

OJAS ART  
JODHAIYA BAI BAIGA  
A RETROSPECTIVE



BLOOM  at DUSK

CURATED BY MINHAZZ MAJUMDAR

23 FEBRUARY- 11 MARCH 2026

# JODHAIYA BAI BAIGA

## BLOOM M *at* DUSK

### CURATED BY MINHAZZ MAJUMDAR

*Bloom at Dusk* celebrates the artistic flowering of Jodhaiya Bai Baiga (1937–2024), one of India's most remarkable contemporary tribal artists, whose creative journey began in the later years of her life. Presented by Ojas Art, this exhibition highlights a visionary talent who transformed hardship, cultural memory, and ecological knowledge into magnificent, luminous art.

In *Bloom at Dusk*, we encounter the visionary world Baiga summoned through her art — a world shaped by sacred imagery, Baiga beliefs, and the forests of her childhood in Umariya, Madhya Pradesh. Her works, rendered in vivid acrylic on paper, canvas, and papier-mâché, draw from her wish to imagine a beautiful world alive with divine beings and forest dwellers. Recurring motifs include the sacred mahua tree, Bholenath, and Bageswar, the tiger god, which alongside human figures, ancestral spirits, ritual dancers, and forest creatures, are woven into a mythic tapestry rooted in Baiga culture. She also explores environmental critique: in paintings like *Burning of Bandhavgarh*, she responds to rising forest fires and ecological loss.

Baiga's art has travelled internationally, finding audiences in Milan, Paris, and New Delhi. Her bold and dynamic compositions resist being merely decorative; they are powerful, contemporary statements born from deep rootedness. *Bloom at Dusk* honours her radiant flowering — an artistic legacy both personal and timeless.

This exhibition is presented in association with Ashish Swami Centre for Arts and Ramchander Nath Foundation.





शुरुआत

First Bloom





*Untitled*, 2008  
Acrylic on cardboard  
12 x 12 in



*Untitled*, 2008  
Acrylic on cardboard  
12 x 12 in





Untitled, 2008  
Acrylic on cardboard  
14 x 11.6 in



Untitled, 2008  
Acrylic on cardboard  
12 x 12 in



*Untitled*, 2008  
Acrylic on cardboard  
12 x 12 in





भोलेनाथ और बड़ा देव

Bholenath & Bada Dev



भोलेनाथ  
Bholenath, 2021  
Acrylic on paper  
11.8 x 8.2 in



बड़ा देव  
Bada Dev, 2021  
Acrylic on paper  
8.2 x 11.8 in





भोलेनाथ - II  
*Bholenath - II*, 2021  
 Acrylic on paper  
 16.5 x 12 in



भोलेनाथ  
*Bholenath*, 2018  
 Acrylic on paper  
 20 x 14 in



भोलेनाथ  
Bholenath, 2021  
Acrylic on paper  
16.5 x 12 in



भोलेनाथ  
Bholenath, 2018  
Acrylic on paper  
30 x 23 in





बड़ा देव  
*Bada Dev*, 2019  
Acrylic on paper  
16.5 x 12 in



भोलेनाथ  
*Bholenath*, 2021  
Acrylic on canvas  
32 x 32 in



देव और देवियाँ

Gods & Goddesses





हनुमान जी  
*Lord Hanuman*, 2021  
 Acrylic on paper  
 11.8 x 8.2 in



गणेश जी  
*Ganesh Ji*, 2021  
 Acrylic on paper  
 11.8 x 8.2 in



दुर्गा माता और नंदी  
*Durga Maata aur Nandi*, 2020  
 Acrylic on paper  
 15 x 22 in





दुर्गा माता और बाघ  
*Durga Maata aur Baagh*, 2021  
Acrylic on paper  
23 x 30 in



दरबार, त्यौहार और पूजा

Darbars, Festivals & Worship







बड़ा देव की पूजा  
*Bada Dev ki Puja*, 2013  
 Acrylic on canvas  
 40 x 48 in



बिहरमिया पूजा  
*Biharmiya Puja*, 2017  
 Acrylic on paper  
 23 x 30 in



सीता जी को कुटिया में छोड़कर, राम-लक्ष्मण जी मृक्ष को ढूँढते हुए  
*Sita Ji ko Kutiya mein Chodkar, Ram Lakshman Ji Mriksh ko Dhoondte Huye*, 2020  
 Acrylic on canvas  
 36 x 48 in





भोलेनाथ और शीश से बहती गंगा जी, और पानी पीते जानवर  
*Bholenath aur Seesh se Behti Ganga ji, aur Paani Peete Jaanwar*, 2021  
 Acrylic on paper  
 22 x 29.5 in



