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dinanath

dinanath

Dr. Dinanath Pathy left this material world doing what he loved most; working for the cause of art and for what he believed to be right. He left behind a vast expanse of memories and experiences which can never be filled in. In this publication we have earnestly tried to create the memories of the legendary painter, writer and art philosopher through a collection of pictures. There are many more images and memories which could not be included due to limitations of time and immediate availability of materials. We are looking forward to touching other aspects of his life in our future publications.

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Jena, Soubhagya Pathy, Abtin Javid,
IPCA, Angarag and Sutra Foundation



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Dinanath Pathy' in a cursive style.

Dr. Dinanath Pathy
1942-2016
Painter, Writer and Art Historian

A distinguished practicing painter and pioneer of the Modern and Contemporary Art Movement of Odisha, Dr. Dinanath Pathy was brought up in a family of artists and poets in the traditional town of Digapahandi, Ganjam in Odisha.

In education and training, he combined both traditional Guru-Sisya Parampara as well as the modern university system. He studied at Khallikote, Bhubaneswar, Santiniketan and Zurich. He wrote two dissertations: History of Orissan Painting, and Art and Regional Traditions. He was awarded Ph.D. by Utkal University and Visva Bharati University. He is also the recipient of Honorary D. Litt. from Berhampur University.

He had a wide range of important assignments from Museum to Tourism, from Teaching to Art Administration and Visualization to Research. He was the Curator, Art and Crafts in Odisha State Museum (1972-1979); Founder Principal of B.K. College of Art and Crafts under the Department of Culture, Government of Odisha (1984-1994); Secretary of the Lalit Kala Akademi, National Academy of Art, New Delhi (1994-1996) and President of the Orissa Lalit Kala Akademi (2003-05). He was the Director, Alice Boner Institute, Varanasi (2000-2016). He collaborated with the Museum Rietberg, Zurich, Switzerland from 1978-2015.

His works have been recognized at national and international levels and he earned a number of awards, fellowships and scholarships such as President of India Silver Plaque for Painting from All India Fine Art and Crafts Society (1988); A.L. Basham Memorial Award for Creative Research, Institute of Oriental and Orissan Studies (1986); Odisha Sahitya Akademi Award for Creative Literature (1993); International Award for Painting, China Art Exposition (1998); International Rietberg Award for Research (2014); Prajatantra Vishuva Samman (2015) and Dharmapada Award (2015), Odisha Lalit Kala Akademi.

He was the recipient of Jawaharlal Nehru Fellowship (1996-98); Japan Foundation Fellowship (1996); Nehru Trust Victoria and Albert Museum London Research Fellowship (1993); British Council London Visiting Fellowship (1990) and Senior Fellowship, Department of Culture, Government of India.

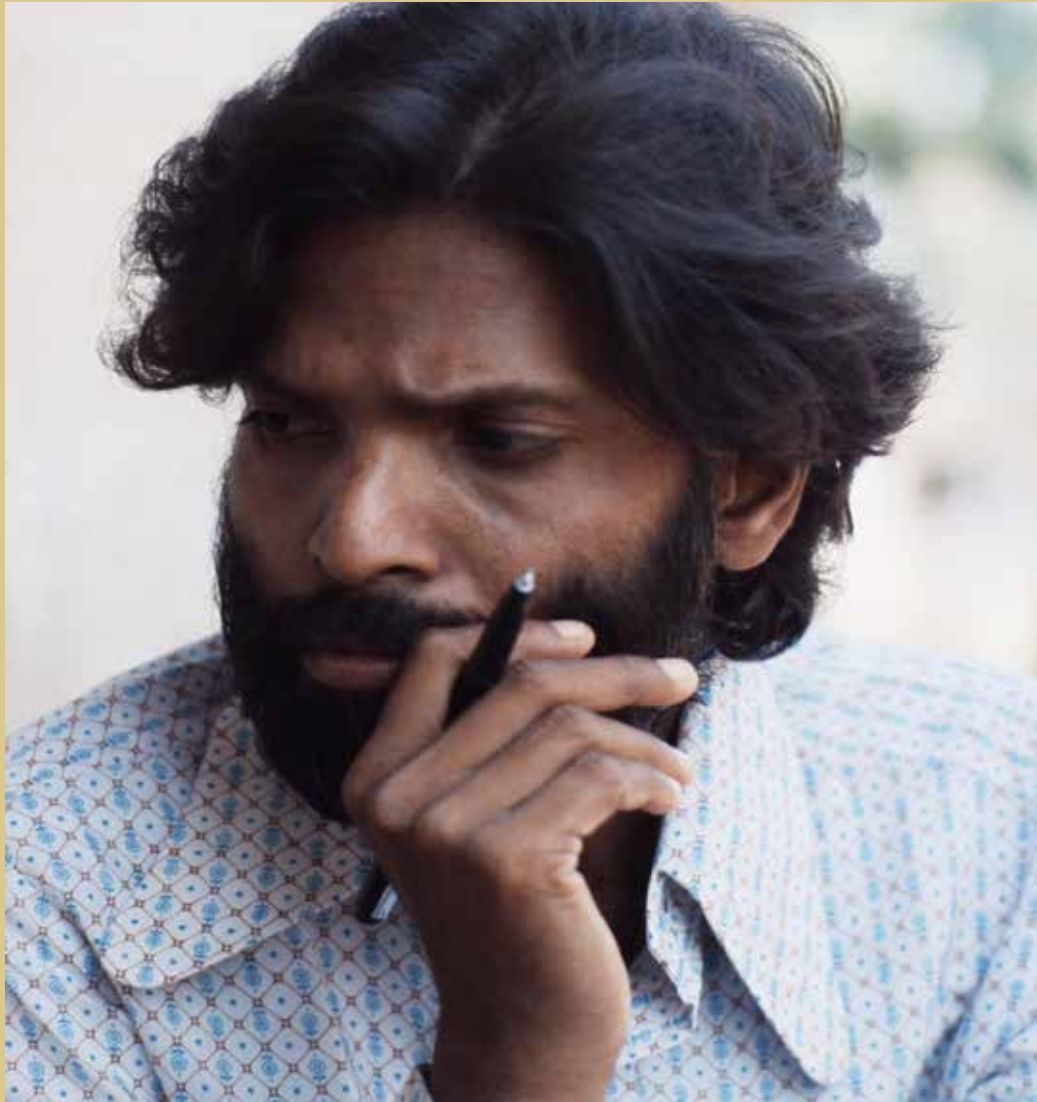
Dr. Pathy was nominated to several distinguished international and national institutions. He was the State Visualizer and Designer for Government of Odisha

for major national and international exhibitions including Kalinga Bali Yatra, Odisha Festival in Bali, Indonesia (1993); Designer, Curator and Commissioner for Festival of India Exhibition – Indian Popular Art in Sweden and USSR (1987); Commissioner, Exhibition on Decorative Arts of the Indian Tribe, ICCR (1989); Indian Commissioner, 4th Cairo Biennial (1992); Indian Commissioner, 7th Triennial India (1991); Curator, “Stirring Odissi” International Exhibition, Kuala Lumpur, 2008.

