

An aerial photograph of a green agricultural field, possibly a rice paddy, with a circular structure in the center. The field is divided into rectangular plots by narrow paths or ditches. The overall color is a vibrant green, with some darker patches and a small circular structure in the middle. The text is overlaid on the top portion of the image.

# RAMKUMAR

Drawings from the 60's

# Drawings of Ramkumar

## *Multiple Happenings in a Meditative Space*

Drawings of Ramkumar, done in pen and ink, on paper, have a mesmerizing presence, with a substance, which touches our heart and mind, the moment we fix our gaze at them. The lines, with an immediacy of their own, start taking us to a journey, and alert us with each drawing, that we will be experiencing a visually, as well intellectually stimulating sojourn. The lines do not seem to represent any particular object, or figure, in an abstract mode, but are in themselves witnesses or vehicles, through which certain 'passing' moments are being captured intently, and are being transmitted, to us like a telegraphic message. Thus, these lines make us curious, and encourage us to view them intensely assuring us that the intensity of our gaze will be rewarded aesthetically, and the movement of the lines, will go on creating an enchanting rhythm within ourselves. These lines may not necessarily refer to any musical 'mode' but have also a 'musical' pattern of their own, which is not to be missed.

The drawings belong to the celebrated 'Varanasi phase' of Ramkumar's career, which transformed his 'figurative period' into a non-representational one, and his paintings moved towards 'abstract' landscapic forms and images, where colors also started playing a sensuous, luminous role, and evoked many a memories and emotions in the viewer. Yet, these drawings of the same early sixties period have a different tale to tell. Here no landscape, how so ever abstract, is being formed; instead what one finds in these drawings is that they create in themselves a 'demographic' statement of the sensations and thought and ideas, which may have been in the artist's mind, while he was creating these works. Thus the ultimate formations, created in these drawings of criss-cross and 'merging', 'submerging' lines, have a 'reality' of their own, which attract us. And we want to come back to them again and again. Sheer beauty, and refined shape of thin, and not so thin lines, is captivating, and even without 'distilling' any signifiers from them, we can rejoice in their aesthetic substance itself.

These drawings form separate areas, then create their own 'bridges' which join them. Thus in the sojourn a viewer, passes through many winding and unwinding paths, and bridges. The drawings are in black & white only, with shades of greys; and without attempting any consciously done tonal variations, Ramkumar succeeds each time in giving an organic and natural look to these drawings. This aspect of Ramkumar's drawings, subtly transmits into us a Saundarya of a rare quality.

Some of the drawings show the traces of architectural constructs, and some images, shapes and figures emerge in certain drawings, some contain a geometrical familiarity, but even these have a germinal essence of their own; and do not seem to carry any external Weight of 'seen' objects. A lightness of being pervades here, yet, this lightness has the capacity to carry in it, a 'discourse' and dialogues created out of the lines, to remember and to be taken forward. Ramkumar has observed once: "An artist shows the entry point to his creative world and the rest depends on the onlooker, what he sees, feels and interprets. He has to make an effort to find for himself what he is seeking and what the artist wants him to see". The entry point' in these drawings is not ordained, in-fact there are multiple entry points, and one may seek entry from any angle and from any spot of these drawings this is one more quality of the ultimate 'structure' these creations have to offer. This makes these drawings truly 'open ended'; there are no barricades or divisions as such, and the eyes have an easy access to the any area, any spot they would like to rest for a while, and rejoice in the marvellous formations of their choice.

Ramkumar has in-fact created here a meditative space by the use of lines, where one can also build and re-build one's own space to ponder over one's feelings, and thoughts, and along-with can cherish the feel one gets from these superb lines. In our modern/contemporary art scene, lines have been used by many artists, including the artists of Ramkumar's generation and by the younger ones, in various ways strikingly, stunningly, violently, overtly but in the lines of Ramkumar and likes of Nasreen Mohammedi, one finds a refreshing course that is to use line in a sophisticated, delicate, and mild manner, to chart, to map, and to navigate the inner feelings, and emotions, in an unobtrusive manner. For Ramkumar, if the Varanasi phase or that period has been a turning point in his paintings, it has been no less an inspirational period, for his drawings, which came on their own magnificently; giving him an 'expressive way' to grasp and say certain things, which could not be transmitted by his paintings. We know that Ramkumar has written many a stories in Hindi, with masterly perfection at one time, and with uniqueness has given Hindi short story, ways of rendering complex relations, and situations, in unflinching way. If in his stories he stands apart from other writers, in the same way his paintings and drawings also have his unique and 'separate' imprint on them. Thus these drawings 'independently', and intently, have unique flavor, and flair within the oeuvre of Ramkumar. To be with them is to be with serene, calm, and sublime feelings; and is to enter spaces, where multiple movements, 'happenings', gatherings (of sensations) are awaiting us.

-Prayag Shukla

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One of the country's most premier contemporary art destinations, a brainchild of husband-wife duo Arun and Chandra Sachdev. Gallery 7 has moved to the heritage precincts of Rampart Row, Kala Ghoda, where it has become a landmark on the south Mumbai cultural map.

And while the location may have changed, the dream and enterprise remain the same – to promote Indian art and provide promising artists a credible platform to showcase their works. Conceived by art collectors and appreciators Arun and Chandra as a means to bolster the contemporary Indian art market, the gallery was established in the mid-70s in the commercial Fort district of Mumbai. Gallery 7 brought together Arun's expertise as writer and editor of 'Z' magazine and Chandra's trained eye as a fine artist from the prestigious J.J. School of Art and The Kala Bhavan in Santiniketan, schooled by renowned artist Somnath Hore.

Over the three decades since Gallery 7's inception, the dynamic couple has collectively supported and showcased the works of formidable young talents like Atul Dodiya, Vijay Shinde, Arpita Singh, among others. The gallery's walls have also played host to stalwarts such as M.F. Husain, S.H. Raza, Jogen Chowdhury, Rameshwar Broota, Sudhir Patwardhan, Krishen Khanna and Ramkumar. Having worked with some of the Indian art firmament's biggest international and contemporary stars, Gallery 7 has also emerged as a haven for upcoming artists, championing genuine talent and showcasing aesthetically strong sensibilities.

Even as its echelon and endeavour has grown, Gallery 7 has moved from its initial location in Fort to a vintage bungalow in Cuffe Parade in the '90s, and has now found a new home in the art district of Kala Ghoda. With its 40-foot arched frontage, high ceilings, contemporary interiors and clean lines, the new address is a perfect blend of the traditional and modern.

And bringing a forward-thinking and modern outlook to this endeavour is the couple's enterprising son and a partner at Gallery 7, Arunov Nicholai Sachdev, who now helms the project with his mother Chandra. Having been involved with the gallery for a decade-and-a-half, Nicholai brings with him strong business acumen and an in-depth knowledge of the Indian art scene. His strong relationship management skills and keen eye for spotting talent have seen him emerge as one of the country's leading art connoisseurs and dealers. Under Chandra and Nicholai's direction, Gallery 7 plans to branch out to several cities across the world in the near future, aiming to provide Indian artists with a global platform to showcase their talent.

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Aakriti Art Gallery began its journey in the first decade of the new millennium and geared up an evolution in the modern and contemporary art in India. For nearly a decade, Aakriti has showcased some of the unique and finest exhibitions of modern and contemporary art in India building up a gateway of Indian art in the world market. It has constantly hosted workshops, art camps, talk shows and seminar and made a landmark success in promoting Indian contemporary art at the global level. Aakriti Art Gallery presently operates from two places – one gallery is in Kolkata and the other is in New Delhi. Keeping with the latest trends of the art market, Aakriti has come up with best solutions for a wider audience of fine arts from traditional paintings, sculptures, printmaking, and graphics to new media like conceptual art, video art, installations and experimental art and started an online art shop where a buyer can opt to select and buy a piece of modern and contemporary art of his other choice from a variety of collections.

