

PRESS RELEASE

Monday 26 October 09
For immediate release



Pardhan Gond Paintings

Artists: Venkat Raman Singh Shyam and Rajendra Kumar Shyam

An exhibition in partnership with the Adivasi Arts Trust

Exhibition Dates: Friday 6 November - Saturday 19 December 2009

Preview: Thursday 5 November, 6pm onwards

Opening Times: Monday to Friday 10am - 7pm and Saturday 10am - 5pm

Admission: Free

Tribal Indian 'Gond' artists to launch special exhibition at New Art Exchange, Nottingham.

This wonderful style of painting represents the expressions of the people of the Gond tribal communities of India. Through this art they produce visceral and striking work linked to their daily lives. Traditionally Gond art adorns the walls and floors of these communities' houses as a canvas, and are not just decorations, but also a manifestation of their spiritual sentiments and devotions. The colours and textures show the natural beauty concepts of Pardhans, traditional shapes and symbols combine with elements of nature - trees, birds, animals, rivers and mountains, highlighting the beauty of this tribe.

Traditionally Pardhan visual art included decorating homes with auspicious designs and imagery created in clay sculpture or natural pigments such as charcoal and limestone. Since the early 1980's, some Pardhan Gonds began depicting deities, myths and nature scenes using paper, canvas, ink and acrylic paints - thus inventing a new, hybrid artform combining traditional subject matter with modern media.

Both Venkat Raman Singh Shyam and Rajendra Kumar Shyam are nephews of master artist Jangarh Singh Shyam, and *will be present at the Preview night courtesy of the Indian Government (ICCR) and the British Council.*

The exhibition is on at New Art Exchange, Nottingham from 6 November to 19 December 2009. Open Monday to Friday 10am - 7pm and Saturday 10am - 5pm, admission is free.

There is a special opportunity to meet the artists, and find out more about Gond tribal art at the event:
In Conversation with Pardhan Gond Artists - Thursday 12 November, 6pm. Admission: Free

- Ends -

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For further PRESS information please contact: Raam Tarat, *Marketing and Communication Manager - Freelance*, T: 0115 924 8630, M: 077910 45090, E: raam@nae.org.uk

Notes to Editors:

- New Art Exchange is located at 39-41 Gregory Boulevard, Nottingham NG7 6BE
- Opening Times: Monday to Friday 10am - 7pm, Saturday 10am - 5pm
- Contact: 0115 924 8630 / info@nae.org.uk / www.nae.org.uk
- Vision: To deliver an innovative and exciting programme of contemporary multi-cultural arts development in visual and performing arts.
- New Art Exchange has been funded by Arts Council England, Nottingham City Council

Education

There will be an education programme accompanying the exhibition. Some of the programme is listed below, for full details please contact Ian sergeant on ian@nae.org.uk or check the New Art Exchange Website for up to date information.

New Art Exchange

- **New Art Exchange was awarded £5million** of funding from Arts Council England, Nottingham City Council, the Greater Nottingham Partnership, East Midlands Development Agency, Radford and Hyson Green New Deal for Communities, and European Regional Development Funding, and took 18 months to build. The organisation was a big winner in Arts Council England's the January 2008 review of national arts funding gaining a 58% increase in its annual funding grant. The award was made in recognition of the organisation's vital role in supporting visual and performing arts.
- **The building designed by architects Hawkins Brown** boasts 5-storey building provides 1360 sqm space dedicated to visual arts with; galleries, workshop/performance/rehearsal space, artists in residence facilities, and a cafe. Distinguished from the red clay buildings of the neighbourhood by its black brick façade and arrangement of frameless windows ranging in size (from 0.16 sqm to 4.84sqm), offers incidental and unexpected views into and out of the building.
- **Mission:** *The New Art Exchange ambition is to become a national centre of excellence promoting contemporary arts development within the cultural and creative industries, to deliver an innovative and exciting programme of activity to promote, support and advocate contemporary multi-cultural arts development in visual and performing arts and new media. To be a cultural centre led by African, African Caribbean and South Asian arts practice. To serve an international community from roots firmly embedded in the local area.*