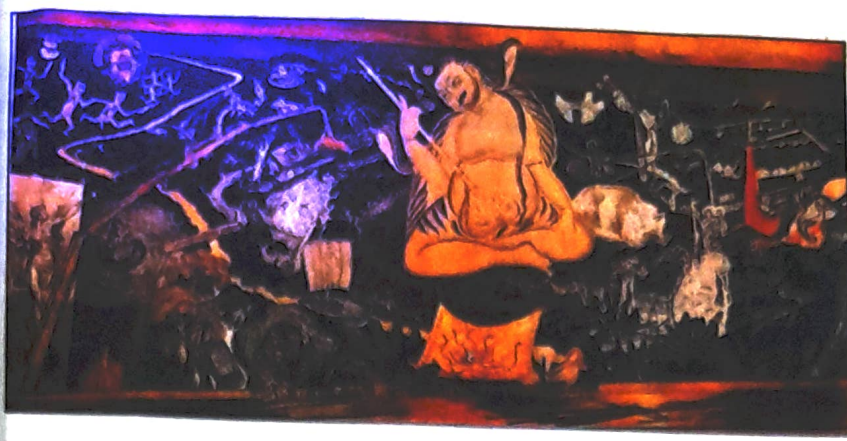




Historical ties

VISUAL ARTS

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V*ivartan: Fragments of Tradition and Continuity* presented by the National Gallery of Modern Art celebrated the artistic imagination by placing more than 125 works by over 60 artists across the restored Currency Building. The exhibition borrowed its rhythm from the building itself. As visitors moved through soaring halls and along wooden staircases, the themes shifted organically from devotion and folklore to memory, womanhood, urban life and the changing landscape. Rather than presenting tradition as a fixed inheritance, *Vivartan* revealed it as a living vocabulary that artists continue to reinterpret.

Among the striking pieces was *Vande Mataram* where each stanza of the song finds visual expression. *Echoes of Divine and Folk*, Surojit Majhi's playful transformation of Kali from an ordinary girl into the formidable goddess, stood alongside a striking triptych of Kali and Bimal Kundu's serene wooden Buddha. David Malakar's *Goodnight Calcutta 13* (picture) placed Shiva at the heart of a bus-

ting city. Tapash Biswas's *The Whirlwind* gave wood, brass and epoxy resin a surprising sense of movement. Biswajit Saha's *Maya* and *Bodhisattva* navigated the space between myth and contemporary reality through layered allegory, and Sudhir Maity's sandstone sculpture, *Ri-Spit*, demonstrated how stone can acquire lyrical lightness.

The exhibition's exploration of womanhood was especially affecting. Shrayosi Biswas's embroidered *The Story of a Busy Hand* quietly honoured invisible labour, while Saurav Roy Chowdhury's sculptures, from *Annihilation* to the Pietà-like *The Heart's Image*, transformed emotional burdens into sculptural form. *The Balance* had a monumental plumb bob holding an unfinished city in perpetual, delicate equilibrium. Tiny *terracotta* figures recalling the excavations of Chandraketugarh and vibrant *patachitras* further rooted the exhibition in Bengal's long visual history. Together, these works affirmed that the region's artistic traditions continue to evolve through fresh materials, contemporary concerns and enduring cultural memory, making *Vivartan* an eloquent portrait of continuity through change.