Aakriti Art Gallery since its inception has been instrumental in promoting the upcoming artists and newer generation art works. The whole idea of 'Gen Next' exhibitions profusely dealing with contemporary art of India as well reaching out to young artists from different corners of the globe happens to be exclusively Aakriti Art Gallery's brainchild, which has revolutionized the concept of looking at contemporary art in the new millennium and given birth to a new generation of groundbreaking contemporary artists who are doing extremely well in the art world. Authentic and original art by the Indian modern masters like Jogen Chowdhury, Satish Gujral, Kartick Pyne, Partha Pratim Deb and many others are available with the gallery and can be directly collected from different exhibitions the gallery hosts from time to time or can be purchased from home through online. In the list of groundbreaking contemporary artists, Aarkriti Art Gallery has largely showcased the works of Sekhar Roy, Samindranath Majumdar, Akhil Chanra Das, Sunil Deb, Amitava Dhar and from the new generation artists - the names are Sagar Bhoumik, Rajesh Deb, Sourav Jana, Nantu Behari Das, Priyanka Lahiri, Partha Guin and many others. One can always come across their works and experience their aesthetic beauty whenever they visit in any of the galleries of Aakriti in Kolkata or New Delhi. And if someone happens to miss it in the exhibitions, then just browse it online and make the best deal just sitting at home.

The concept of 'Affordable Art' is very much an in-thing and Aakriti Art Gallery once again vouches on providing the best of contemporary and modern art works to its audience and collectors/buyers at the most convenient and affordable price. To make them readily available to the collectors, Aakriti has concentrated and devised easier ways to make the sale and purchase through online art shop available in the online galleries apart from direct sales from the galleries' physical sites. Buy Art Online is the simplest trading mechanism, Aakriti is providing to its collectors and viewers where you can make the best of your deals, also bid and buy in the form of auction/s with full faith and conviction with every transparency of authenticity in each deal made.

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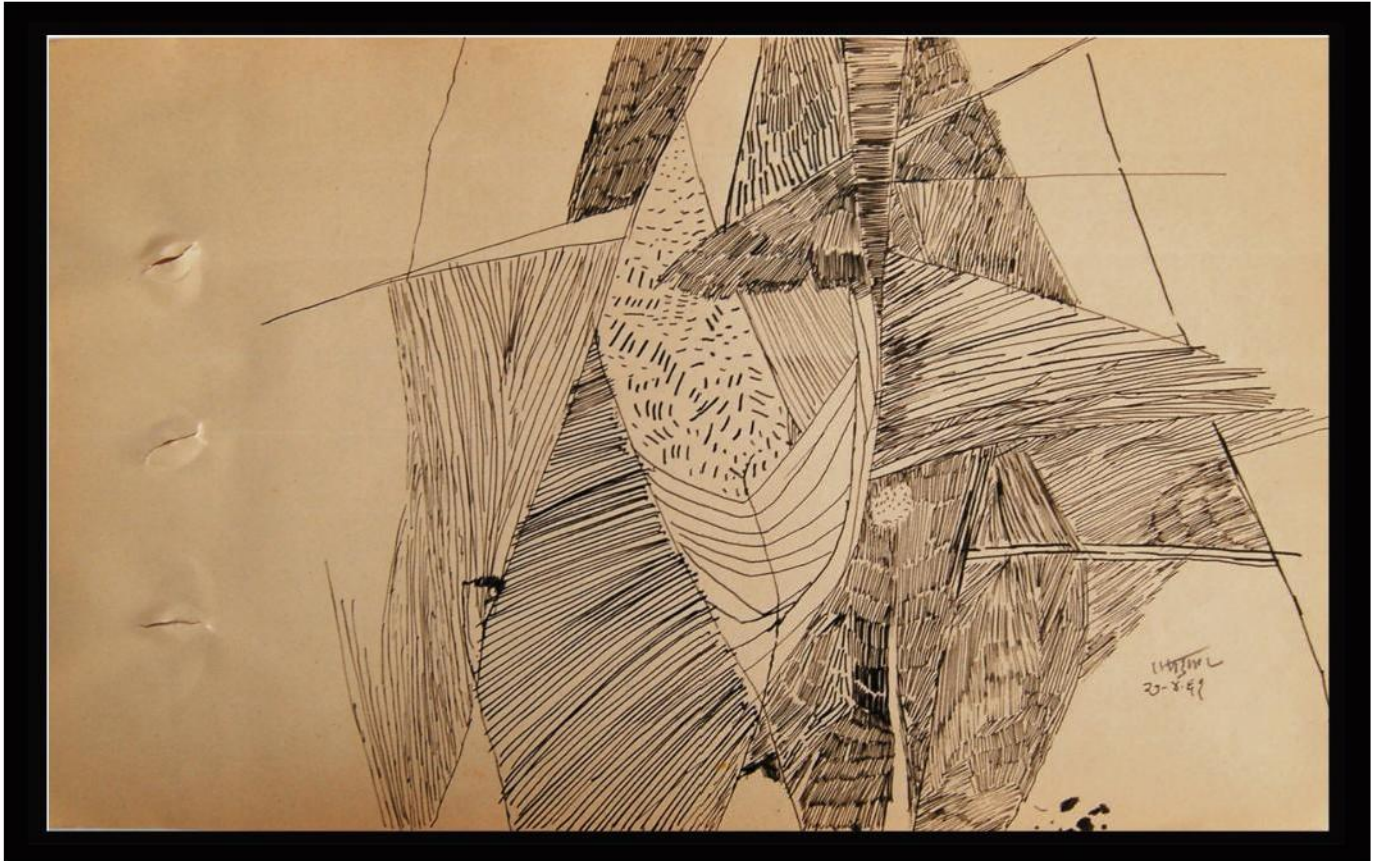


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INR 2,50,000

*Gallery 7*  
a gallery of contemporary art



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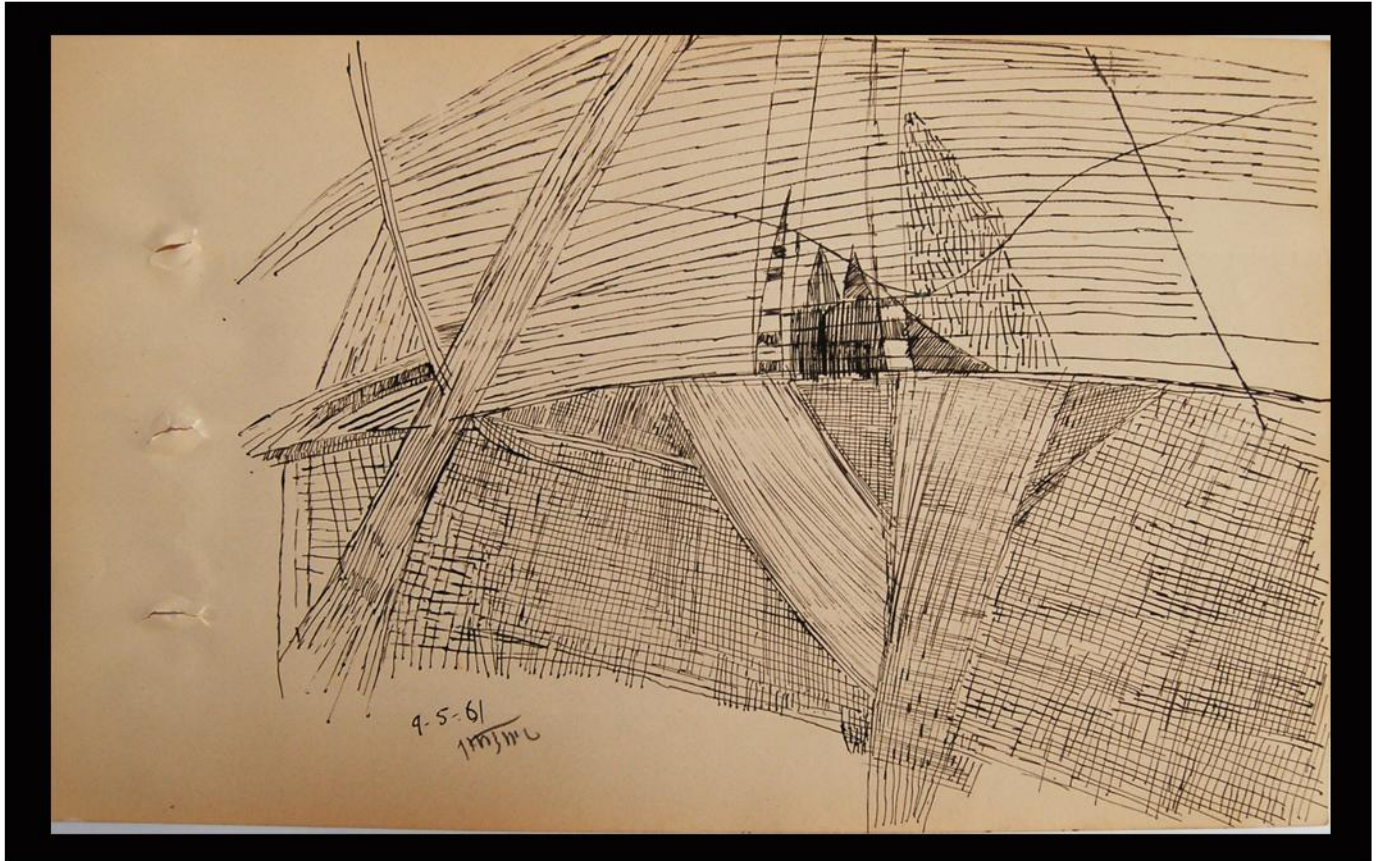


