

Rumale Chennabasaviah

THE MAN
THE MIND
THE ARTISTIC GENIUS





RUMALE
CHENNABASAVIAH

Rumale Chennabasaviah was born on September 10, 1910 in Doddaballapura, Bengaluru (formerly Bangalore). A multi-faceted personality, Rumale served art, social, developmental and political activities that he took up for his beloved state and country.

Rumale studied art in 1929 at Kalamandira School of Arts, Bengaluru and at Chamarajendra Technical Institute, Mysore in 1931. Even though art was his first love, he sacrificed it and dedicated his energies to the freedom struggle and to nation-building for 32 years. He participated in the non-violent freedom movement from 1930 till India attained independence from the British in 1947. Thereafter, Rumale was involved in nation-building activities and helping leaders lay a strong foundation and build the newly formed Mysore State. He went on to become a Member of the Legislative Council of the State of Mysore for two terms between 1952-1960. He was Organising Secretary of Bharata Seva Dala, Mysore State, from 1950-55 and was also the editor of the noted Kannada daily "Thayinadu" from 1956-60.

In 1962, at the age of 52, he left politics and public service and dedicated his time solely to the pursuit of art. A deeply spiritual man and a karma-yogi, his beliefs have often reflected in his works, in his choice of subjects, his interpretations of them and in his choice of colours.

He was inspired by nature and focussed on capturing, in the 'plein-air' impressionistic style, the beauty of Bengaluru city, the landscapes of Karnataka and Sri Lanka, including spiritual sites. All his paintings were done 'on the spot', and many times he trekked several kilometres with his art materials to the spot, at the right time of day to capture a particular moment in the landscape or subject. Although he worked in both water colours and oil mediums, he was a master of the British Water-Colour technique, and painted landscapes in large dimensions from nature – something rarely attempted even by the great artists of the world.

Although Rumale has often been referred to as the Van Gogh of India, he had a unique signature style of his own - some call it neo-impressionist, some others have called it romantic modernism. In essence, Rumale used colour to express emotion and mood. The golden yellow shower of the Indian Laburnum, the rich orange of the Flame of the Forest, the African Tulip, and the cluster of drooping pink Cassia Javanica, the soothing mauve of Jacaranda, the bright yellow Gulmohur and the fragrant Frangipani lining Bengaluru's streets were for him a source of admiration and wonder. He very ably captured and immortalised the garden city, Bengaluru's, ritusimhara – the serial flowering of trees all through the year - on paper and canvas, in acid yellows, hot reds, cool blues and deep purples.

Rumale was also commissioned by the Government of Karnataka to capture on canvas the landscapes of sites of Karnataka. These included several important dams and sites which were submerged under the irrigation projects of Karnataka. He also painted a few portraits including rare portraits of his gurus – Shriman Tapaswiji Maharaj and Sri Sri Sri Shivabalayogi Maharaj in a State of Sahaja Samadhi.

He started Rumale Art House, Bengaluru's first private art gallery, in 1973 to display his works. He received several awards, including the Dasara, Karnataka Lalit Kala Academy, All India Fine Arts and Crafts Society, and Karnataka State Rajyotsava awards. He passed away in Bengaluru in February, 1988, succumbing to injuries sustained in a road accident. Rumale was posthumously bestowed the status of the Distinguished Citizen of Bangalore in 1988.

Remembered fondly by the community of artists and art critics, Rumale has been respectfully referred to as 'The Artist Mentor' by renowned artist and teacher Nadoja R.M. Hadapad. Renowned litterateur Professor V. K. Gokak called him the 'Painter-Laureate of Bangalore'.



A GALLERY HOUSING THE SINGLE LARGEST COLLECTION OF RUMALE'S WORKS

Rumale Art House was established in Rajajinagar, Bengaluru, by Rumale Chennabasaviah in 1973. It has original paintings of Shri Rumale on display. Rumale Art House has welcomed art lovers and visitors from all over India and the world. We look forward to welcome you to Rumale Art House.

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VISIT THE ART HOUSE

10:30 AM to 5:00 PM, on all days except Tuesday

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