

Sehgal

Amar Nath Sehgal Private Collection





Soothing Hand,
bronze, 35.6 x 21.1 x 25.4 cms, undated

On the cover: Untitled, Watercolour on paper, 10.1 x 7.9 cms, 1989

Text by Shruthi Issac
Design by Antara Madavane
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Sehgal

Amar Nath Sehgal Private Collection



The Fountain in the garden of the Amar Nath Sehgal Private Collection

The Collection

The Amar Nath Sehgal Private Collection is a repository of artworks and archives of the Indian Modern artist, Amar Nath Sehgal (1922-2007).

The Collection intends to create a deeper awareness and appreciation of the artist's contribution to Indian art through research, documentation, and scholarship not only around this Collection but in a broader context through stimulating, engaging, and innovative outreach programs and grants, to enrich, develop, and foster a dialogue between the art of the past and of future generations.

The new design shows how the artist's work stretched over a period of time. It also points out its intrinsic versatility and the cyclical nature of his artistic investigations, drawing attention to his constant vocation for exploring the expressive possibilities of any medium.

The Artist

Born in Campbellpur, Pakistan on 5th February 1922 to Ram Asra Mal and Parmeshwari Devi, Indian Modern artist Amar Nath Sehgal was their fourth child of the seven children. Educated in Lahore, Sehgal shifted to India after the Partition in 1947. After a two-year stay in the Kullu valley, he left for New York. Sehgal learnt to appreciate art as a child, but his conventional education led him to pursue a degree in Industrial Chemistry and Physics. In 1948, he moved to New York where he pursued art at New York University.

He returned to India after three years and worked relentlessly for over a decade for the revival of folk arts and theatre in several rural areas of Northern India like Nilokheri in Punjab and Jharsa in Haryana with the Ministry of Community Development.

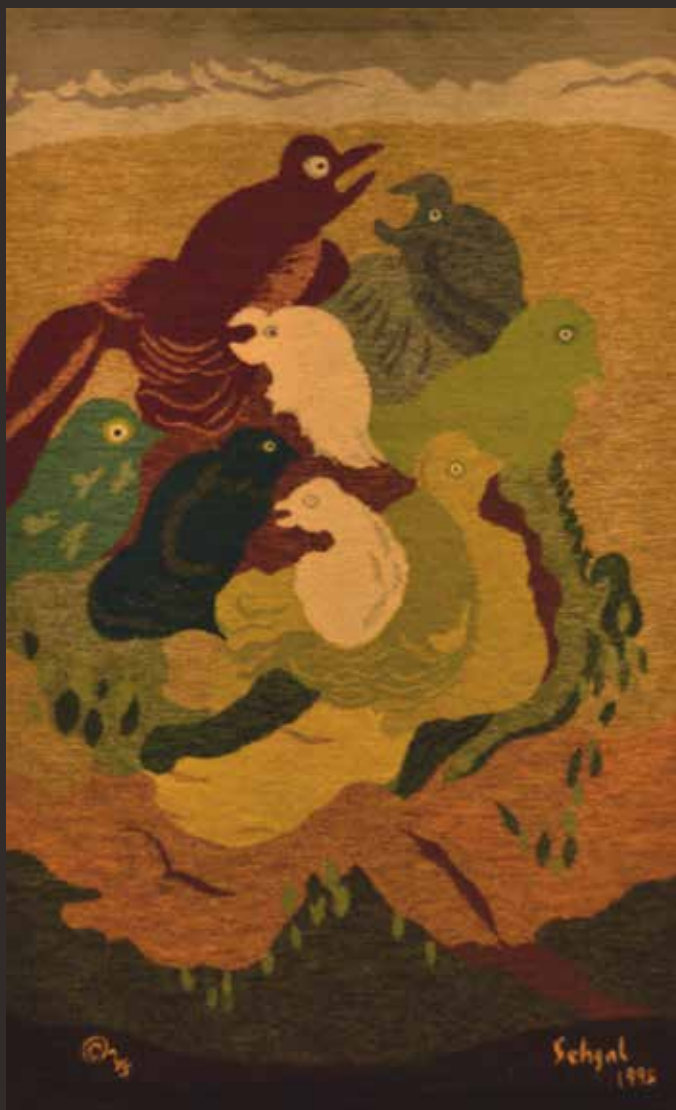


"The basis of all my work lies in the unconscious. It is symbolic of themes and emotions dormant within my own system. These come to the surface only through great concentration. And it is ultimately the artistic imagination which gives shape to the feelings."