शिवलिंग और नाग  
*Shivling and the Serpent*, 2017  
 Acrylic on canvas  
 31 x 32 in





बाघेसुर  
Baaghesur





बाघेसुर  
*Baaghesur*, 2012  
 Soil and acrylic on canvas  
 42 x 51 in



बाघ देवता  
*Baagh Devta*, 2021  
 Acrylic on paper  
 8.2 x 11.8 in



बाघेसुर  
*Baaghesur*, 2019  
Acrylic on canvas  
24 x 32 in





जीव

Beings

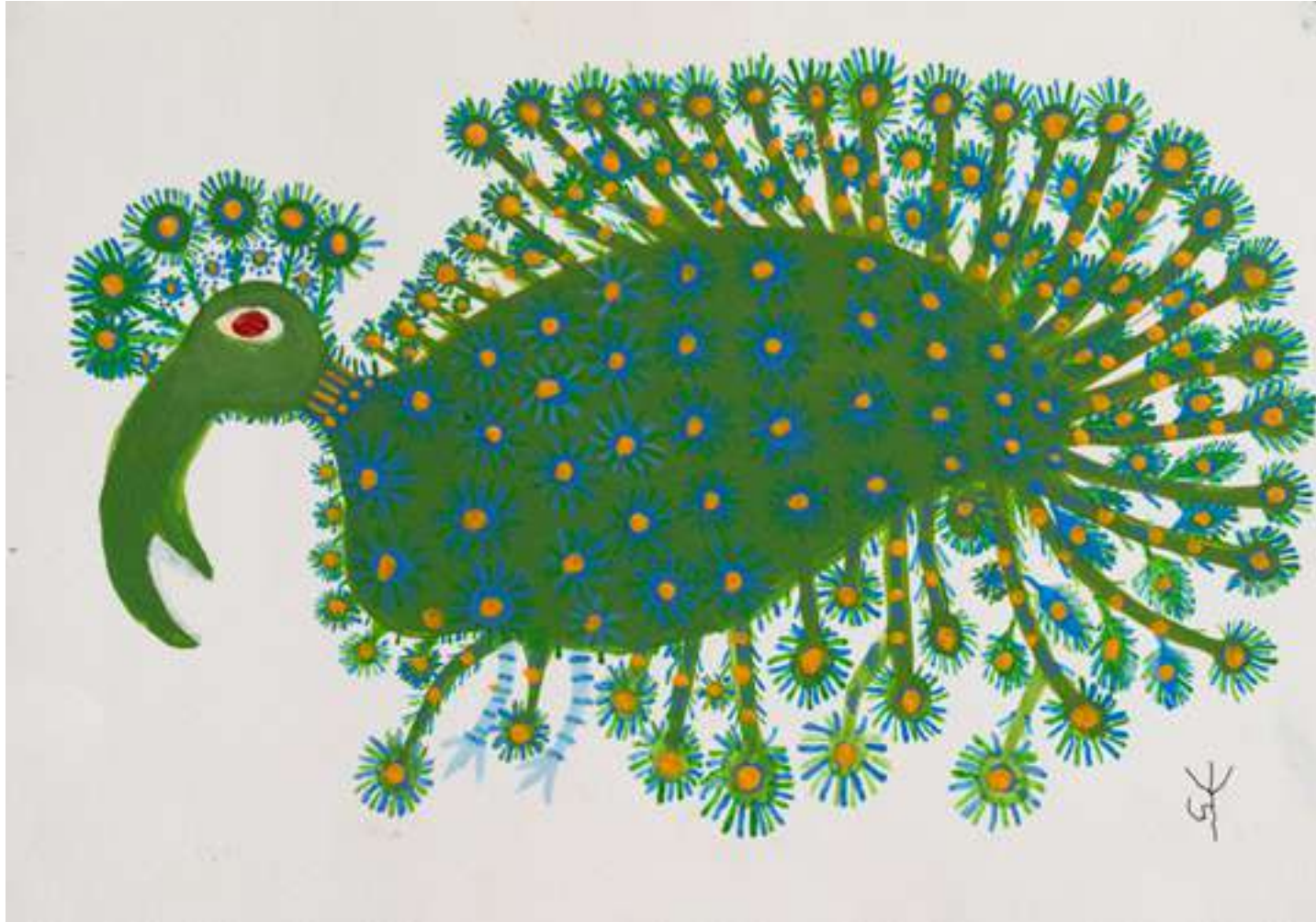


कुंडलित साँप  
*Coiled Snake*, 2021  
Acrylic on paper  
16.5 x 12 in



मोर  
*Mor*, 2020  
Acrylic on paper  
8.2 x 11.8 in





हरा मोर  
*Green Peacock*, 2016  
 Acrylic on paper  
 12 x 16.5 in



साँपों का मायाजाल  
*Saanpon ka Mayajal*, 2021  
 Acrylic on canvas  
 28 x 14 in



बाघ  
*Baagh*, 2020  
Acrylic on paper  
23 x 30 in





पेड़

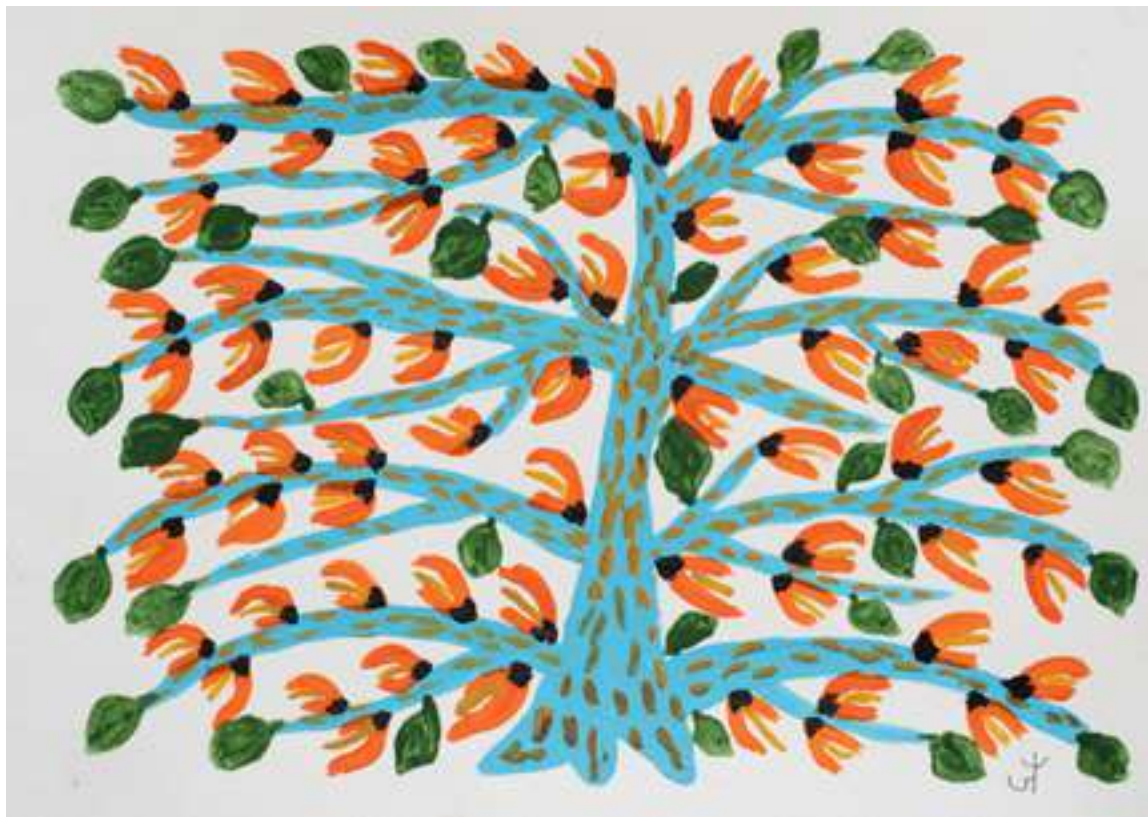
Trees





भोलेनाथ, भक्त और महुआ का पेड़  
*Bholenath, Bhakt aur Mahua ka Ped*, 2022  
Acrylic on paper  
23 x 30 in





