrelated to the general currents of life in the country."

Mr. Kher also acquainted the Conference with the information that Bombay Government had already appointed a representative Committee to survey problems pertaining to art at all stages of education and that the Bombay Government have also provided Rs. 21 lakhs for arts and music education and cultural activities.

Other speakers included Dharamsey Khatau, G. Venkatachalam, S. Roerich, V. S. Adurkar, the Principal of the J. J. School of Arts and Motichandra from U.P.

The Third All-India Art Conference, at its second day session on Sunday, unanimously passed the condolence resolutions on the death of Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Ananda Coomarswamy and Prof. Nicholas Roerich.

The Conference resolved that a Deputation from the All-India Association of Fine Arts, should wait upon the Prime Minister of India and the Minister for Education, (Central Government), to acquaint them with the decisions of this conference, in order to secure their help in

implementing the decisions of this Conference, and that the All-India Association of Fine Arts should take such steps as are necessary to keep the Provincial Governments informed of their activities.

The Conference welcomed the formation of The Roerich Pact in the country and requested the Government to be one of the signatories of this Pact.

The Conference urged the Government of India to continue vigorously the excavation work in the country and to afford facilities for official and qualified non-official bodies to promote the work.

The Conference requested the Government of India to take up a systematic survey, cataloguing, and indexing of monuments, collections of paintings and other art treasures all over the country in order to make them easily accessible to research students and art historians.

With a view to popularise the works of the contemporary artists, the conference resolved to recommend to its affiliated bodies to hold frequent exhibitions in middleclasses and working classes residential localities and villages.

The Conference resolved that as there are no schools of arts in provinces such as Orissa, Bihar and others and in the states like Udaipur, Kotah etc., immediate steps should be taken by the All-India Association of Fine Arts to negotiate with the Government of India for opening such schools.

The Commerce Department of the Government of India was called upon by the conference to provide as early as possible greater facilities for obtaining artists' materials (including photographic goods) of which there was a great shortage owing to the restrictions on granting import licences.

The Conference appealed to the Governments of the Provinces and States to allow the art institutions in their respective territories to affiliate themselves to the All India Assn. of Fine Arts so as to strengthen and consolidate this central art organisation.

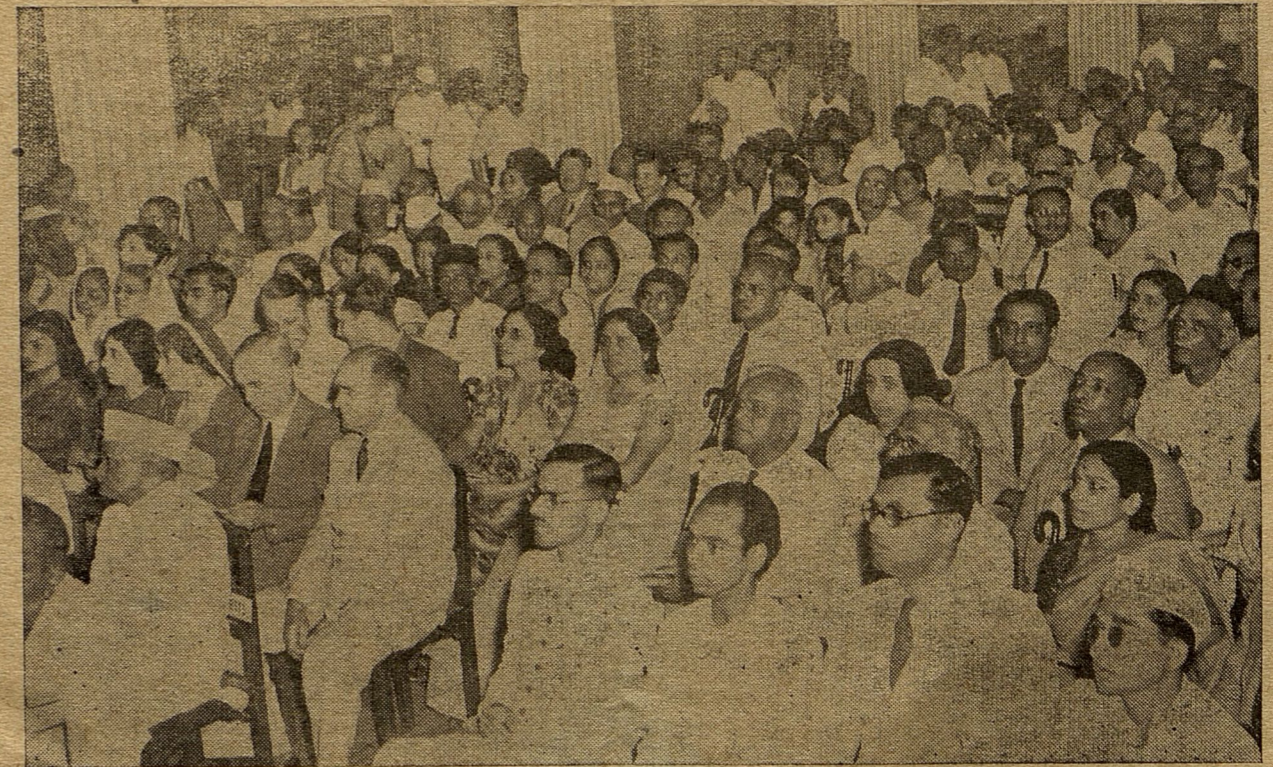
In the evening, lectures were arranged and Dr. D. G. Vyas was in the Chair. The speakers were Nihar Ranjan Roy, Bhabhesh Sanyal, Ravi Shanker Raval, Punil Behari Dutt, Mukandilal, Herman Goetz and few others.