- Amar Nath Sehgal, 'Unconscious moulds his bronze',
The Indian Express, 13th September 1977

Sehgal travelled extensively both in India and abroad. The artist's sensitivity was quick to respond to the victims of natural calamities, wars, and poverty. The remembrance of the tragic events he had witnessed during his youth during the Partition is stamped on his works. Most of his works with their simple but highly expressive forms portraying human emotions - be it anguish, helplessness, oppression or a yearning for hope - vibrate a perceptible pathos.

Amar Nath Sehgal's artistic versatility extends to paintings, poetry, graphics, and tapestries. His works can be found in public and private collections all over the world like the Musée d'art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, the 20th Century Museum of Vienna and Berlin, the Israel Museum, the National Gallery of Modern Art and the White House among others.



Handwoven tapestry in wool, 118.7 x 192 cms, 1995

“My motivation is that I try to grasp the spirit of humanity in any way I can – either by synthesizing or symbolizing a concept. Once I have the concept in mind, that gives me the form.”

Amarnath Sehgal, 'Famous Sculptor back in Town',
The Gulf News, 8th September 1980



Untitled, Clay, 17 x 6 x 4.3 cms

- 1922 Born in Campbellpur, district Attock (Pakistan)
(5th February 1955)
- 1941 Graduated in Science (B.Sc. with distinction in Physics) from
Government College, Lahore.
Worked as Works Manager in a mechanical and electrical
appliance factory
Studied art at Mayo School of Art and Lahore School of Fine Arts.
Studied Industrial Chemistry at Banaras
- 1944 -
1945 Worked at Engineer in Lahore.
- 1945 -
1947 Studied art privately in Lahore.
- 1947 Migrated to India.
- 1948 Participated in A group exhibition at the All India Fine Arts and Crafts
Society, New Delhi
- 1949 Left India for U.S.A and joined the New York University on
a scholarship.
Solo exhibition at the Asia Institute, New York
- 1950 Completed Masters in Art Education from School of Education, New
York University.
Began working in his studio at 543 East 6th Street, New York.
Solo exhibition at the Public Library, New Rochelle, New York
- 1951 Solo exhibition at Arthur Newton Galleries at 57th Street, inaugurated
by Sir Benegal Narsing Rao (Permanent Representative of India
to United Nations) and sponsored by Madame Pandit, the Indian
Ambassador to U.S.A.
Studio gets burnt down.
- 1952 Solo exhibition of India's Dance Form, working from a friend's
apartment. Left New York on a study travel across Europe and Africa.
Solo exhibition in Paris, France at Galerie Breteau, rue de Bonaparte.
Travelled extensively from West to East Africa.
Solo exhibition at Kampala Jirya, East Africa.
- 1952 Commissioned to create the bust of His Highness Aga Khan during
this period.
- 1953 Came back to India. Began teaching at Modern School, New Delhi.

- 1953 Organized a pilot work in revival of folk arts at Jhores district, Gurgaon for Government of India.
- 1955 Was appointed by UNESCO to study and survey folk arts in India
Appointed Art Consultant, Ministry of Development and Cooperation.
Open air one man show in Delhi
Participated in Seminar on Art Education, organized by the Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi
- 1957 Awarded sculpture award by Lalit Kala Akademi
- 1958 Awarded Gold Plaque (President's Award) for the work *Cries Unheard* from Lalit Kala Akademi, Delhi
- 1959 Participated in the Seminar on Cultures of South East Asia, organized by UNESCO, Madras.
Participated in the Seminar on Architecture, organized by the Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi.
Voice of Africa presented to Dr. N'Krumah, President of Ghana by Prof. Humayun Kabir, Minister of Cultural Affairs
- 1960 The bronze statue of Mahatma Gandhi was commissioned by Amritsar Municipal Committee to be installed in Ram Bagh Garden, Punjab.
- 1961 *A Cricketer* presented by Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru to the Pakistan cricket team as a gesture of good will.
- 1962 Amar Nath Sehgal completed the bronze mural in India International Conference building, Vigyan Bhavan covering 2000 square feet of wall area.(The project began in 1957)
- 1963 Visited U.S.S.R at the Invitation of Union of Artists.
7 foot bronze sculpture *To Space Unknown* presented by the Government of India to Government of USSR
Began work on the statue of late S.R.W.D Bandaranike, Colombo
Busts of late Lala Lajpat Rai, late Ballabh Pant, late Ajay Ghosh, late Shri Sri Ram , President of India Dr. S Radhakrishnan, Vice-President of India Dr. Zakir Hussain and Shri Krishna Menon were completed
Gave away the gold plaque (President's Award) as donation to the National Defence Fund.
- 1964 Received fellowship to travel to U.S.A, Scandinavia, Germany and France from the Ford Foundation
Solo Exhibition at Belgrade
One man show at Paulskirche, Frankfurt