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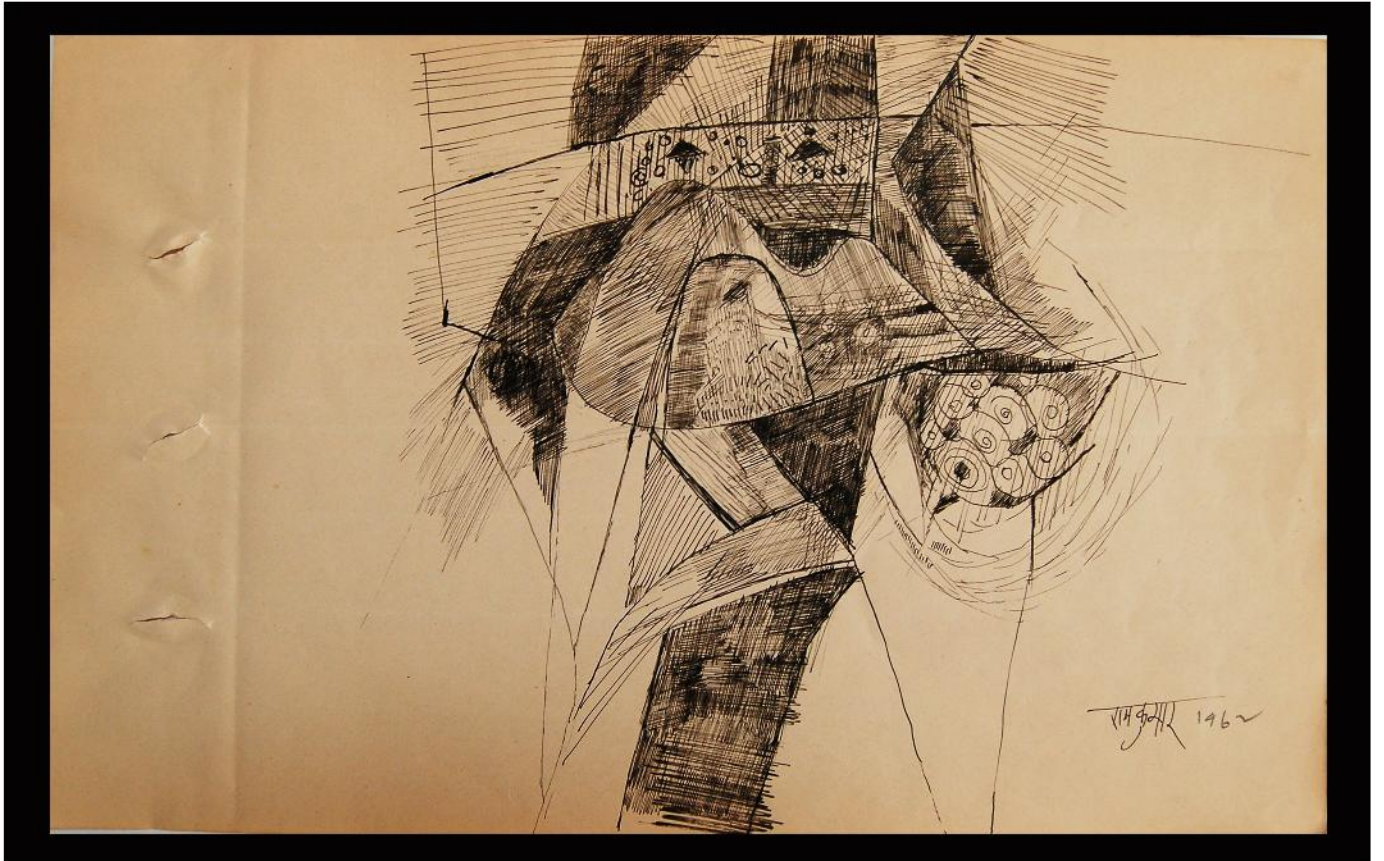


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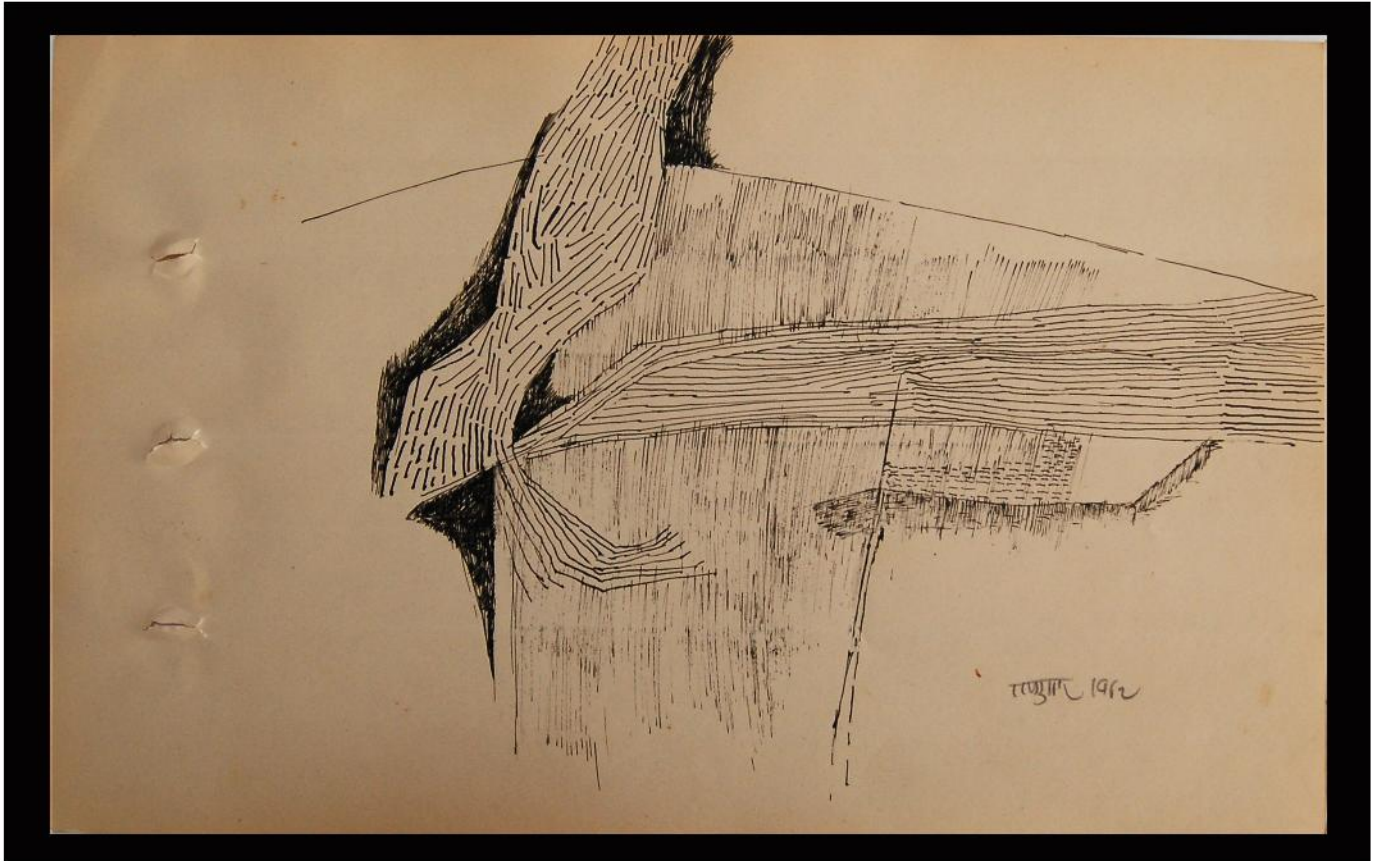