He exhibited his paintings in India and abroad individually and in groups including Museum Rietberg, Zurich; V&A Museum, London; Jurigi Gallery, Japan; OSA Convention, Chicago; China Expo, Beijing; British Council Gallery, Rabindra Bhavan Gallery and India International Centre, New Delhi; and Hotel Taj and Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai.

He represented in major public and private collections including The National Gallery of Modern Art, Parliament House, Lalit Kala Akademi and India Tourism Development Corporation, Union Public Service Commission, HUDCO, British Council and Max Mueller Bhavan, New Delhi; and Victoria & Albert Museum, London and other bodies.

He authored and published more than a hundred books, which include Art Historical Volumes, Poetry, Short Story collections, Fictions, Travelogues, Exhibition Catalogues in India and abroad.

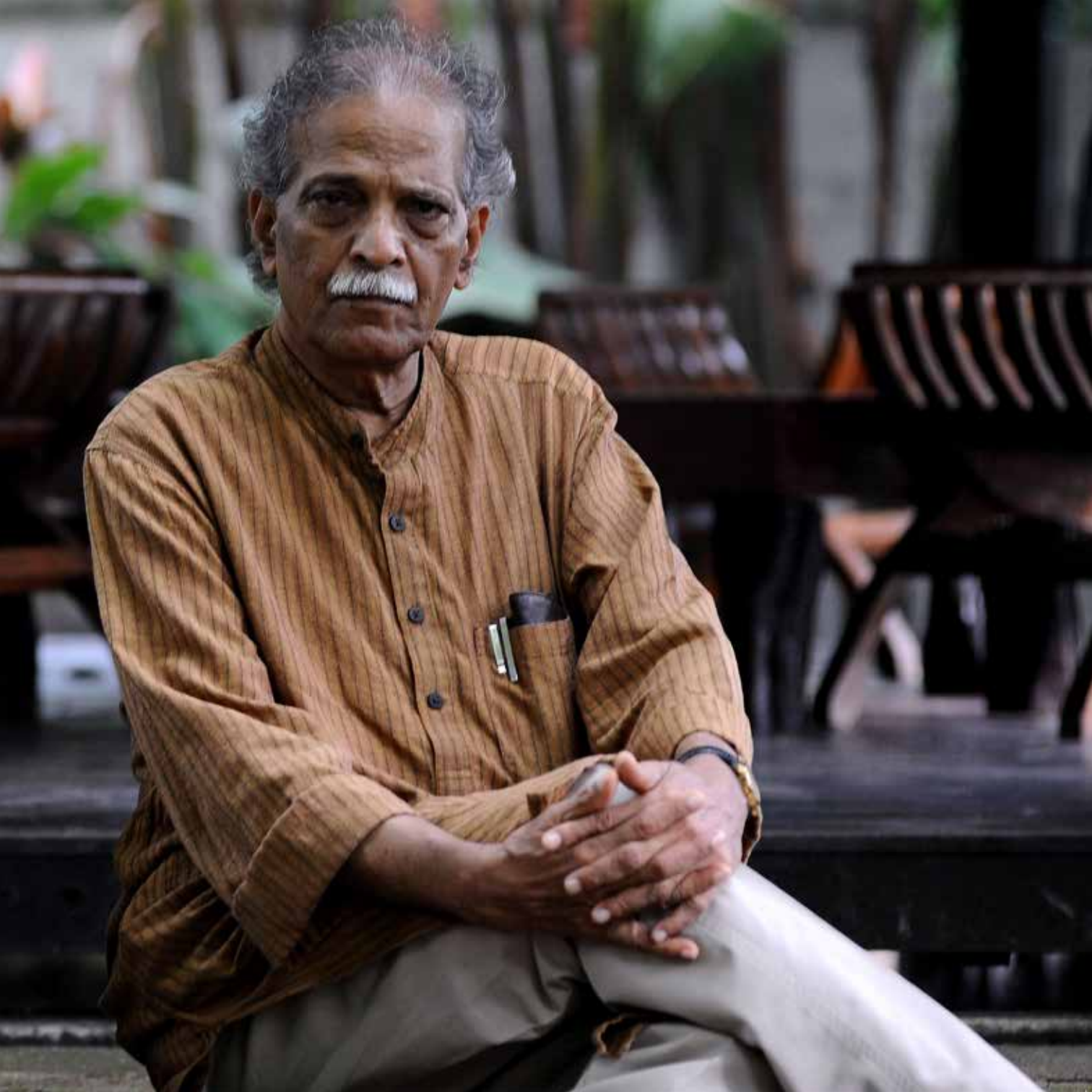


“ Pathy is a renaissance man - a poet, painter, art historian, novelist, curator, scholar and educator. His cultural roots in his native Orissa are very deep. His knowledge of painting there in all venues - classical, popular and tribal - is comprehensive. His creative vision is profoundly influenced by his lifetime immersion in the traditional arts and culture of Orissa. His is a storytelling art, the work of a man whose imagination was shaped by a living mythology. ”

Elinor W. Gadon 2001
California Institute of Integral Studies

At Sutra Foundation,
Kuala Lumpur 2015









At Kamaria, Petaling
Jaya, Malaysia 2015





Oviga, Switzerland
1978



With Anant Panda,
DN Rao, Sriharsh Mishra
and Raghunath Prasad,
Cuttack 1974

Receiving Fine Art
Academy Award from
Jamini Roy in company
of Asit Haldar and Ranu
Mokherjee 1963



With Akhila Mohan
Patnaik (Centre) and
other friends 1966



With Kashinath Jena,
Nalini and Haridas K Swali,
Bhubaneswar 1974



At Eberhard Fisher's
office, Zurich 1978

With Eberhard Fisher, presenting Mrs. Indira
Gandhi the Odia book in German, published
by the Rietberg Museum 1980



