



**Memorialising  
Ganesh Pyne**

PHOTOGRAPHS & PHOTO COLLAGES BY VEENA BHARGAVA

# Memorialising Ganesh Pyne

**Veena Bhargava**

**Ella Datta**

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- This volume is a one-of-a-kind treatment of the life and art of Ganesh Pyne, a widely admired artist of post-Independence India
- Featuring many previously unseen pictures

Ganesh Pyne (1937–2013), one of the foremost artists of post-Independence India, is no stranger to connoisseurs of art in India. His haunting images of intimations of mortality, the crepuscular light in his canvases, and his brilliant use of his own version of tempera are widely admired. But he was a shy, reclusive man, who has left little trace of himself in public memory. **Memorialising Ganesh Pyne** fills this gap by bringing to life the sensitive artist through a remarkable series of photographs shot by artist Veena Bhargava across two decades.

The portfolio of portrait and group photographs that capture glimpses of the artist at work and leisure also provide poignant insights into a very private person. This visual record is anchored by two essays: the first, by Bhargava, recounts her experience of taking these perceptive images; the second, by Ella Datta, analyzes the aesthetic value of these rarely seen portraits as well as Bhargava's artistic experiment on a suite of photo collages featuring Pyne with elements from his works. A detailed timeline of politics and culture during Pyne's life adds archival value to the book. The volume will be invaluable for Pyne enthusiasts and research scholars alike.

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**Veena Bhargava** is an artist and recipient of the National Award from the Lalit Kala Akademy of Art & Culture in 1986. She has held several individual and group exhibitions in India and abroad. Her works are in several public and private collections worldwide.

**Ella Datta** has been tracking the Indian art scene for more than 30 years. A widely published writer and journalist, she is the author of *Ganesh Pyne: His Life and Times*, besides other books on the artists A. Ramachandran, Jamini Roy and Paramjit Singh. She has also curated several exhibitions for the National Gallery of Modern Art.