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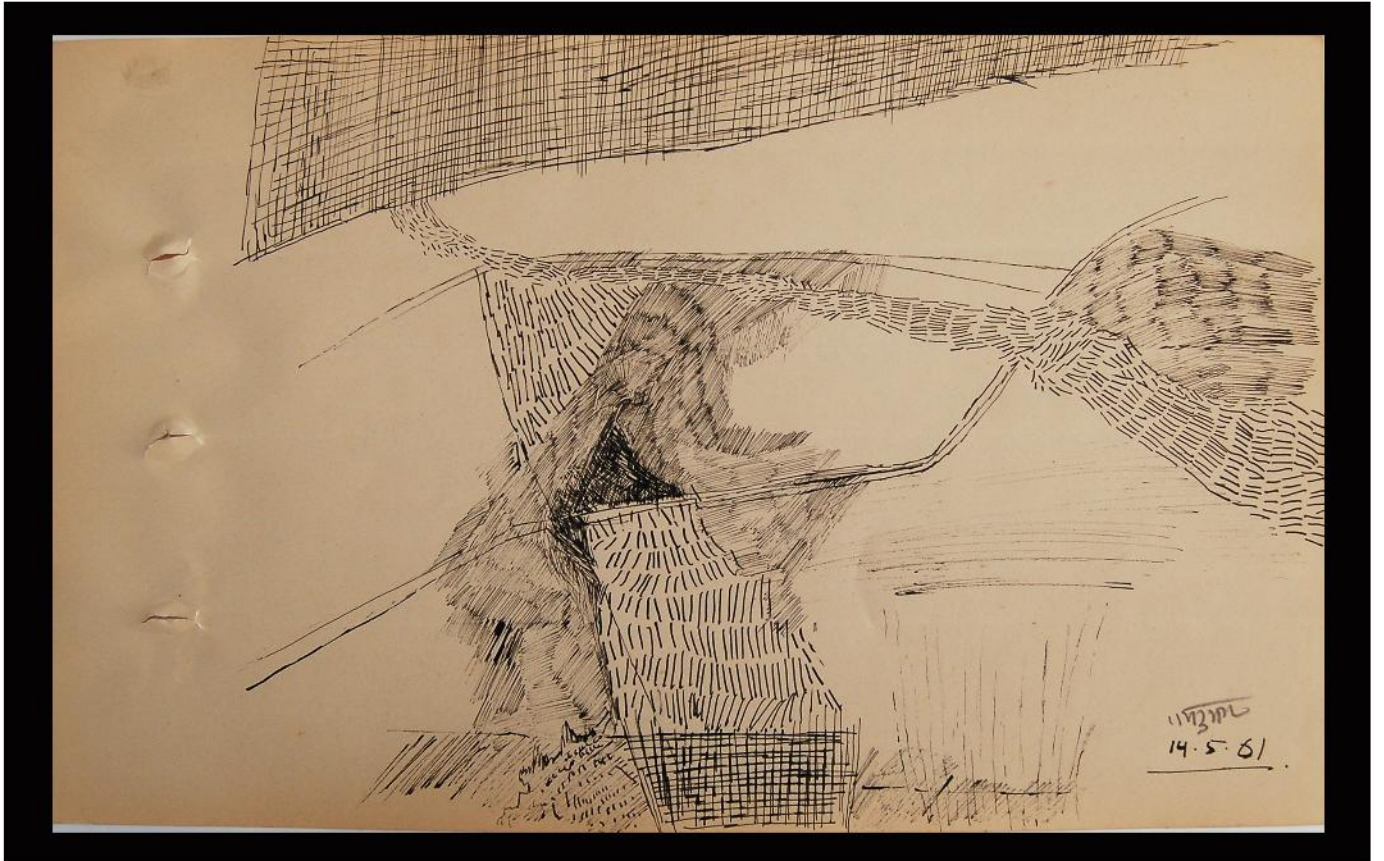