With Barbara Fisher
and two Buddhist
monks, Oviga 2010



Dinanath's family: Abanti,
Sunanda and Soubhagya,
Zurich 1986



With associate curators
Margareta Zetterstrum
and Sissi Nilsson,
Stockholm 1987

With KT Satarwal
at State Museum,
Bhubaneswar 1972



With Ranu Mukherjee
at Chitram Art School
1974

With Ramesh Chandra Mohapatra,
Harischandra Das and Grace Morley
at Odisha State Museum 1972

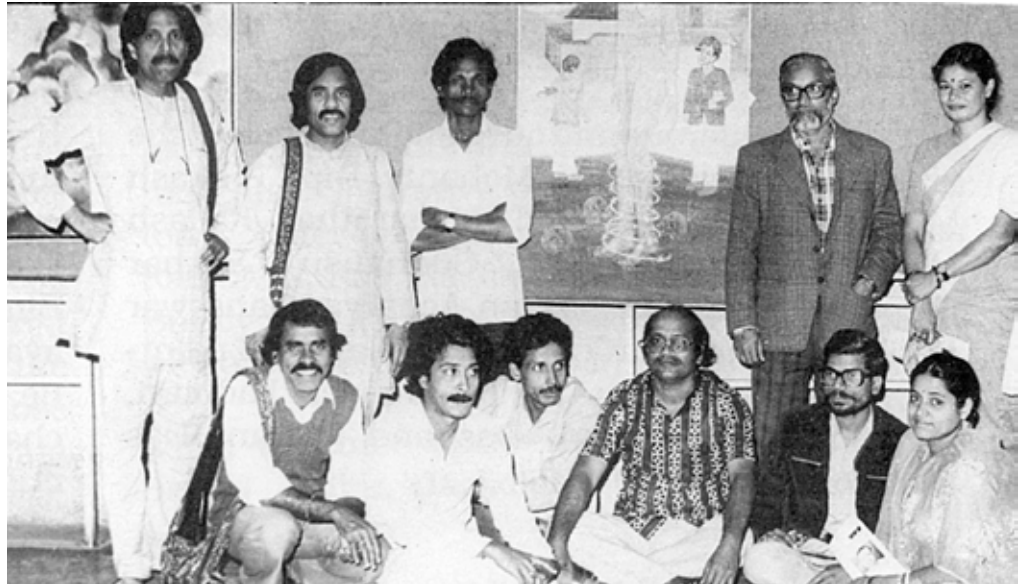
With Nandini Satpathy and fellow
artists during the first Working Artists
Association exhibition 1973



In front of
ancient wall
painting of
pyramid 1992



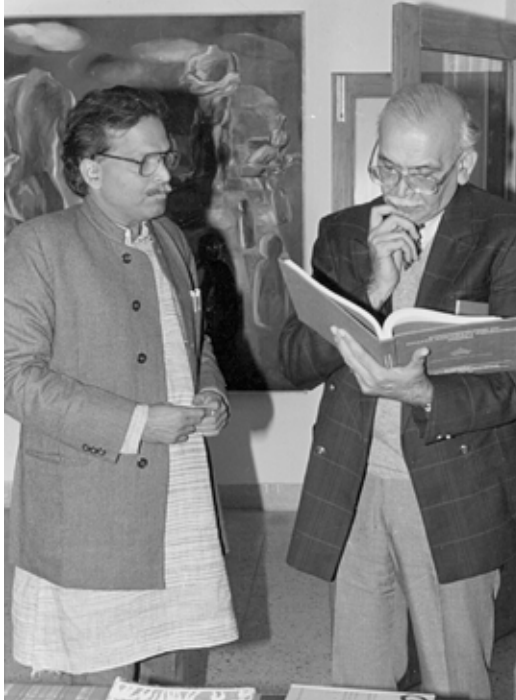
Festival of India
procession,
Stockholm 1987



The participating
Odia artists of
the Working
Artist Association
exhibition, Chennai
(from left) Dinanath
Pathy, Siba
Panigrahi, Debaraj
Sahoo, Bipin Bihari
Sahoo, Banaja
Chowdhuri, Chandra
Sekhar Rao, Baladev
Maharatha,
Ramahari Jena,
D. Narayan Rao,
Sudhansu Sekhar
Satpathy and Kamal
Kumari Singh 1990



With Salman Khurshid,
Rabindra Bhavan, New Delhi 1996



Dinanath with Eberhard Fischer at his residence, Bhubaneswar 2008

With Rashna Imhasly and Lalit Mansingh at New Delhi 1991

With Brajendranath Goswami, New Delhi 1991

With Prafulla Mohanti at the inaugural function of 'Village Voice', London 2004



With Eberhard at
his residence in
Zurich 2008

Art historians (from
left) Brajendra Nath
Goswami, Amit Dutta,
Haku Shah, Eberhard
Fischer, Balan Nambiar,
Dinanath and
Jyotindra Jain 2012

“ I am glad that most of my finer sensibilities and aspirations have taken shape in the work and achievement of Dinanath Pathy. I am equally glad that most of our dreams have taken shape and our intensions of early sixties have been considerably realised. ”

Anant Panda 1991

Jurigi Gallery,
Sizoka, Japan 1996





With Brajendranath Goswami, Ram Niwas Mirdha, Karan Singh, Car and Anand Deb at the inaugural function of 'Abhinandan' manuscript by Karal Khandelwal 1995

With Vishwanath Pratap Singh and British High Commissioner Richard Walker at the painting display, British Council 1996

At the exhibition pandal with Biju Patnaik and Iba Bagus Oka, Governor of Bali, Indonesia 1992