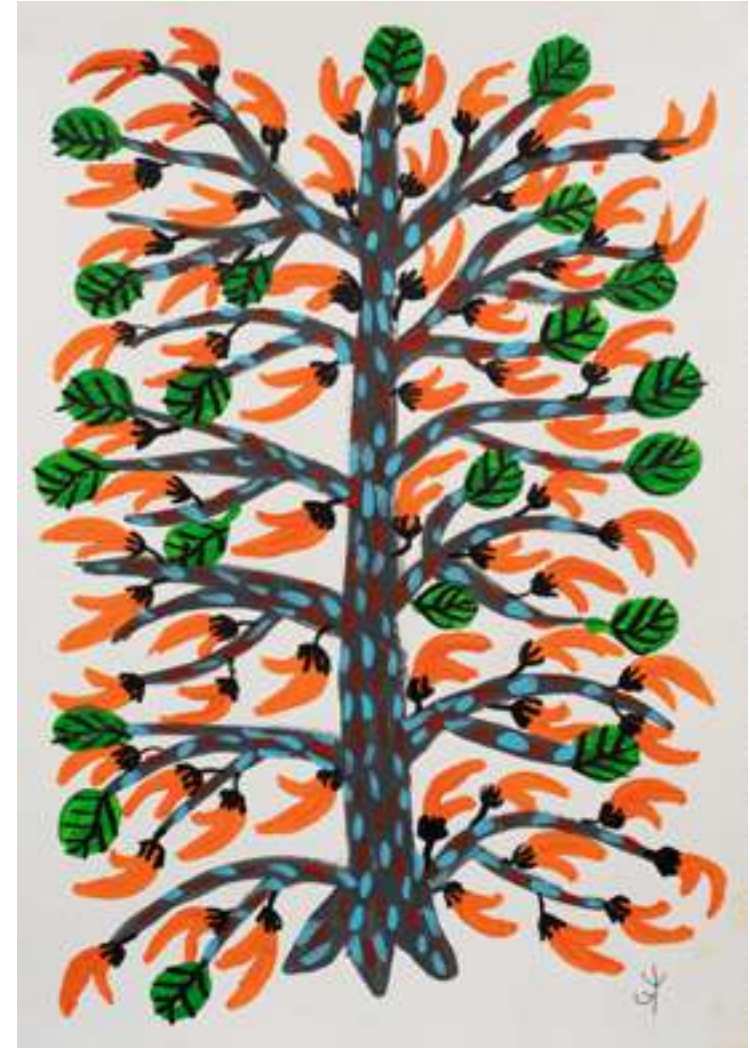
पलाश का पेड़  
*Palash ka Ped*, 2021  
 Acrylic on paper  
 8.2 x 11.8 in



पलाश का पेड़  
*Palash ka Ped*, 2021  
 Acrylic on paper  
 15 x 11 in



महुआ का पेड़  
*Mahua ka Ped*, 2023  
 Acrylic on paper  
 11.8 x 8.2 in



पलाश का पेड़  
*Palash ka Ped*, 2022  
 Acrylic on paper  
 11.8 x 8.2 in





सफेद पलाश का पेड़  
*The White Flame of the Forest Tree, 2021*  
 Acrylic on paper  
 22 x 30 in





जंगल

Jungle





कैथा का पेड़, बाघिन और उसके बच्चे  
*The Kaitha Tree, the Tigress, and Her Cubs*, 2023  
 Acrylic on canvas  
 48 x 72 in









भोलेनाथ और महुआ का पेड़  
*Bholenath aur Mahua ka Ped*, 2021  
 Acrylic on canvas  
 48 x 60 in





बांधवगढ़ का जलता जंगल  
*The Burning Forest of Bandhavgarh*, 2021  
 Acrylic on canvas  
 44 x 73 in





भोलेनाथ, महुआ का पेड़ और भक्त  
*Bholenath, Mahua ka Ped aur Bhakt*, 2017  
 Soil and acrylic on canvas  
 42 x 45 in





बैगा जीवन

Baiga Life





जंगल जीवन  
*Jungle Jeevan*, 2021  
 Acrylic on paper  
 12 x 16.5 in



मायके जाती हुई बैगनिया  
*Mayke Jati hui Baigniya*, 2021  
 Acrylic on paper  
 12 x 16.5 in



बैल चराता बैगा आदिवासी  
*Bail Charata Baiga Adivasi*, 2017  
Acrylic on paper  
12 x 16.5 in



# JODHAIYA BAI BAIGA

In the quiet forests of Umaria, Madhya Pradesh, Jodhaiya Bai Baiga (1937–2024) rose like a bright flame, transforming a lifetime of struggle into a radiant artistic vision. After years spent gathering firewood and forest produce to support her family, she stepped into a new life as an artist in her late sixties. With gentle guidance from artist Ashish Swami (1962–2021), she discovered her creative voice — shaping clay, painting on gourds and papier-mâché plaques and eventually blossoming into a painter who created luminous works in vivid acrylics on paper and canvas.

Honored with the Nari Shakti Puraskar in 2021 and the Padma Shri in 2023, she stands as a testament to creativity awakening at any age. Her art has travelled internationally, including exhibitions in Milan, Paris and New Delhi, and a solo exhibition at the Aliance Francaise in Bhopal in 2020. Notably, Jodhaiya Bai's artworks feature in the TIA Collection, Tribal Art Museum, Bhopal, Kiran Nadar Museum of Art and the Crites Collection.

Her art carries the pulse of Baiga culture and cosmology: offering global audiences a profound encounter with Baiga cultural imagination. Her paintings endure as songs of resilience — vibrant, intuitive and inseparable from the sacred world that shaped her.