The Executive Committee for the Central body was formed with Mr. G. Venkatachalam as the President and Mon. Svetoslav Roerich, Dr. Stella Kramrisch, Lady Ranu Mukherji, Mr. Karl Khandalawala and Sri Kavi Shanker Raval as the

Vice-Presidents. Hon. Gen. Secretary is Mr. K. M. Gandhi and the Joint, Hon. Secretaries are Mr. V. R. Amberkar and Dr. Mulk Raj Anand. The members of the Executive Committee are Messrs. M. S. Randhava, Mukundi Lal, Nihar Ranjan Roy, V. S. Adurkar, Madhava Menon, Moti Chandra, J. M. Ahivasi, K. K. Mukherjee, B. Sanyal, M. Mukherjee, M. R. Acharekar, Ishwar Dass B. C. Gue, R. Dutt, V. V. Oak, Herman, Goetz, J. N. Unwalla, Gautam Sarabhai, N. S. Bendre, and H. N. Dallas.

It is understood that H. E. Shri C. Rajagopalachari, Governor General of India has become the Patron and Vice-Patrons are Mrs Vijayalakshmi Pandit, India's Ambassador in Russia, Sir Akbar Hydari, Governor of Assam and Sir Cowasji Jehangir.

A view of the gathering at the Conference. Mr. Dinash Vora represented our Circle.



On the third day, Monday the 21st June, the delegates to the conference paid a visit to the J. J. School of Arts.

In the evening a farewell party was arranged at the Bombay Art Society's Salon. A film on the National Gallery of Art was shown along with a talk on paintings by Mr. Mukundlal.

The session ended with a meeting of the newly elected executive Committee of the All India Association of Fine Arts. The President Mr. G. Venkatachalam said in his speech that never before in recent years has an art Conference of such magnitude and representative character been held anywhere in India.

Mr. Khandalawala thanked the delegates on behalf of the organisers. Mr. Mukundlal thanked on behalf of the delegates.

Messages of Greetings TO Third All India Art Conference Bombay

"I am glad to hear that All India Association of Fine Arts is holding Conference of Delegates from Various Art Societies and Institutions in order to chalk out constructive Programme for future. I wish the Third All India Art Conference all success."

— Maulana Abul Kalam Azad
Hon. Minister for Education
Government of India

"..... It is important that India should be interpreted to the world through the Medium of her Art. The Indian Embassy in Moscow will be happy to co-operate with you. My good wishes for the success of your Conference."

— Vijayalakshmi Pandit.
Embassy of India in U. S. S. R.

"Regret unable undertake journey.
Wish Art Conference every success"

— Nandalal Bose.
Director, Kala-Bhavan,

"Wish Art Conference Bombay all success and attainment of its aims and objects"

— Cowasjee Jehangir.

"..... There is no doubt that Indian Art should be the care and concern of a properly constituted central body, if it is to be a living and growing branch of our national life."

— C. Rajagopalachari.
Governor General of India.

"The Government of India welcome all such efforts at the development and encouragement of the arts by private initiative, and trust that your Association will do valuable work in that direction."

— Humayun Kabir.
Jt. Educational Adviser to
the Govt. of India.

"...It is my hope that the present galant attempt to form a representative All-India Association of Fine Arts will, in the interest of Indian Arts, turn out to be successful. The efforts made towards bringing matters to the present stage certainly deserve success and a good omen for the future..."

— A. Hydari
Governor of Assam.

The other congratulatory messages to the Third All India Art Conference were received from Mr. K. M. Panikkar, Embassy of India in China, Nanking; Mr. Henry F. Grady, American Ambassador; Consul for France; Mr. Chia-Luen Lo Ambassador of China to India; Mr. A. Th. Lamping, Royal Netherlands Ambassador; Belgian Embassy; His Excellency V. Win, the Embassy of the Union of Burma and from many prominent ambassadors, artists, art schools and institutions.

A Reception to Mr. G. Venkatachalam

A reception was given to Mr. G. Venkatachalam, the reputed art historian and connoisseur of Bangalore, the president of All India Association of Fine Arts, on behalf of our Circle. Mon. Svetoslav Roerich was the chief host. Among the many distinguished guests were Dr. Mulk Raj Anand, Mr. V. S. Adurkar, Dr. D. G. Vyas, Mme. Devika Roerich, Mrs. Shettle and Mr. Bhanu Smart.

