

PRESS RELEASE

FROM SMB GROUP PUBLIC RELATIONS

32 Addison Grove, London W4 1ER:

Tel: 020 8 994 0292

Fax: 020 8 994 1713

E-mail: smb.group@virgin.net

SUBJECT	Papia Ghoshal, Indian artist
EVENT	Routes Through Bengal to the Roots of India: opening night of a new London exhibition
WHERE	Nehru Centre, 8 South Audley Street, London W1 W1K 1HF (nearest tube, Green Park)
WHEN	26 February 2008: 6.30. Inauguration 6.45pm.
NOTABLE GUESTS	Jeremy Hunt MP; Shadow Minister for Dept. of Culture, Media and Sport. Ed Vaizey; Shadow Arts Minister Earl of Buchan Lord Cardross (Harry Cardross, the eminent stained glass artist)
CONTACT FOR INTERVIEWS & PRESS-QUALITY IMAGES	Niki Seth-Smith SMB Group Land line: 0208 994 0292 Mobile: 0778 810 8320

Papia Ghoshal is one of the leaders of the new wave of Indian painting attracting the attention of buyers and critics round the world. Most recently she has been recipient of the European Union of Arts Award, presented to her in Prague on August 28th 07. 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. 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.

NEWS INFORMATION

I. Papia Ghoshal, India's highly controversial artist in blood, is coming back to London for a new exhibition of her works – dates above.

II. Only Indian female artist to paint extraordinary images drawn from the depths of Hindu mythology and religion, using menstrual blood and semen.

III. Her more conventional canvases have caused a storm of protest in India in the past – images of the Hindu deities enlaced with penises have caused almost as much upset as N.F. Hussein's *Mother India*. Protests at her work in Kolkata during the Durga festival in 2004

IV. "In her paintings, Papia takes a free and open look into the male world – a bold and deliberate attempt to break through the boundary between desire and reality." – *The Tribune*, Delhi edition.

"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.

"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." – Papia Ghoshal

V. Papia Ghoshal is also a director of *The London Magazine*, which recently had its Arts Council grant withdrawn completely after nearly 30 years of regular funding. She says: "It is a right royal shame on British culture that this has happened. But I'm determined the magazine will continue and flourish. I am helping to put together two special issues in 2008, one on Indian and one on Arabic writers and artists. I promise the contents will be just as notorious as my own works seem to be."

VI. Papia Ghoshal's recent exhibitions:

Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Delhi, Feb 08

Lauderdale House, London. September 07

VII. Papia Ghoshal's poetry publications:

Days of Menstruation (in Bengali, 2004; parallel text in Bengali and English, 2008)

Textuation (jointly with Christopher Arkell, 2007)

VIII. Papia Ghoshal's awards and prizes:

European Union of Arts, fine arts award 2007, Prague