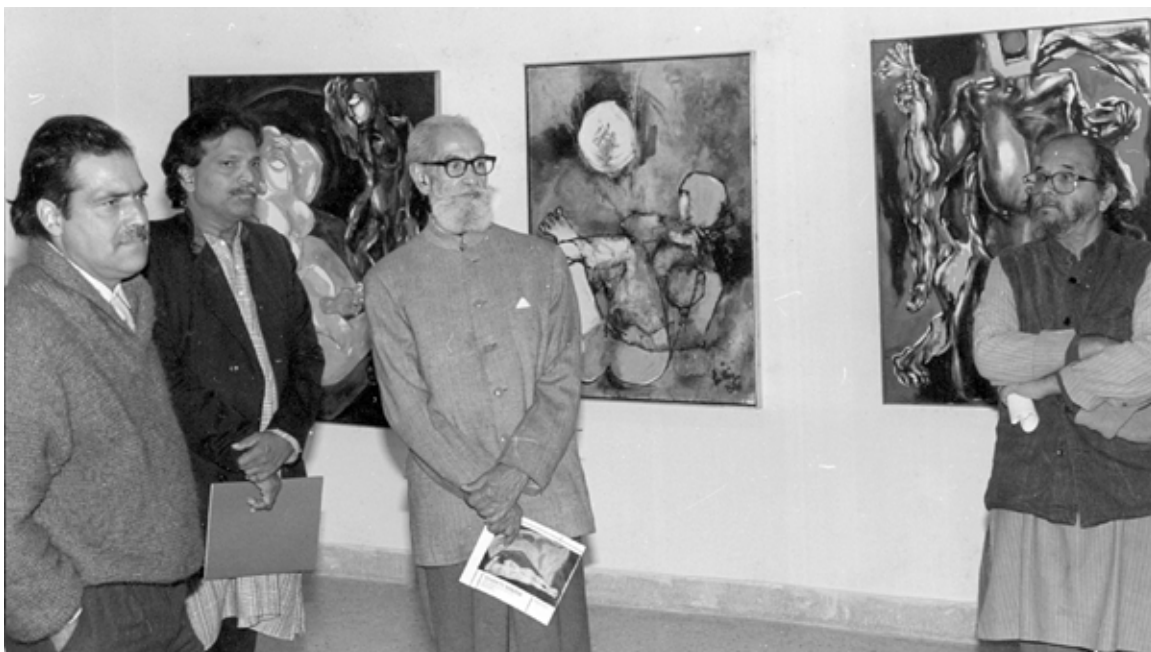
With his son Soubhagya
at his residence 2002



Thirsty, opaque 1957
painting by class X student Dinanath

“Dinanath Pathy has not restricted himself to his original calling of being a painter, art historian and art critic. He has already established himself as a fiction writer and a poet with several novels and poem anthologies to his credit. The words in his fiction and poetry are images which paint reality with its myriad colours and his paintings speak quietly and silently to the viewer.”

Dr. Sitakant Mahapatra 2013



At the exhibition '35 Years of Art' with Rajendra Patwari, Vavesh Chandra Sanyal and Anand Deb, Rabindra Bhavan, 1991

At exhibition 'Ganga' with the Swiss High Commissioner Gigar, Swiss Embassy, New Delhi 2001

With Vyjayanthimala, Rabindra Bhavan, New Delhi 1995

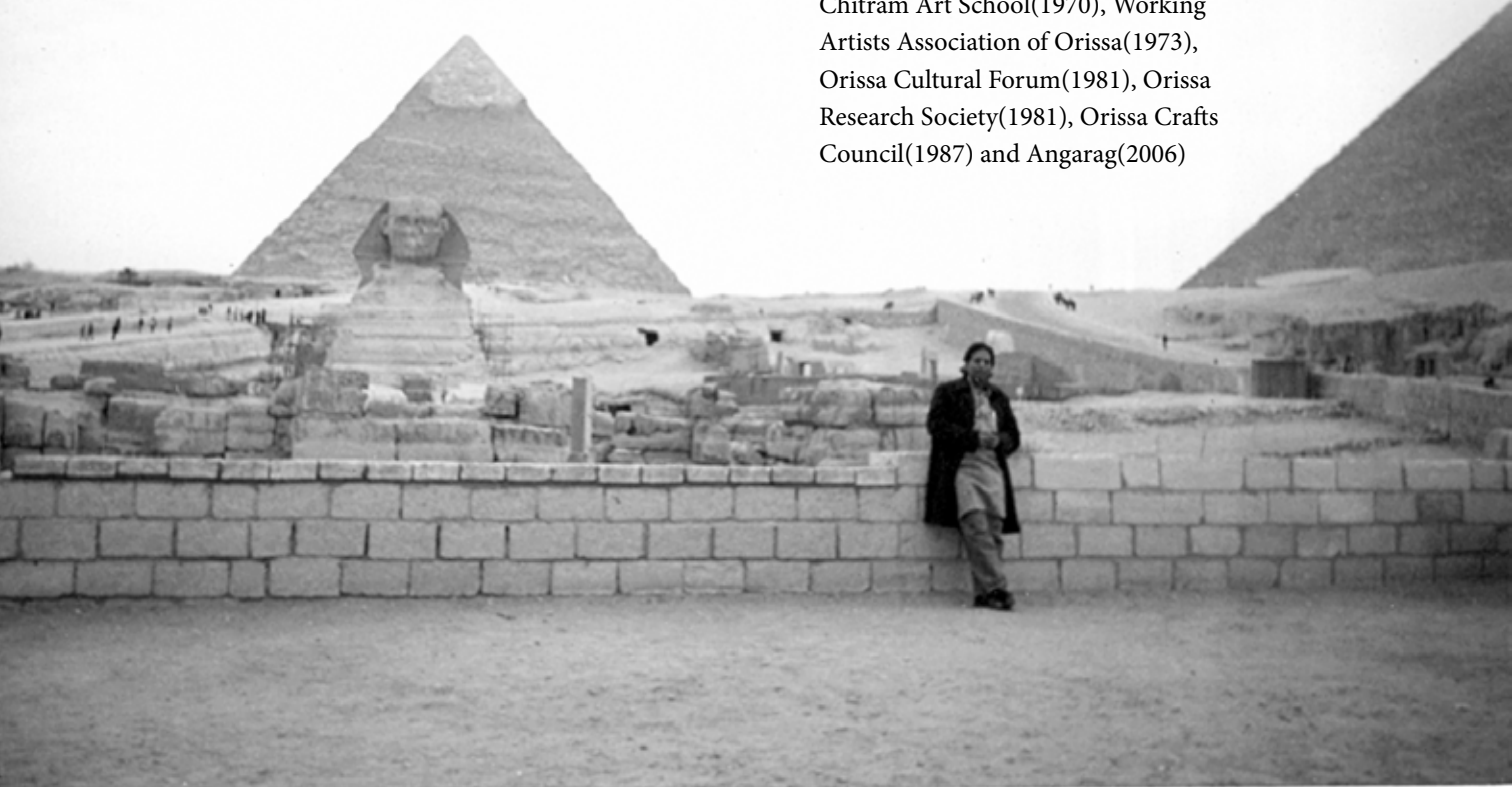


With Avatar Singh, Jehangir Sawawala, Murli Manhor Joshi, Biman Das and Anupam Sud while receiving the 'Kalashree' title from the AIFACS 2001



With Ashok Bajpayee at the Odia artists' exhibition 'Beyond the Shores', Ravindra Bhavan, New Delhi 1995