- 1965 Solo exhibition at Musée d'Art Moderne, Paris
Solo exhibition at Haus Am Luetzoplatz, Berlin.
- 1966 Resigned from the post of Art Consultant, Ministry of Community Development, Government of India.
Left for Europe.
Exhibited at the Sculpture Biennale, Rodin museum, Paris.
Solo exhibition at Haus Am Lutzowplatz, Berlin
Solo exhibition at Cultural Centrum, Ghent, Belgium
Exhibition at Musée Royal d'Art et d'Histoire, Bruxelles, the Musée d'Etat, Luxembourg and Wiener Secession, Vienna
- 1967 Solo exhibition at Galerie Brassau, Luxembourg.
Solo exhibition at Flemish Akademi of Art, Antwerp, Belgium.
- 1968 - Installation of *Rising Tide* at the Ford Foundation, New Delhi.
1969 Installation of *Conquest of Moon* at the White House, Washington.
Began work on *Peace and Non-Violence-Martin Luther King and Mahatma Gandhi*; completed *Monument to Communal Unity* and *Conquest of Moon Tribute to Astronauts*.
- 1970 Solo exhibition in Los Angeles
- 1971 Inauguration of the monumental *Anguished Cries* in West Berlin.
- 1972 One man show at Siemens House, Munich, Germany
Installation of *Gandhi Monument* in Luxembourg.
Installation of the Monument on Aviation, Palam Airport, New Delhi
Solo exhibition at NGMA (1947-1972), New Delhi
- 1973 Participated in the Tokyo International Fair
- 1974 Took part in the World Seminar on the Role of Art in Contemporary Society, organized by UNESCO, Paris
- 1975 Group exhibition as part of Retrospective Aerogolf, Luxembourg
Der Innere Rhythmus, a collection of the artist's poems was published.
Exhibited at City Hall, Ottawa, Canada
- 1976 Exhibited at India House, New York
- 1977 Exhibited at Rathaus, Fransheim
Exhibited at the Frankfurt Airport
- 1979 Established *The Creative Fund* in Luxembourg
Exhibited at Baden-Baden de Fond, Switzerland
Organized International Children Art Workshop for UNESCO in Paris.

- 1979 The Government of India gave orders to dismantle the 2000 feet bronze mural at the India International Conference building, Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi without the informing the artist.
- 1980 Exhibited in Abu Dhabi
- 1981 Exhibited in Jeddah
- 1982 Exhibited at Chaux de Fond, Switzerland
- 1984 Exhibited at UNESCO House, Paris.
Inauguration of *Crushing Burden* at the IInd World Population Conference, Mexico.
- 1985 Received U.N Peace Medal
- 1986 Inauguration of *Captive* at U.N Conference on Sanctions against South Africa, Paris.
Created "Head with Horns" to celebrate International year of Peace
- 1987 Exhibited at Cercle Munster, Luxembourg
- 1988 Exhibited in Berne,
- 1991 Exhibited in New York and London
- 1992 Was elected Fellow of the Lalit Kala Akademi.
- 1993 Awarded the Lalit Kala Akademi Fellowship by the Lalit Kala Akademi.
- 2004 exhibition, *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata*, inaugurated by then President A P J Abdul Kalam at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, Delhi.
- 2005 The case Amar Nath Sehgal Vs. Union of India (regarding the 2000 feet bronze mural at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi), which extended over three decades, established a groundbreaking precedent on the interpretation of the moral right of integrity in Indian Law.
- 2006 Donated *Crushing Burden* and *Head with Horns* to National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi.
- 2007 27th December: The artist passes away, following a cardiac arrest in New Delhi after a long period of illness.
- 2008 Posthumously awarded the Padma Bhushan, by Government of India.

