

**JAN STRUP AND BROOKS
TRAVELS**

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Press Release

Passions of India

30th July - 30th August 2007

**Jan Strup, Brooks Travels and *The London Magazine* proudly
present the well-known, controversial Indian artist**

Papia Ghoshal

**AT GALLERIE LAPIDARIUM
RAMOVA 6, PRAGUE 1**



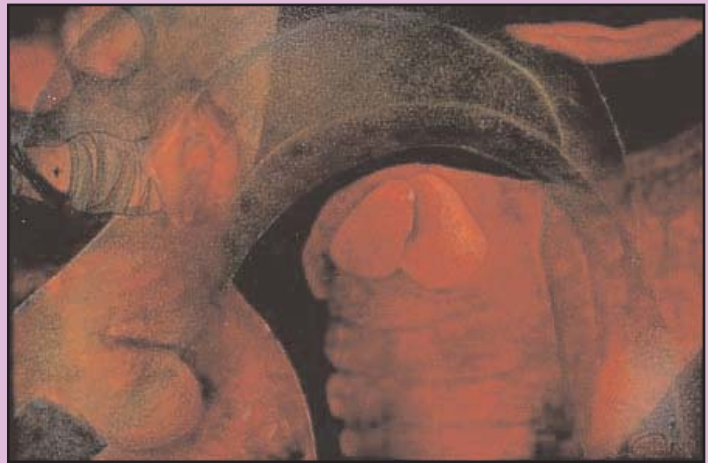
Papia Ghoshal is one of the leaders of the new wave of Indian painting attracting the attention of buyers and critics round the world. Well known and highly controversial in her home city of Kolkata, she has also established a following in London as a result of the success of her previous exhibitions here,

"I am deeply moved by her use of colour and the mystery in her work... She has broken through many taboos and expressed what lies deep within our sensual being." *Chris Thomas, Film maker and collector.*

The essence of her work is transformation, which one critic has aptly named 'trans-creation'. The male body, specifically the penis, is endlessly re-imagined, re-worked into many startling and original forms, often drawn from the tree.

"There are paintings I delight to see again and again in museums, there are paintings I wish I could have on my walls at home and there are paintings that live in my heart. These last are by Papia Ghoshal, a uniquely daring and confident artist."

Christopher Arkell, writer and collector.



Papia's work has a strongly feminist quality, shown in her 'trans-creation' of the goddess Kali, who radiates the freshly-rediscovered power of the modern liberated woman. Her images are rooted in the Hindu religion, in which women can be portrayed as goddesses of liberation whose many arms express the inner range of female capabilities which are otherwise often hidden and disregarded. Papia has a particular affinity with flying kites. Their presence in many of her works often indicates freedom of thought.

Papia has a special relationship with Prokash Karmakar, a distinguished Indian artist, who was the first to recognise and nurture her talent, becoming her mentor and acknowledging her as his muse.

"As a woman, she shows great audacity to express her mind and desires... she skilfully fashions her own laws as the architect of the new feminine logic... The revolt that slowly builds within the mind has erupted like a volcano in Papia's paintings." *Prokash Karmakar*

My new series of paintings, Menstruation, which I began in May 2006, is a development of work done for my book of poems, Days of Menstruation, published in 2004.

The Menstruation series takes the ideas from my poems and combines them with the paintings I have been making in the last four years. Each of these new works is painted using my own menstrual blood. I have thus drawn from my very core images of the world around me. I am 'transcreating' my inner self, at its most intensely female, into the sinews and muscles and rhythms of the world we all share, thus feminising it beyond the interpretive reach of the male. I have also shaped penises from my own blood, with a deliberate intention of imposing my creative dominance on this most widely worshipped symbol of male authority.

Female artists have already worked in the medium of their menstrual blood before; I am only giving my paintings a different form, may be. I am also mixing semen, another natural flow of men, into my blood - in a further exploration

of the transcreative processes which so fascinate and empower me - the flow of male semen ejaculated specifically at my behest for me to paint with. That union of blood and semen is for me one of the few that approaches real gender equality.

I offer my Menstruation paintings to women everywhere - as tokens of our determination to gain a true and permanent liberation from our age-old confines.



Papia Ghoshal - Interview with Trespass Magazine, July 2007

For more information or to arrange an interview with Papia Ghoshal contact Jan Strup MALA STUPARTSKA 7, 110 00 PRAGUE 1; +420 224 827 089 or +420 602 255 510 or Sara-Mae Tuson at *The London Magazine* +44 208 400 5882.

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MALA STUPARTSKA 7,
110 00 PRAGUE 1