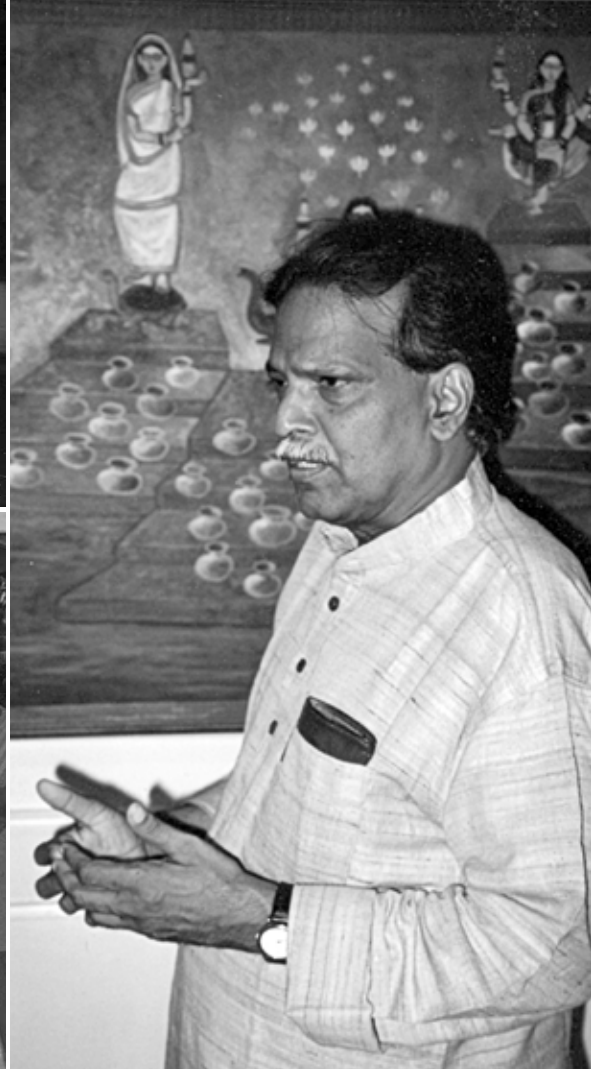
To achieve visibility in India and make the Odisha of the 60s and 70s a vibrant center of artistic experiments, Dinanath built one institution after another in his pursuit of excellence. These include Silpi Samsad(1966), Chitram Art School(1970), Working Artists Association of Orissa(1973), Orissa Cultural Forum(1981), Orissa Research Society(1981), Orissa Crafts Council(1987) and Angarag(2006)



In front the pyramid and the Great Sphinx of Giza, 4th International Cairo Binnale 1992



With leading artists and
art teachers at Konark



Addressing WAA
Winter Show 1997

With Moon Moon Sen,
Rabindra Bhavan, New Delhi

Expressing his views in the
exhibition 'Ganga'



With his friend in front of the mural of K.G.Subramnium, Kala Bhavan, Santiniketan 2013

Guiding the Chitrakars of Puri in an art camp 2014

With Ramahari Jena, Chaita Basu Jena and K.K. Chakravorty, Chairman, LKA at Print making Studio, Lalit Kala Akademi, Regional Centre, Bhubaneswar 2014



With Sitakant
Mohapatra at
New Delhi 1988



With Ramahari
Jena, Sarat Pujari,
Arabinda Patnaik,
Ramli Ibrahim
and Shivrajah
Natarajan at the
'Chitra Chaturthi'
conference, Utkal
University of Culture
2009





Dr. Eberhard Fischer, a world renowned art ethnologist, art historian and the former Director of the Museum Reitberg, Zurich was a constant source of inspiration. He collaborated with Dinanath in several art projects, concerning Odisha / India for more than three decades. The collaboration resulted in a number of significant international exhibitions and scientific publications and made Odishan art and culture visible in the wider world. The exhibitions and book projects are based on intensive field work in Odisha.

With Eberhard Fischer
in the snow-clad
Reitberg Park 2008



B.K. College of Art & Crafts logo is based on Odia eight petalled lotus *jhoti*

With Biju Patnaik, Ram Nivas Mirdha and other officials in the opening ceremony of B.K. College of Art & Crafts, Bhubaneswar 1984

“ *The story of Dinanath Pathy building an art college in the seventies unfolds in Bhubaneswar, a city in transition. There is nothing sudden or dramatic about bringing an institution into existence; It is created brick by brick over a long period of time and yet, in Dinanath’s hands, the story of nurturing this college is full of suspense. An otherwise impersonal and bureaucratic city like Bhubaneswar is transformed in this exciting narrative into a theatre in which the vision of an artist confronts apathy and inertia, meanness and jealousy but finally triumphs over them and shapes the minds of a generation of young artists.* ”

Professor Jatindra K. Nayak 2014
Department of English
Utkal University, Bhubaneswar



Among awarded artists at the award ceremony, Beijing 1998



Festival of india at stockholm 1987

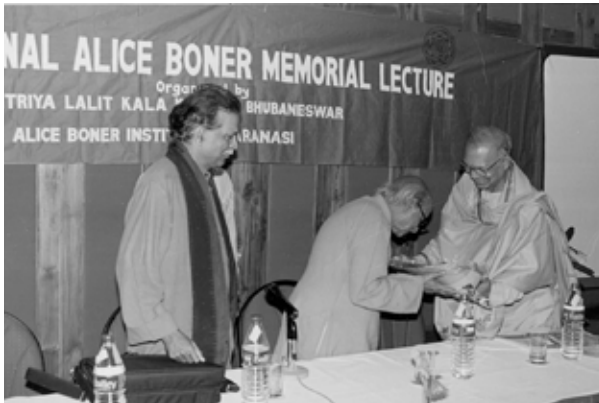


In the field of contemporary art in a post-modernist scenario, teacher-student relationship changes into a partnership with a faith in a shared milieu and with commitment to international cultural understanding. As partners of a global culture we value our mutuality in the context of a regional art tradition and draw our sustenance from the same old cultural resources.

Dinanth Pathy, 1998
(In '98 China Exposition, Beijing)



In the Forbidden City of Beijing 1998



With Albert Lutz, Director Rietberg museum, Gabi Lutz, Eberhard Fischer, Barbara Fischer, Yohans Baltes and others, Zurich 2002

With Anand Krishna and Chandra Sekhar Rath at the National Alice Boner Memorial Lecture, Lalit Kala Akademi, Regional Centre, Bhubaneswar 2010

With Eberhard Fisher, Ovigra 2010

Dear Dinanath 27.9.07

We are so often remembering you, sitting here in Orissa with snow on all the surrounding mountains and lots of rain. Eberhard wants to buy new watercolours that you can paint again when you are here. It is less cold than in May, but very similar. I am reading the book "The Moon and Sixpence" which you recommended and I find it fascinating. I am making cards like the one I am writing to you and it is a lot of fun doing them. A big old olive tree has collapsed and Bill helped us to saw it in pieces. His cows are all on our meadows.