Important Public Collections

Musée d'Art Moderne, Paris
Musée d'Etat, Luxembourg
20th Century museum, Vienna
20th Century museum, Berlin
Israel Museum, Jerusalem
Middleheim Museum, Anvers
Dalem Museum, Berlin
NGMA, New Delhi

Significant Works

Voice of Africa (1959), Ghana
Mahatma Gandhi (1960), Amritsar, India
A Cricketer (1961), Pakistan
To Space Unknown (1963), Moscow, Russia
Rising Tide (1968)
Peace and Non-Violence - Martin Luther King and Mahatma Gandhi (1968-69)
Monument to Communal Unity (1968-69)
Conquest to Moon (1969), White House Collection, Washington, U.S.A
Anguished Cries (1971), Berlin, Germany
Monument to Aviation (1972), New Delhi airport, India
Gandhi Monument (1972), Luxembourg
Rising Spirit (1978), White House Collection, Washington, U.S.A
The Crushing Burden (1984), Mexico
Victims of Torture and Monument to Freedom Fighters of Namibia (1986), Vienna
Bust of Sam Nujoma (1993), National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi, India
Head with Horns (1986)
Crushing Burden



Poverty, Watercolour on Paper, 7.4 x 4.9 cms, 1997



Landscape (Kulu)

From the collection

"The sculptures of Amar Nath Sehgal have an unmistakable mystical quality. Fashioned of sturdy (...) material and contorted into slow rhythmical forms, they are the abstract symbols of the artist's experience and feeling for human themes."

New York Herald Tribune, 26th October, 1951

Speak O' speechless form
The feelings you contain
In thy movements and gestures
Every fibre of your vein.

Your coldness of blood and warmth
Produce mighty torrents and waves
Thus toss the life's boat
From the abyss to the graves.

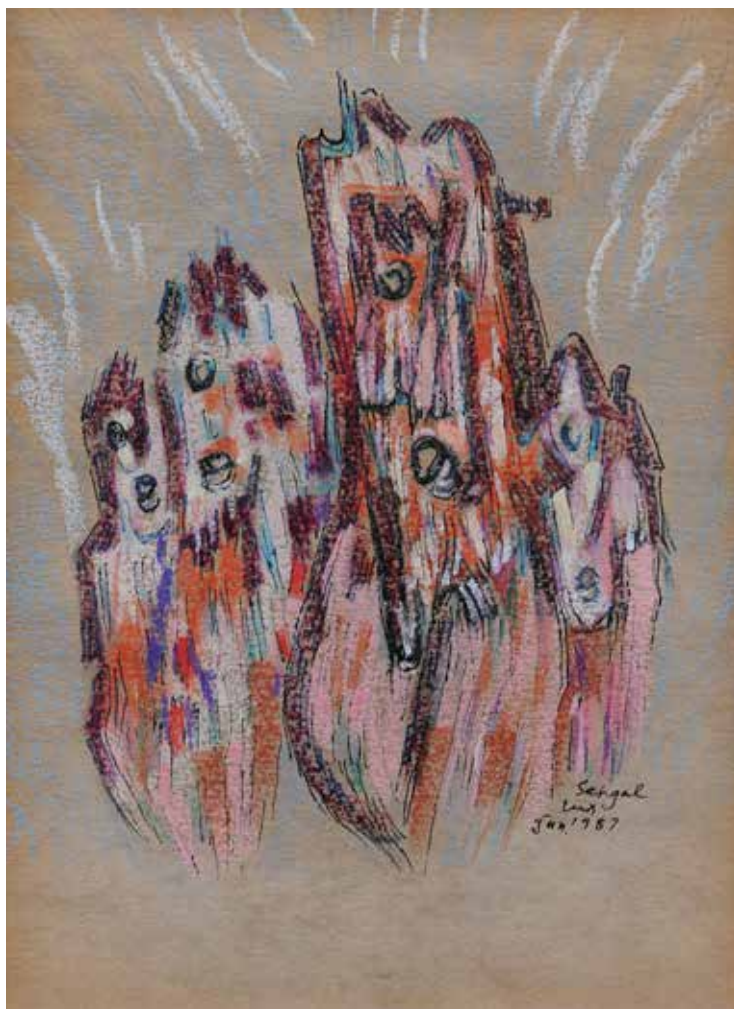
I wish to hold my ears
From what you convey
Fear I shall become one
As still as you stay!