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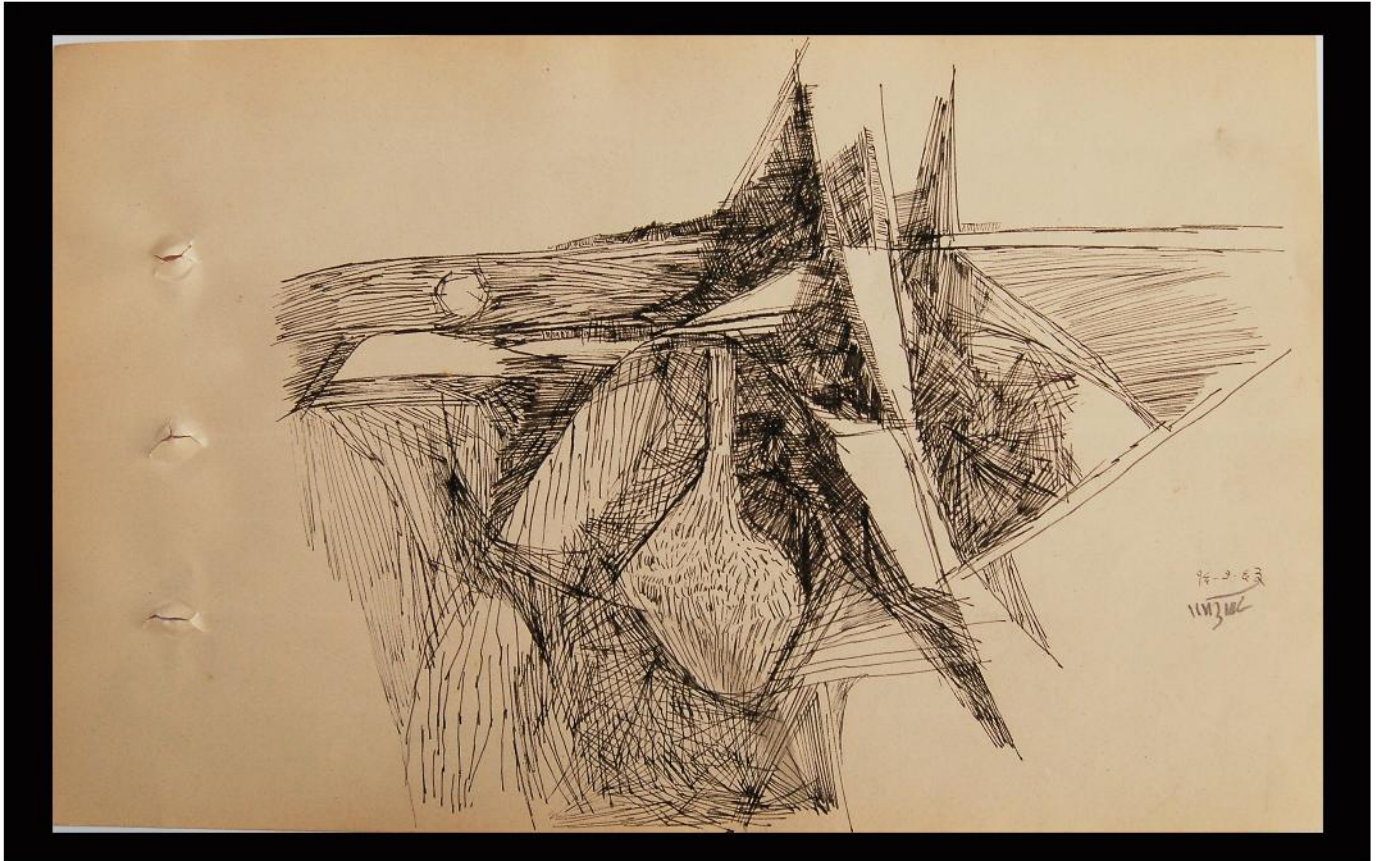
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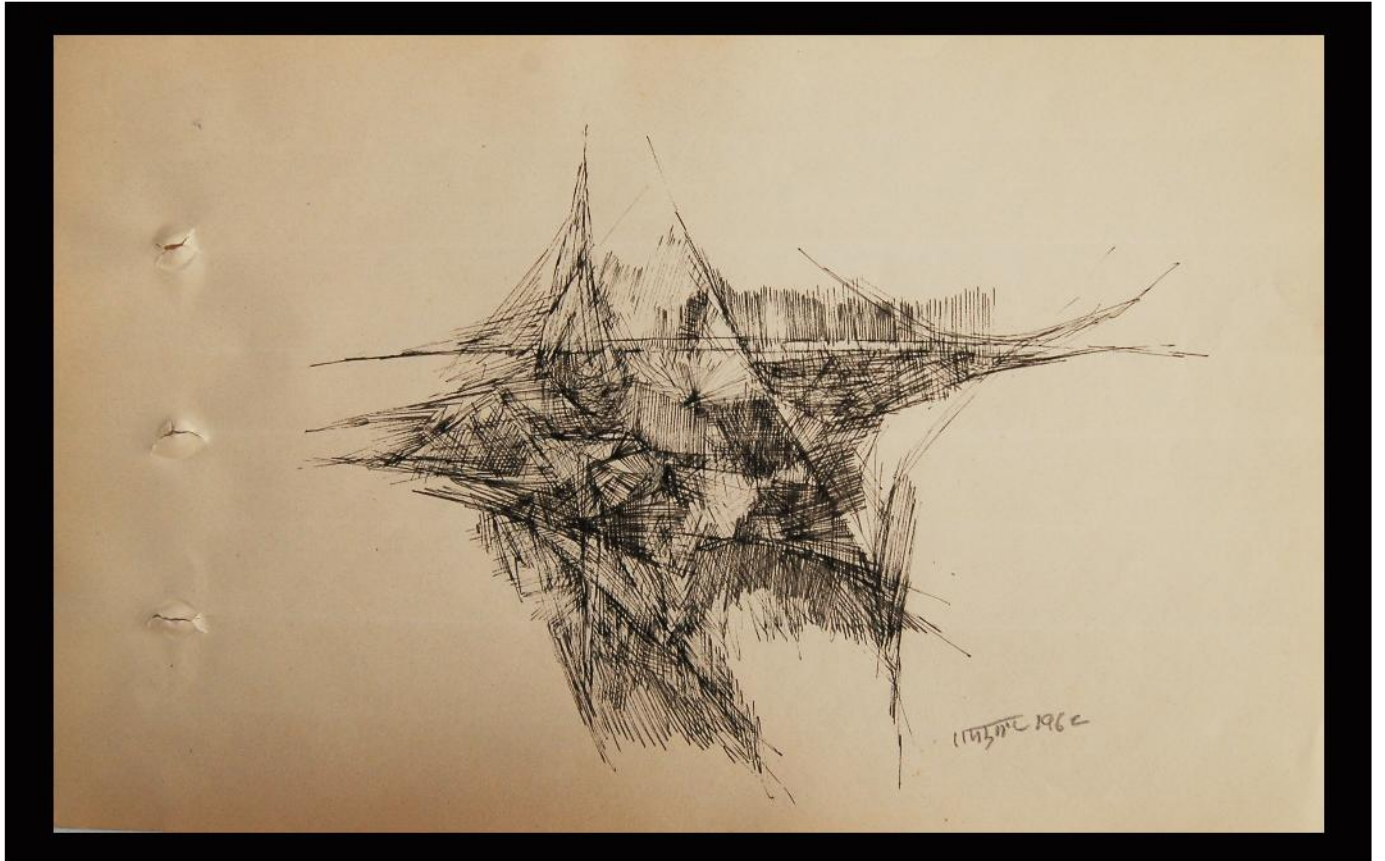


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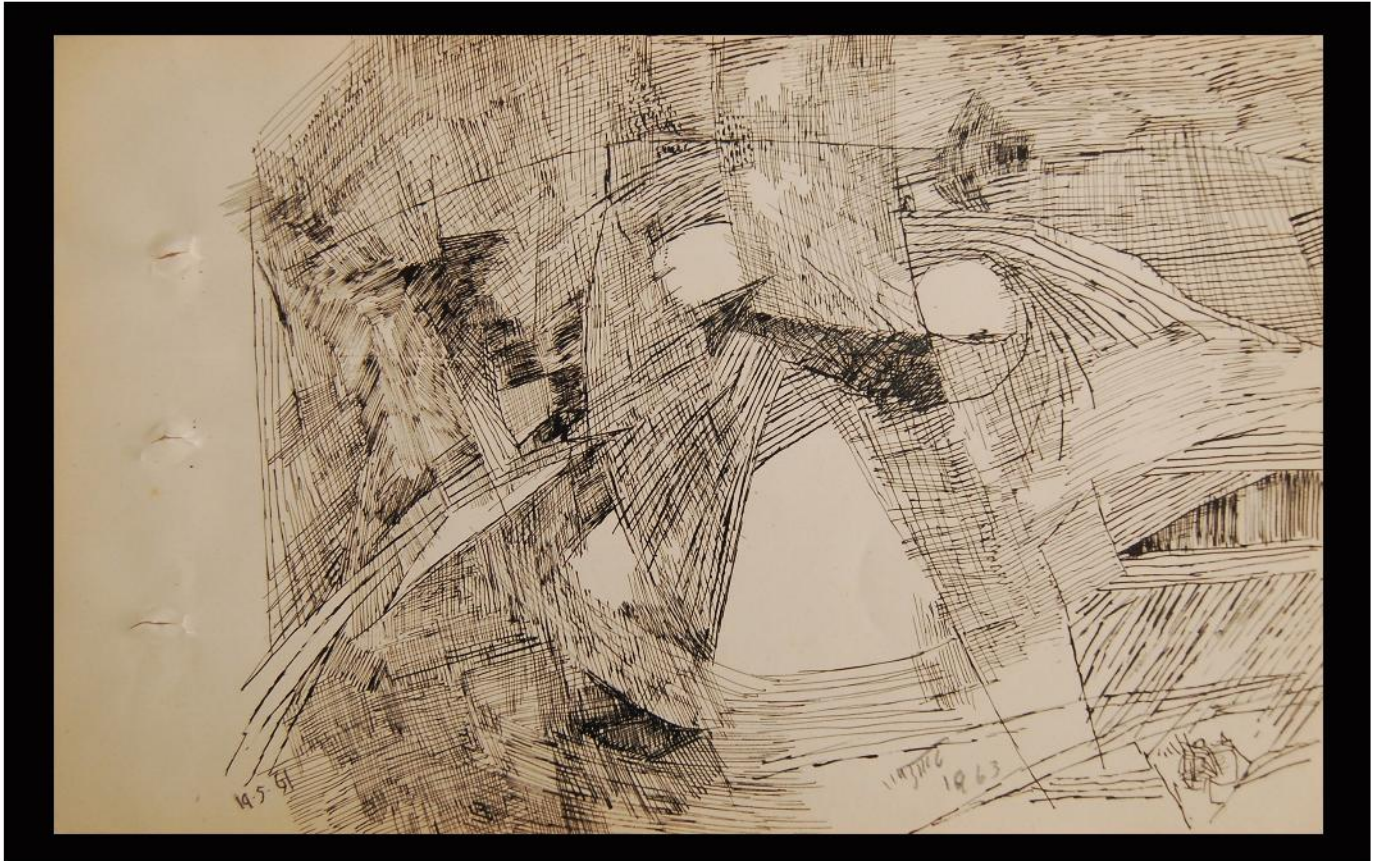


