

Dr Deepali Mahanta Kayal



21st SOLO EXHIBITION

Date : 1st October to 31st October, 2024
Venue : Mahabahu Brahmputra River Heritage Centre,
Old D. C. bungalow, Panbazar, Guwahati 781001.
Time: 10 AM TO 9PM.

Deepali Mahanta Kayal is a septuagenarian self taught artist. A medical practitioner, starting her career in CHS New Delhi, worked in many parts of India, working in the fields of community health, women, children and adolescent issues. A Past President of Rotary Club of Guwahati, she is an avid golfer and loves to experiment with world cuisine.

Her interest in art grew after she won a national level art competition at a very young age. Nature, Indian folklore, mythology and spirituality are recurrent themes in her art. She loves experimenting with various techniques and media. She has held many exhibitions in multiple cities across India, UK, Switzerland, South Korea and USA.

She has held 20 solo exhibitions earlier, including three in USA, Switzerland, and England. This is her 21st.

She also participated in many workshops, including terracotta, bell metal, glass sculpture, ceramics, resin, enamelling, batik, miniature painting, drawing and painting in India and USA. She firmly believes that art is the quest for self- expression and truth and an artist may live in a moment but is free to let her imagination transcend all boundaries of time, space and thought.

More of a visual artist she started painting (in recent years) based on a theme from some folklore of Assam, then graduated to writing comic books in English and Assamese language. She has published five comic books and working on two more at present . This exhibition is based on the stories of Champavati, the kites daughter, Tejimola, Tula and Teja, the old woman and the jackals etc.

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[drdeepalimk](https://www.instagram.com/drdeepalimk)



[Dr Deepali M Kayal](https://www.youtube.com/DrDeepaliMKayal)



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About this exhibition:

“Burhi Aiir Xadhu” or Grandma’s Tales are folktales from Assam that have been passed down generations. Most children in Assam grew up listening to these stories and fondly cherish them as indelible parts of their childhood. In 1911, the renowned Assamese writer and poet Lakshminath Bezboruah, also called ‘Sahityarathi’, was the first person to formally compile many such folktales into the now iconic book “Burhi Aiir Xadhu”; thus cementing their place in Assamese culture for perpetuity. This exhibition is the artist’s tribute to the great Sahityarathi and these iconic stories.

For over a decade, Dr Deepali Kayal has recreated the magic of these folktales through her paintings. The works shown here have been exhibited in multiple shows in India and internationally and received immense praise for their eloquent and sincere narration of Assam’s cultural richness. More recently, the artist has also given them a fresh voice through illustrated childrens’ books and comics. She hopes that her works encourage people of all ages to hold fast to these folktales as part of our cultural discourse while Assam forges its way in the modern world.

- K. Shubhalaxmi Singh.