Amarvalli Sahgal

28/11/64



Untitled, ink on paper, 8.7 x 6.8 cms, 1973



Untitled, Pastel on paper, 6.9 x 5 cms, 1987







Untitled, Pastel on paper, 12 x 9.1 cms, 1974



Untitled, Watercolour on paper, 8.9 x 5.5 cms, 1990

The Archives

The Amar Nath Sehgal Private Collection holds the largest collection of works of the artist and a rich collection of archives and documentation that illuminate Sehgal's art: the artist's correspondences, manuscripts for published texts, notes and sketchbooks, images of his artworks, as well as a large part of his library: magazines, books, exhibition catalogs, newspapers, some of which contain his annotations or drawings.

A.P.J. Abdul Kalam

Rashtrapati Bhawan
New Delhi - 110004

19 September 2006

Dear Shri Amar Nath Sehgal,

Thank you for sending me your beautiful book "Epic Episodes - Paintings on Ramayana and Mahabharata". I studied each painting and its theme. The paintings have life and I liked the event "Nature Blooms on Rama's Return to Ayodhya" (Page - 64).

My best wishes to you.

Yours sincerely,



(A. P. J. Abdul Kalam)

Shri Amar Nath Sehgal
J - 23, Jangpura Extension
New Delhi - 110 014



JAN 1969

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE
NEW DELHI-11

Thank you for your greetings
which I sincerely appreciate.
Indira Gandhi



From with care
EDUCATION MINISTER
INDIA

I am very glad to learn that an exhibition of sculptures of Shri Amar Nath Sehgal is being held in the Art Gallery "Haus am Lützow-platz" in Berlin in the first week of August, 1965 on the invitation of the West Berlin Senate and will be inaugurated by the Governing Lord Mayor of West Berlin, Dr. Willy Brandt. Shri Sehgal is one of the most gifted and talented sculptors of our country. Although he is very young, he has made a name for himself not only in this country but also abroad. Recently he was given the unique honour of being the first Asian to have his work exhibited in the Museum of Modern Art, Paris. These exhibitions, apart from serving their own purpose of promoting great art, also help to strengthen the ties which bind the country to which the artist belongs. I have no doubt that this exhibition also will strengthen the already close and cordial relations which exist between India and West Germany.

(M.C. Chagla)

New Delhi;
July 6, 1965.

Top left from A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, 19th September, 2006

Above from Indira Gandhi, January, 1969

Left from M.C. Chagla, 6th July, 1965

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 3, 1969

Dear Mr. Sehgal:

Through Ambassador Keating the handsome bronze statue you gave to me during my visit to India this summer has reached the White House. I was very pleased to see "Compass of the Moon" again and I want you to know how much I appreciate your thoughtfulness in preparing and presenting this splendid gift. It is a deeply impressive tribute to the accomplishments of the men of the Apollo XI mission.

With my best wishes,

Sincerely,

Richard Nixon

Mr. Amar Nath Sehgal
New Delhi
India

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 26, 1980

To Amar Nath Sehgal

Thank you for your kind message. Your bronze, *Rising Spirit*, made a profound impression, and I am pleased to have served as its inspiration.

I appreciate your friendship, and I send you my best wishes.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Carter

Mr. Amar Nath Sehgal
3503 Leland
Chevy Chase
Washington, D.C. 20015

To
Mr. Amar Nath Sehgal
With deepest appreciation
for your support of the
ideals of nonviolence, love
justice, peace... for
which my husband and
Berdigi gave their lives.
Coretta Scott King

7-5-72 Atlanta, Ga.

Top left from Richard Nixon, 3rd November, 1969
Above from Coretta Scott King, 5th July, 1972
Left from Jimmy Carter, 26th August, 1980



Under the model education scheme of the Community Projects Administration, villagers are being given instruction in arts and crafts. A 36-year-old woman here has been at painting in Anandpur, a village near Bikaner.

FOLK ARTS REVIVAL IN N. INDIA

STUDY TOUR OF VILLAGES

BY A STAFF REPORTER

The 36-year-old Mr Amar Nath Sehgal, when a village painter that led to its regaining his feelings in a design, paint and form inherited from his forefathers.

The village has ceased to be a place open to the world, and to show these things and techniques are no longer content with the study of the traditional folk arts are being set.

Arts and Crafts Council in the Community Projects Administration Mr Sehgal has been studying the position of reviving the folk arts in Indian villages. His first study project is being conducted in Bikaner, where some restoration projects are being treated in arts and crafts in some ways to work independently in their own ways.

But the traditional folk arts are considerably from region to region. Mr Sehgal has it was essential to make the social, economic, religious and cultural forms to exist in each region.

UNESCO, actively engaged in a study on the role of traditional cultural activities in North-West India, committee, was incorporated in the Sehgal's plans and, under its sponsorship, Mr Sehgal was sent from the capital on November 15 on a three-month tour to study the traditional folk arts and crafts in various North Indian villages.

Mr Sehgal will take in his study villages in Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar, to determine the extent of traditional arts and crafts are being organized there.

formed or understood by new surveys and social conditions.

The folk arts community to be included in the survey, the first of its kind in an undertaking in India, will be "Changanis". A study will be made of the cultural life of the people in this new movement which is in possession of great experimental value.

After the survey is completed, Mr Sehgal will try to regenerate the creative instincts in the villages of North India, by helping the arts and crafts and cultural activities having vital role to play in the community development programme and that the village level can be limited by having arts and crafts workers.

Mr Sehgal said as Friday that arts and crafts education should be imparted in the villages to children, to develop their creative capacities, for the adult groups who should be encouraged to take up an art or craft as a hobby. In the professional group who should be trained to improve the quality of their goods.

Arts and crafts, according to Mr Sehgal, opened up avenues of creative expression, improved the economic life of the communities and so to their social and cultural development.

Mr Sehgal hopes to carry out other regions in the country after the arts and crafts programme is effected in North India communities.



The work of one of the villagers of Anandpur—a bull carved on the wall of a mud hut.

COMBAT

AD BIKER (PART) BIKERINE

Amar Nath Sehgal Sculpteur indien

Le sculpteur indien Amar Nath Sehgal, installé à Paris, est un artiste d'un talent remarquable. Ses œuvres, inspirées par la culture indienne, ont été exposées dans les plus grandes galeries de la capitale. Ses sculptures, réalisées en terre cuite, sont d'une grande originalité et d'une grande puissance.

Il est né le 13 novembre 1919, à Anandpur, dans le district de Bikaner, au Rajasthan. Il a étudié à l'école d'art de Bikaner, puis à l'école d'art de Delhi. Il a obtenu son diplôme de l'école d'art de Delhi en 1941.

Il a travaillé pendant plusieurs années dans le service de l'art et de l'artisanat du gouvernement indien. Il a été directeur de l'école d'art de Bikaner de 1945 à 1950.

Il a exposé ses œuvres dans de nombreuses galeries et musées à travers le monde. Ses œuvres ont été achetées par de nombreux collectionneurs et musées.

Il a écrit de nombreux livres et articles sur l'art indien et sur la sculpture. Ses œuvres ont été exposées dans de nombreuses galeries et musées à travers le monde.

Participation de A. N. Sehgal aux expositions de la Biennale de Paris, de la Biennale de Venise, de la Biennale de São Paulo, de la Biennale de Rio de Janeiro, de la Biennale de Caracas, de la Biennale de Bogota, de la Biennale de Lima, de la Biennale de Mexico, de la Biennale de Santiago, de la Biennale de Valparaiso, de la Biennale de Lima, de la Biennale de Mexico, de la Biennale de Santiago, de la Biennale de Valparaiso.

En 1955, il a été élu membre de l'Académie des Beaux-Arts de France. Il a été élu membre de l'Académie des Beaux-Arts de France en 1955.