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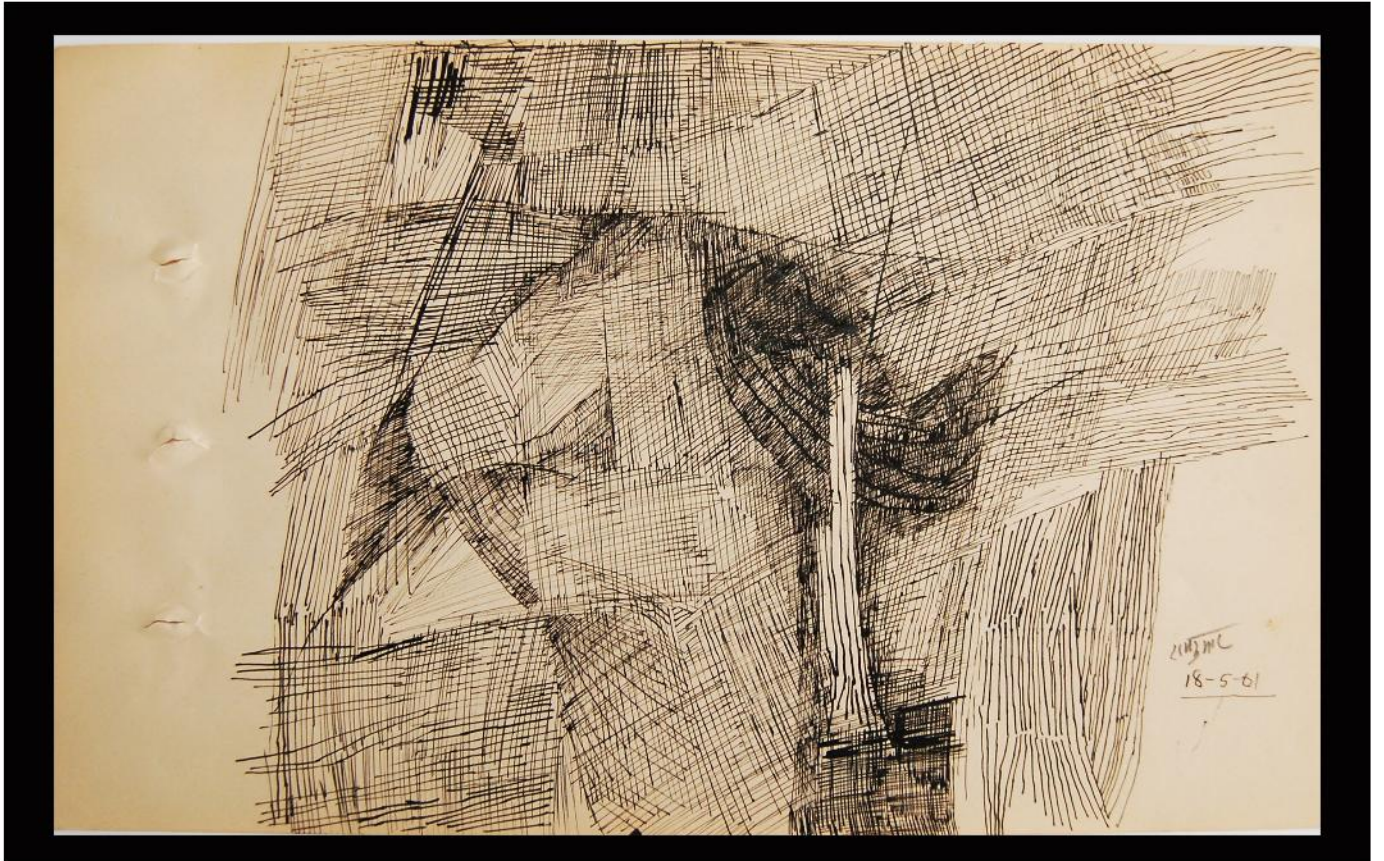


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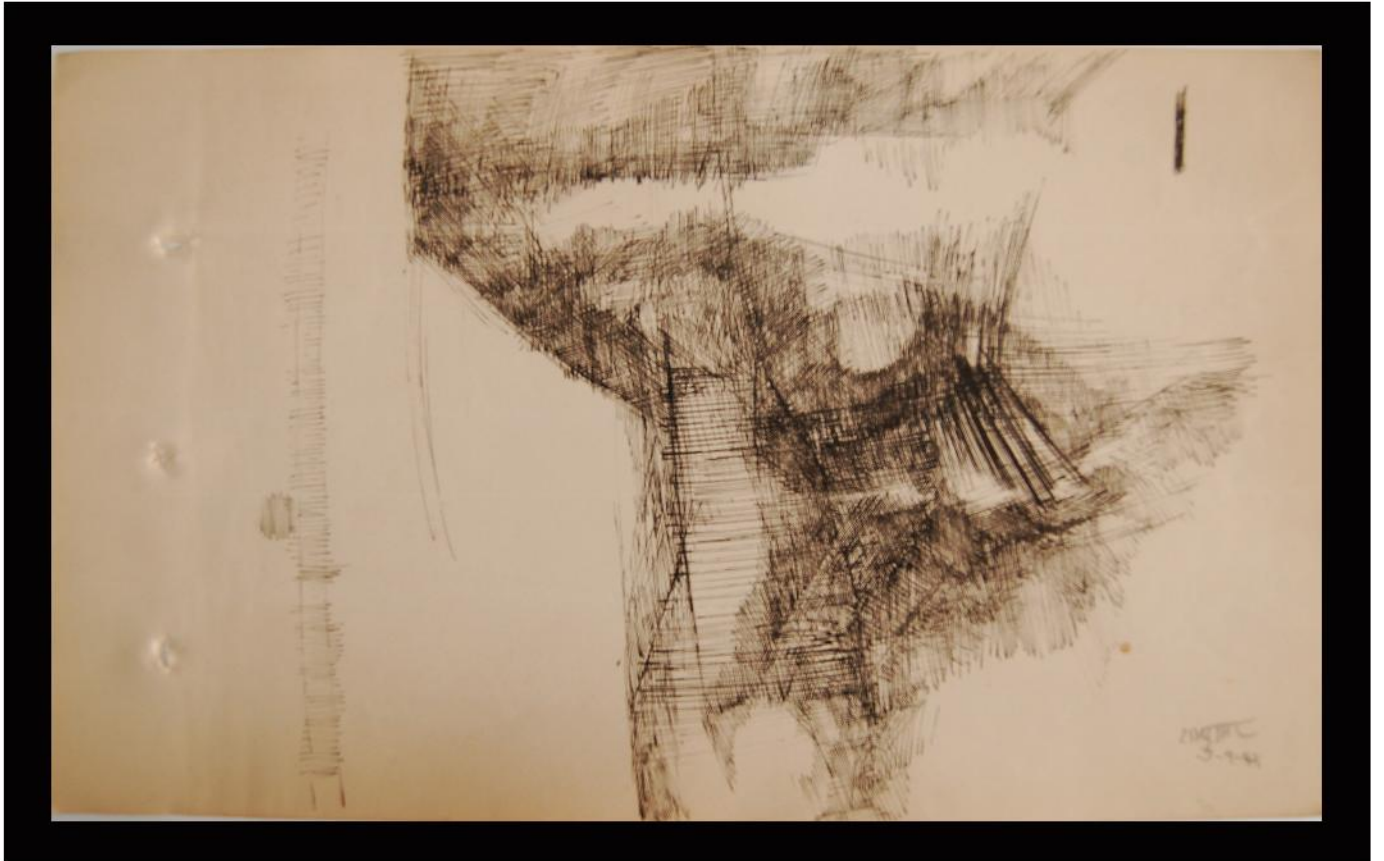