Best regards from Barbara's Mum

A letter from
Barbara Fischer 2007



Receiving the Third
Rietberg Award
from Dr. Albert Lutz,
Director, Museum
Rietberg 2014

Dinanath with
Barbara and
Eberhard Fischer,
President Rietberg
Society 2014





Receiving 'Think Odisha Leadership Award' from the Chief Minister of Odisha 2011

Being felicitated by Naveen Patnaik on the occasion of Silver Jubilee of B.K. College of Art & Crafts 2010

With dignitaries, faculties and students, Silver Jubilee Celebrations 2010



With Ramli Ibrahim, Lekhashri's
Painting Exhibition at Sutra
Gallery, Kuala Lumpur 2014

With Ramli Ibrahim at Lalit Kala
Akademi, Regional Centre,
Bhubaneswar 2015

With Ramahari Jena
in NIFT, Bhubaneswar
2016



Felicitated by
Hon'ble Governor
of Odisha, M.C.
Bhandare 2010

Receiving award from
CMD, Nalco in the
presence of Meera
Das, Gayatri Das and
Debasish Samantray,
Cuttack 2015

“ He is one of those few daring
artists who revolutionised the
modern and contemporary art
movements in Orissa ”

Ajit Keshary Ray 1991



With grand
daughter Ramya
2015

Daughter-in-law
Mamta and
grand daughter
Ramya 2011



Dinanath Pathy searched for indigenous art forms to establish a connection with his roots. He and his works are deeply rooted in folk culture and attempt to explore the immaterial and the irrational. His ritual images exude a vision of endlessly proliferating and self-ensembling psychical structure seeking consolation in the cushioned world of mythical and metaphysical speculation. Though deeply symbolic and regional in his style, he explored the possibilities through cubism, impressionism and expressionism.

Playing with animal and human figures, his art has a wonderful sense of joy and festivity enhanced by the use of strong colours and detailed renderings. The tantric overtones in his art, mandalas and mudras derived from Odian tantricism take his paintings to a higher spiritual plane.

Dinanath with
his canvas
Bhubaneswar 2011







At his studio in
Bhubaneswar 1990

“ *Dinanath's life is a process of continuous self-education and research in art and literature. In spite of his many personal tragedies he has continued to create works of art, hold exhibitions, write and publish novels; it is a unique journey of a dedicated artist.* ”

Prafulla Mohanti, London 2002
Eminent painter & writer



Khalikote Bazar
Oil on canvas
57x36 cm, 1963



Couple
Oil on canvas
61x89 cm, 1962



The Golden Deer
Oil on canvas
96x120 cm, 2000



Tree Nymphs
Oil on canvas
160x160 cm, 1990





Lover Relaxing in Park with Car
Oil on canvas
106x92 cm, 1996



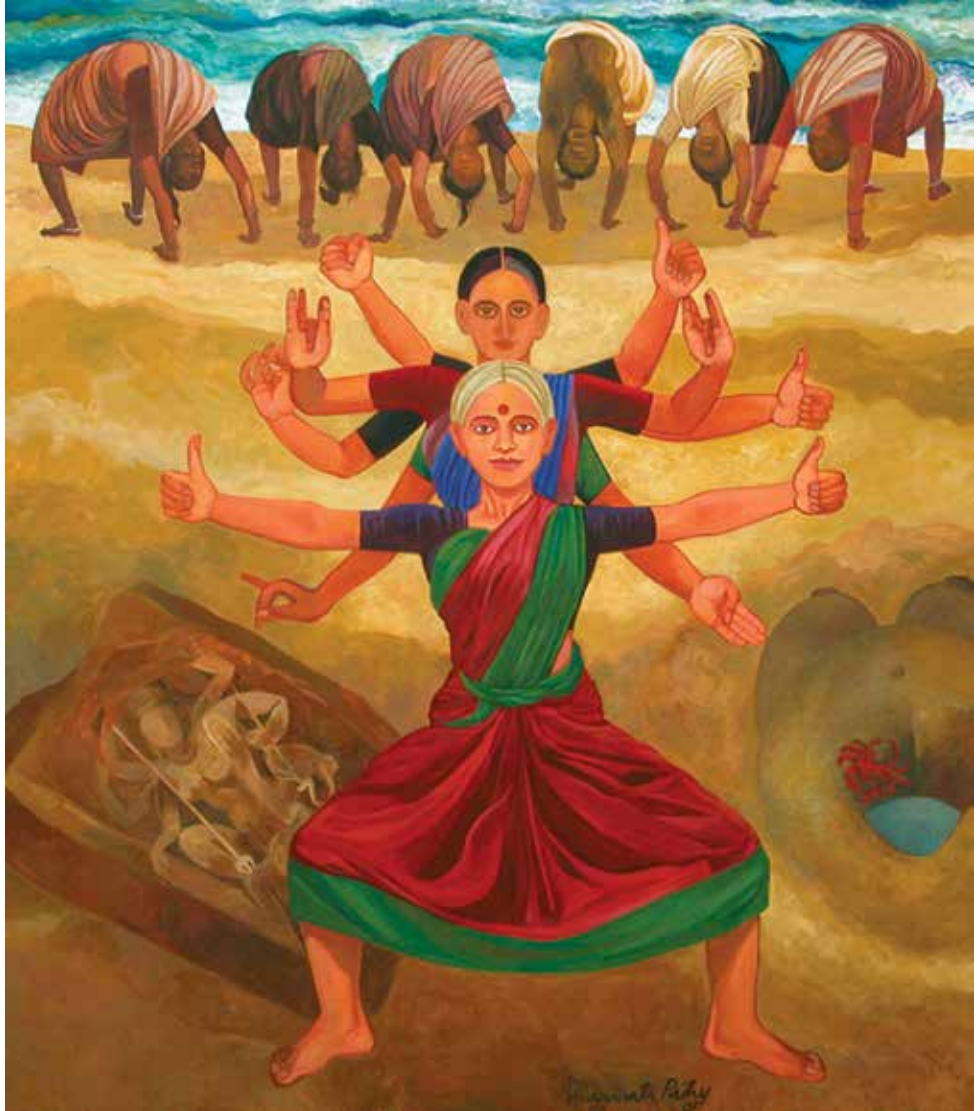
Woman and the Tiger
Oil on canvas
153x168 cm, 1991



