



Somnath Hore

Art of Wounds

Atanu Bhattacharya

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- Documents artist Somnath Hore's paper-pulp prints series titled *Wounds*, its inception and making
- Translating the artist's response to the Naxalite movement in India and social unrest around the world in the late 1960s into art
- Presents works conveying a deep human sensibility irrespective of time, place or person

Somnath Hore was born in Chittagong (now in Bangladesh) in 1921. By the 1950s, he earned a name as one of the premier printmakers in India, and headed the Graphics and Printmaking Department at Kala Bhavana, Santiniketan. Hore started the paper-pulp print series *Wounds* in the late 1960s as a response to the Naxalite movement in India and the social unrest around the world. The artist felt the intense need to translate his witnessing of the many problematic realities into art in the form of 'wounds'. He wanted to reproduce the essence of a cut or injury with his works using printmaking, turning to intense research and experimentation with the red and white colors and the light and shadow effect on a three-dimensional model to reach a satisfactory outcome. This volume talks about the series, its inception, making, and perceptions about and around the main theme.

Atanu Bhattacharya is a graphic artist by profession, known for his abstract paintings, experimenting with printing ink and acrylic. He has been a recipient of the Rabindra Bharati University's Visual Art Faculty Graphics Award in 1993 and a member of the Society of Contemporary Artists since 2008. His works are part of numerous collections in India and abroad, including National Gallery of Modern Art and Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi.