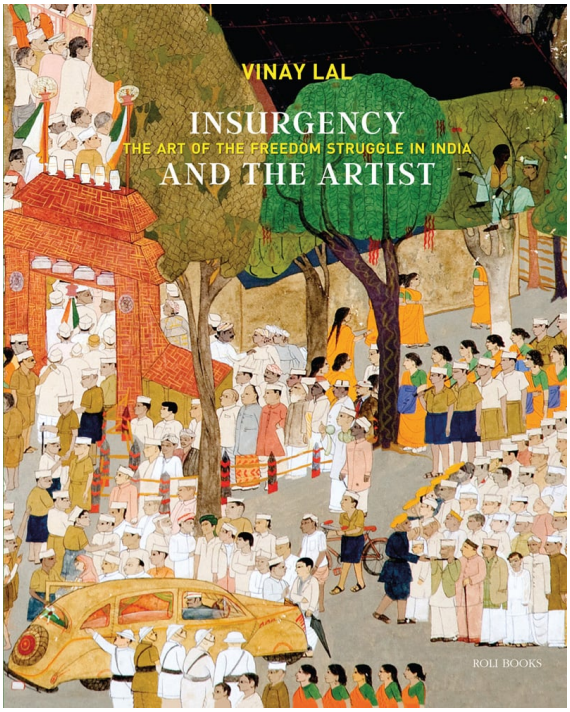
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Insurgency and The Artist

The Art of The Freedom Struggle in India

Vinay Lal

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- Beautifully presented with a reversible cover jacket with poster

Insurgency and the Artist explores not merely how Indian printmakers and artists responded to the freedom struggle but also how the art they fashioned invoked their own conception of the nation, their sense of the past, and the contors of the movement for India's emancipation from the yoke of colonial oppression. Recent scholarly work has been almost entirely riveted on nationalist prints, and much of it has focused on the idea of Bharat Mata, but this book seeks to furnish a more rounded account of the artwork — including etchings, paintings, woodblocks prints, and cartoons — contemporary to the freedom struggle and also highlights the work of neglected artists such as Babuji Shilpi, S.L. Parasher, Zainul Abedin, and M.V. Dhurandhar, among others. The author considers how the Indian past was rendered as one of martial resistance to 'foreign' rule, the manner in which artists worked with mythic material, and, of course, the treatment of the larger-than-life figures of Gandhi, Bhagat Singh, Subhas Bose, and other patriots in nationalist art. This gloriously illustrated work simultaneously offers a narrative history of the freedom struggle and the rich interplay of text and images is designed to offer insights that neither conventional histories nor images can offer in isolation. ***Insurgency and the Artist*** is also an inquiry into how ideas travel across borders, the porousness of culture, and the relationship of art to politics.

Vinay Lal is a cultural critic, writer, blogger, and Professor of History and Asian American Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). His intellectual and research interests include South Asian history, comparative colonial histories, the politics of knowledge systems, cinema, cultures of sexuality, the global histories of nonviolence, and the thought of Mohandas Gandhi. His 20 some authored and edited books include *Empire of Knowledge: Culture and Plurality in the Global Economy* (Pluto Press, 2002); *The History of History: Politics and Scholarship in Modern India* (Oxford, 2003); *Of Cricket, Guinness and Gandhi* (Penguin, 2005); *Political Hinduism* (Oxford, 2009); the two-volume *Oxford Anthology of the Modern Indian City* (2013); and *The Fury of Covid-19: The Politics, Histories, and Unrequited Love of the Coronavirus* (Pan Macmillan India, 2020). He is a founding member of the Backwaters Collective on Metaphysics and Politics and the editor of its book series from Oxford, including *India and the Unthinkable* (2016), *India and Civilizational Futures* (2019), and *India and Its Intellectual Traditions* (forthcoming, 2023).

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