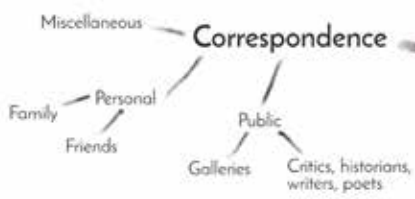
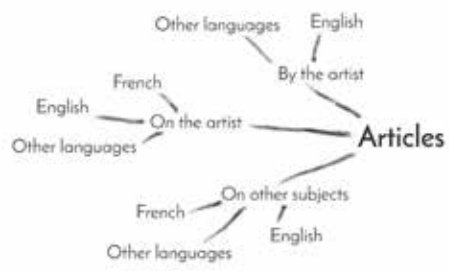
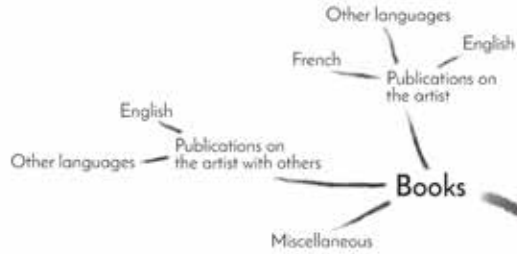
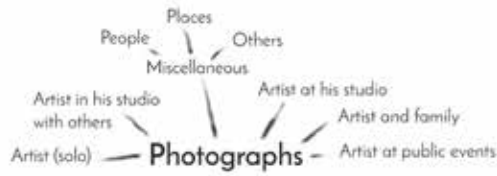
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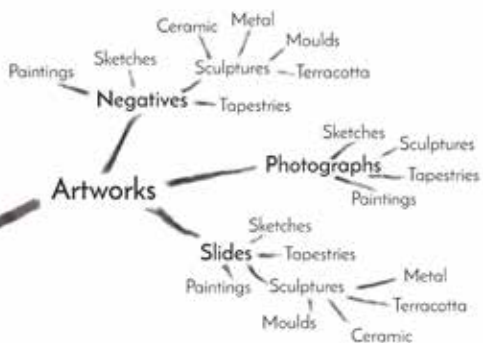
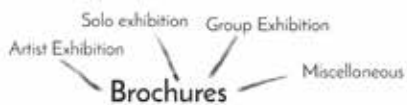
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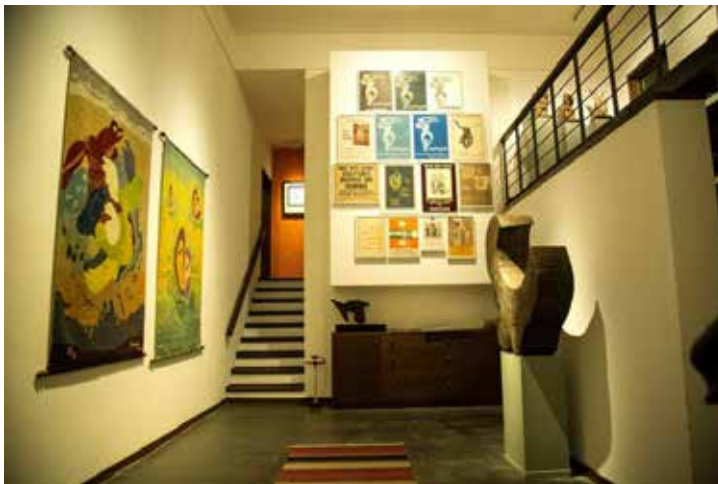
Top The Statesman, "Folk Art Revival in N. India," 12th November, 1955

Right Amar Nath Sehgal, Sculpteur indien, undated



Amar Nath





The Space

The exhibition space at the Amar Nath Sehgal Private Collection is an integral part of all the programs and research projects on the artist. Designed by the Delhi-based architectural firm, Kacker and Associates, the 1550 sq ft space, divided into three levels, houses a permanent display of archival photographs, important sculptures, clusters of seminal drawings in ink, pencil and pastels, and tapestries.

The Collection offers a platform to learn about and engage with the works and time of Amar Nath Sehgal as well as to benefit professionally from our experience and expertise.

The remodeling and expansion project of the artist studio at J-23 was led by Sujata and Vipul Kacker of Kacker and Associates, working with Siddharth Bhatia. The design has been kept modest intentionally, weaving a museum-like space into the fabric of the Jungpura Extension section of New Delhi. The new portions have been kept simple and elegant, inserted in and around the existing building design.



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