In waiting
Oil on canvas
60x90 cm, 1996



Tiger and the Lotus Pond
Oil on canvas
96x120 cm, 1996



Homage to Chandralekha
Acrylic on canvas
165x153 cm, 2006



Homage to Bhubaneswar
Acrylic on canvas
175x127 cm, 1990



Lotus Pond
Oil on canvas
168x153 cm, 1997



Abhisara
Oil on canvas
165x150 cm, 1996



Chess Players
Oil on canvas
155x170 cm, 1996

Embrace
Oil on canvas
90x120 cm, 1990



Vegetable Sellers
Oil on canvas
89x62 cm, 1962



Red Letter Box
Watercolour on paper
25x35 cm, 1986



Gossip
Oil on canvas
31x57 cm, 1962



Sri Radha
Ink on silk
127x170 cm, 1986



Car as Devi
Oil on canvas
60x60 cm, 1998



Sky in the Pot
Oil on canvas
60x60 cm, 2000



Eternal Flow
Acrylic on canvas
90x90 cm, 2000



Path to Liberation
Mixed media on canvas
90x90 cm, 2001



Queen, Oil on canvas,
61x89cm, 1963



Harvesting Songs, Oil on
canvas, 80x55cm, 1962



Dinanath with his painting at Galeri Petronas, Kuala Lumpur 2008
'Rethinking Odissi in the USA Destiny Lab'
Acrylic on canvas
252x172 cm



Aurodhan Gallery
Pundichery, 2008



Dinanath with Sunil Kothari at Malaysian High Commission, New Delhi 2016



With Amelia and Shyam Pitroda in an artwalk, USA 2014



With Ramli during the launch of Quintessential Sutra at Malaysian High Commission, New Delhi 2016



With Dr. J.P. Das at the Repose exhibition, Lalit Kala Akademi, Regional Centre Bhubaneswar 2016



Dinanath with
Dr. J.P. Das, Gayatri
Das, Manju Das and
Jyotiranjana Swain at
Penang, Malaysia
2014



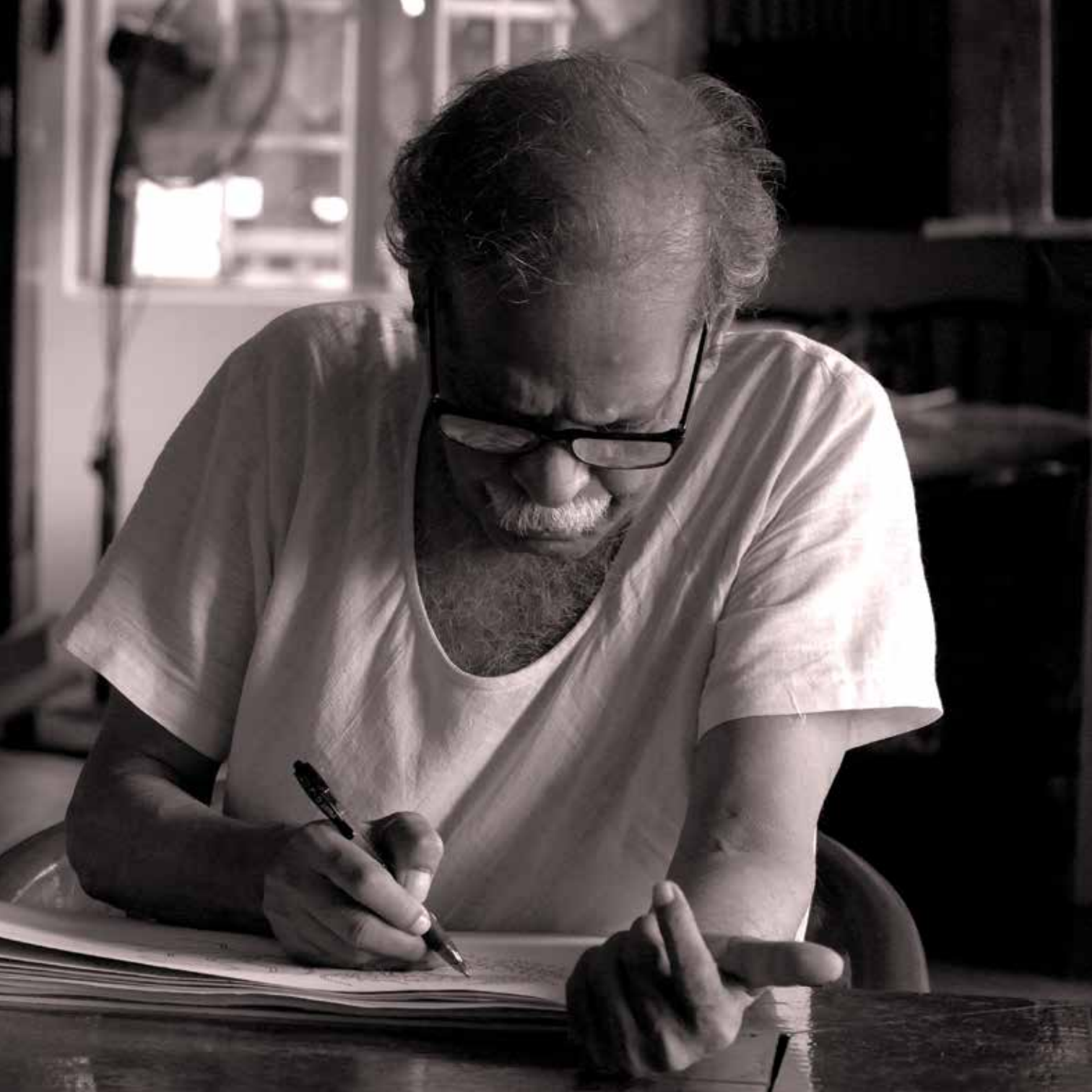
With Prof. J.P. Das at
Jasper National Park,
Canada 2014