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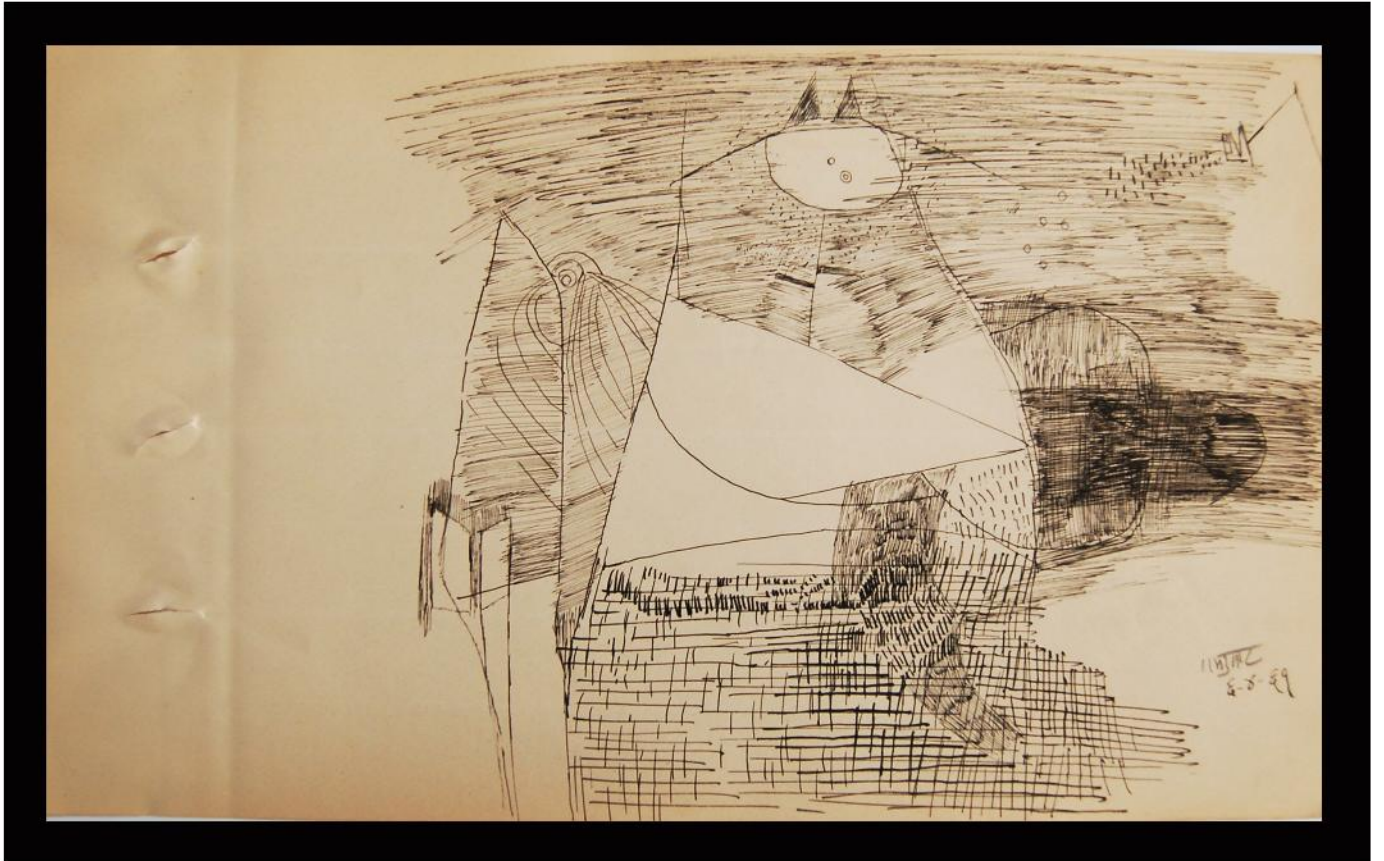


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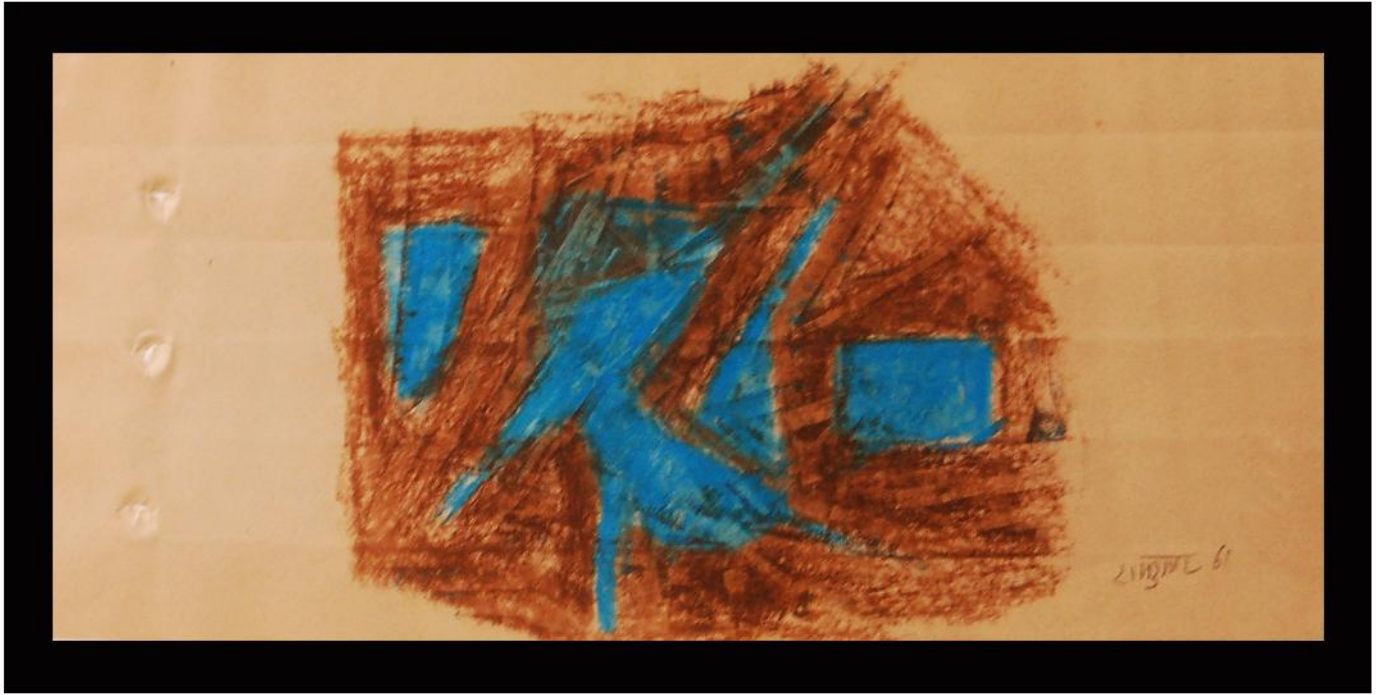