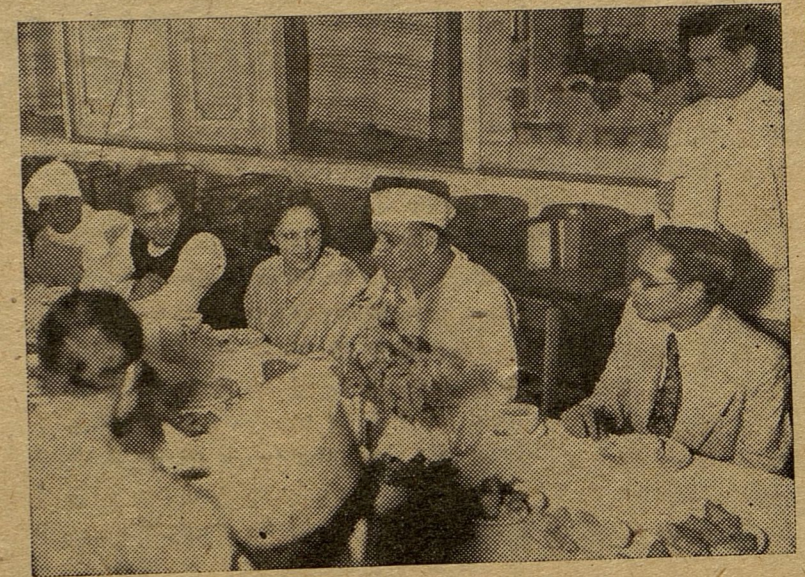
Sri J. M. Ahivasi, the president of our Circle, welcomed and introduced Mr. Venkatachalam.

In course of his speech, Mon. Roerich dwelt at some length on the need of All India Association of Fine Arts and expressed his hope that under the wise guidance of Mr. G. Venkatachalam the work of the Association will have every success.

Dr. Mulk Raj Anand congratulated Mr. Venkatachalam on his being elected as a president of the Association and anticipated that during the period of his presidentship the younger generation will get proper encouragement and education in fine arts. He as well appreciated the endeavours of our Circle in cultivating an interest in the study of Art and Literature among the younger generation in the different parts of our country.

Mr. Venkatachalam promised that the Association will guide and inspire the young artists and encourage the younger generation in their art life and activities.

Eventually, Mr. R. C. Gupta thanked Mr. G. Venkatachalam and other guests on behalf of our Circle.



Reception Given to Mr. G. Venkatachalam

(From Left to Right: Front Row) Mr. R. M. Seksaria, Mrs. Shettle, Mr. G. Venkatachalam, Mrs. Devika Roerich, Mon. S. Roerich, Dr. Mulkraj, Mr. K. M. Gandhi, Dr. D. G. Vyas, Mr. R. C. Gupta and Mr. J. M. Ahivashi.



NEWS & NOTES

Gen. Secretary

COMPETITION

Write an article on :

- 1, Our Cultural Trend.
- 2, Folk Art of India.
3. Your Interview with a reputed Artist.

The prizes are Rs. 15/- and Rs. 10/-.

The article must be in English. Length should be from 1,500 to 2,000 words. Manuscript should be typewritten, double space, on one side only.

There is no entrance fee. The manuscript will not be returned unless accompanied by return postage.

A competitor may submit any number of entries. The competition is open to all excepting established literary artists.

The closing date is the 31st August, 1948.

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AGE-LIMIT

In the last meeting of the members of the Council it was resolved that the age-limit for the members of the Circle should be altered to 35 years instead of 25 years. Effective from the 1st June, 1948, any person upto the age of 35 shall be eligible to be a member of the Circle and can continue to be so if he or she desires as a life member.

OUR BULLETIN

We deeply thank our readers to send their appreciative views on our Bulletin. We give the excerpts from some of the letters received by us.

"I am a very great admirer of Roerich. I much appreciated your words in memory of this great genius."

Mrs. Eleanor C. Merry, London, England.

*

"We are deeply touched and appreciate your dedication for this issue (January & February 1948) to our Beloved Leader, Prof. Nicholas Roerich. This is indeed a noble tribute to him from your Circle, for which he had always a warm feeling in his heart."

Mrs. Sina Fosdick, Ex. Secretary, Roerich Pact & Banner of Peace Committee, New York.

*

"We enjoyed the issues of the Y. A. C. C. Bulletin..... We shall be happy to exchange our magazine, "East-West", a bimonthly, for your Bulletin. This will enable us to see each issue of your Bulletin and if we reproduce some of the art prints you show, it will be the means of bringing a greater appreciation of Indian art and artists to our many readers."

Mr. D. B. Taylor, East-West magazine, California.

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