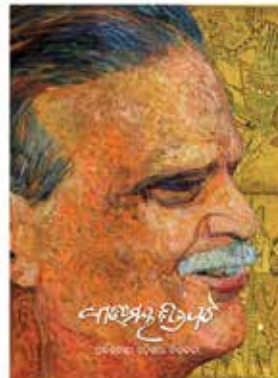
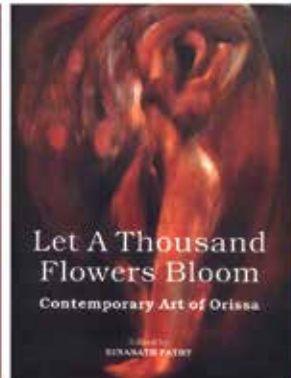
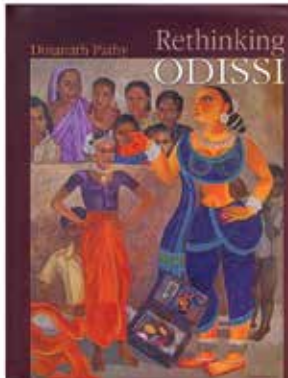
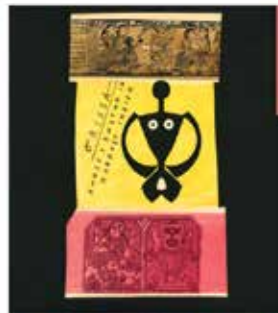
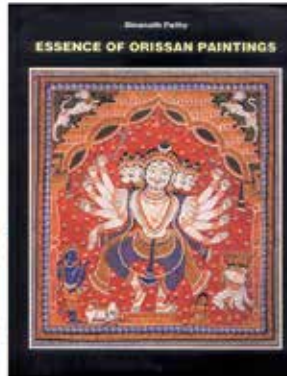
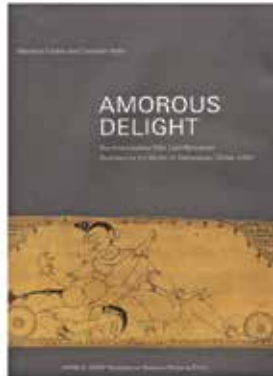
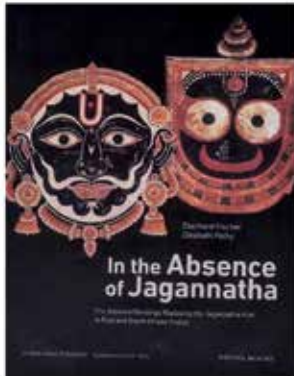
Dinanatha Pathy's excursions into writing and literature was as much a necessity for his self-expression as a need to fill up a void in the discussion about art in Odisha. His writings constitute meaningful documentation of and research in art in general and Odia art in particular.

His engaging style of writing, the depth and empathy with which he treated his subjects and the texture of the language he used were an extension of his painterly self. A bilingual writer, he pioneered a genre of art novels which has put art squarely at the centre of life. He has written novels, travelogues, autobiographies, poetry and essays on art and dance. His writings are replete with sylvan images of Odia life, tradition and culture.

At Sutra Foundation,
Kuala Lumpur 2016



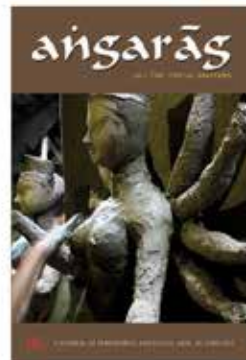
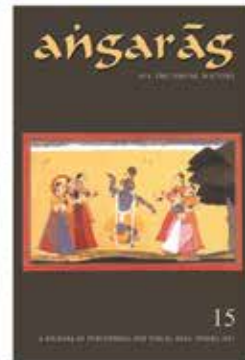
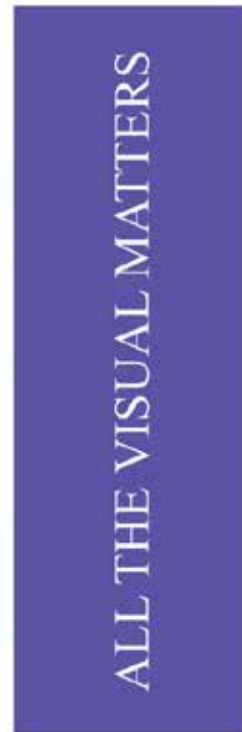
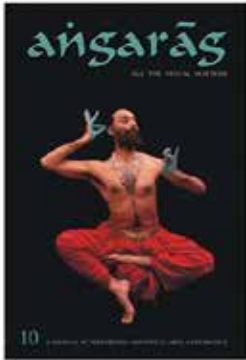




A few select publications by Dinanath



Dinanath with Ramli Ibrahim,
Gajapati Divya Singh Dev and
Ashok Tripathy, Rabindra Mandap,
Bhubaneswar 2014

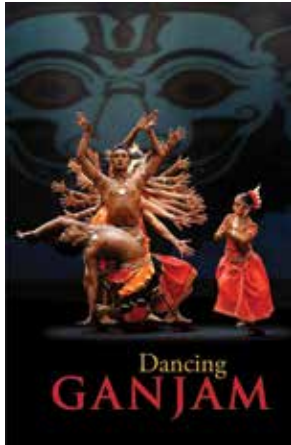


India's Leading Journal From Bhubaneswar Since 2006

Receiving the
Honorary D.Litt
from the Governor
of Odisha at the
convocation,
Berhampur University
2015

With Sitakant
Mahapatra, Anant
Mahapatra, Asit
Mohanty and
Soubhagya at his
book release function,
Bhubaneswar 2014





Releasing the book
'Dancing Ganjam'
with Ramli Ibrahim,
Kuala Lumpur 2015

With T.S. Thirumurti,
Indian High
Commissioner to
Malaysia 2015

With Leela
Venkataraman,
Kuala Lumpur
2015





Dinanath receiving the
Intach Gourav Award,
Bhubaneswar 2014

Being felicitated in 'Doctor Meghanada
Pradhan Smruti Samman' by Sahityana
Bhubaneswar 2016



With Shankarlal Purohit at his residence 2010

In a lighter moment with close friends Ganeshwar Mishra and Jatindra K Nayak 2016

At the inaugural function of the exhibition 'Repose' organised by IPCA. With Paramita Mahapatra, fellow artists and dignitaries 2016



Dinanath at Varanashi 2013

This publication would not have been possible without due support of IPCA, Print-Tech Offset Pvt. Ltd., Bhubaneswar, Paramita Mahapatra, Ramahari Jena, Brundaban Behera, Biswaranjan Nayak, Nityananda Mishra, JP Das, Gayatri Das, PC Dhir, Soubhagya Pathy, Satyabhusan Hota, Abtin Javid, Bijay Rath, Sukanya Rath, Surya Mishra, Jayant Das, Subrata Mallick, Sangram Maharana and Veejayant Dash.