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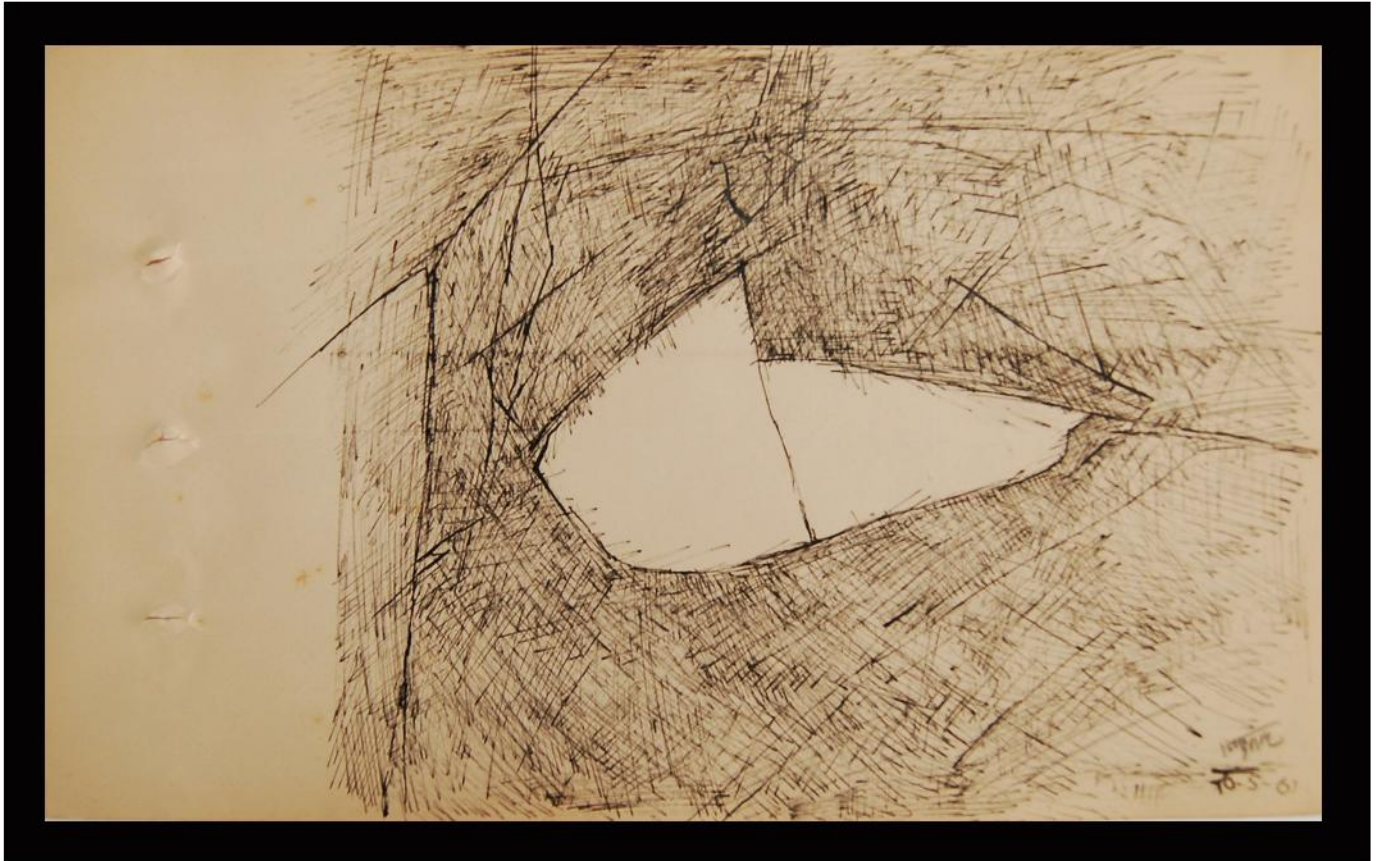


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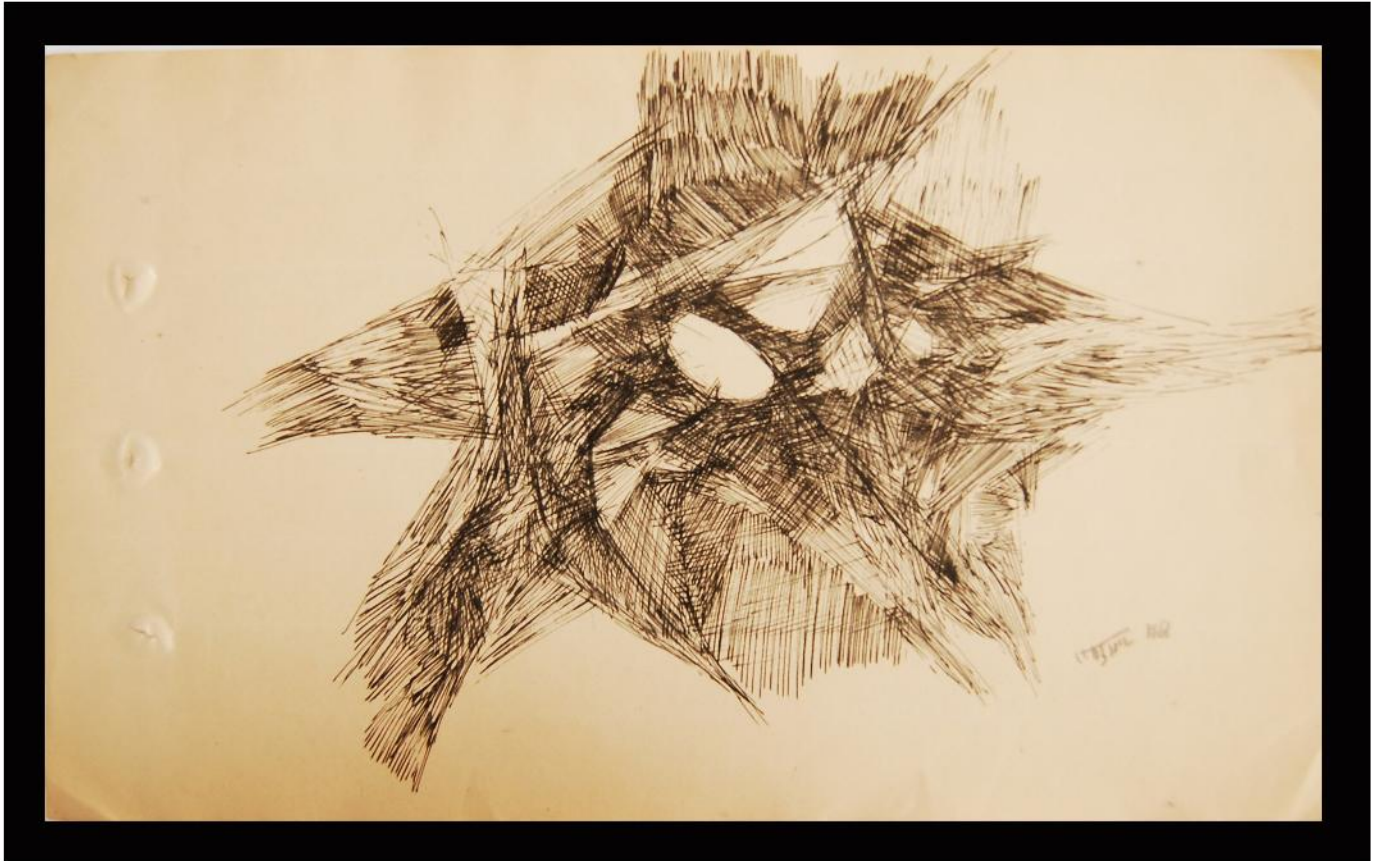


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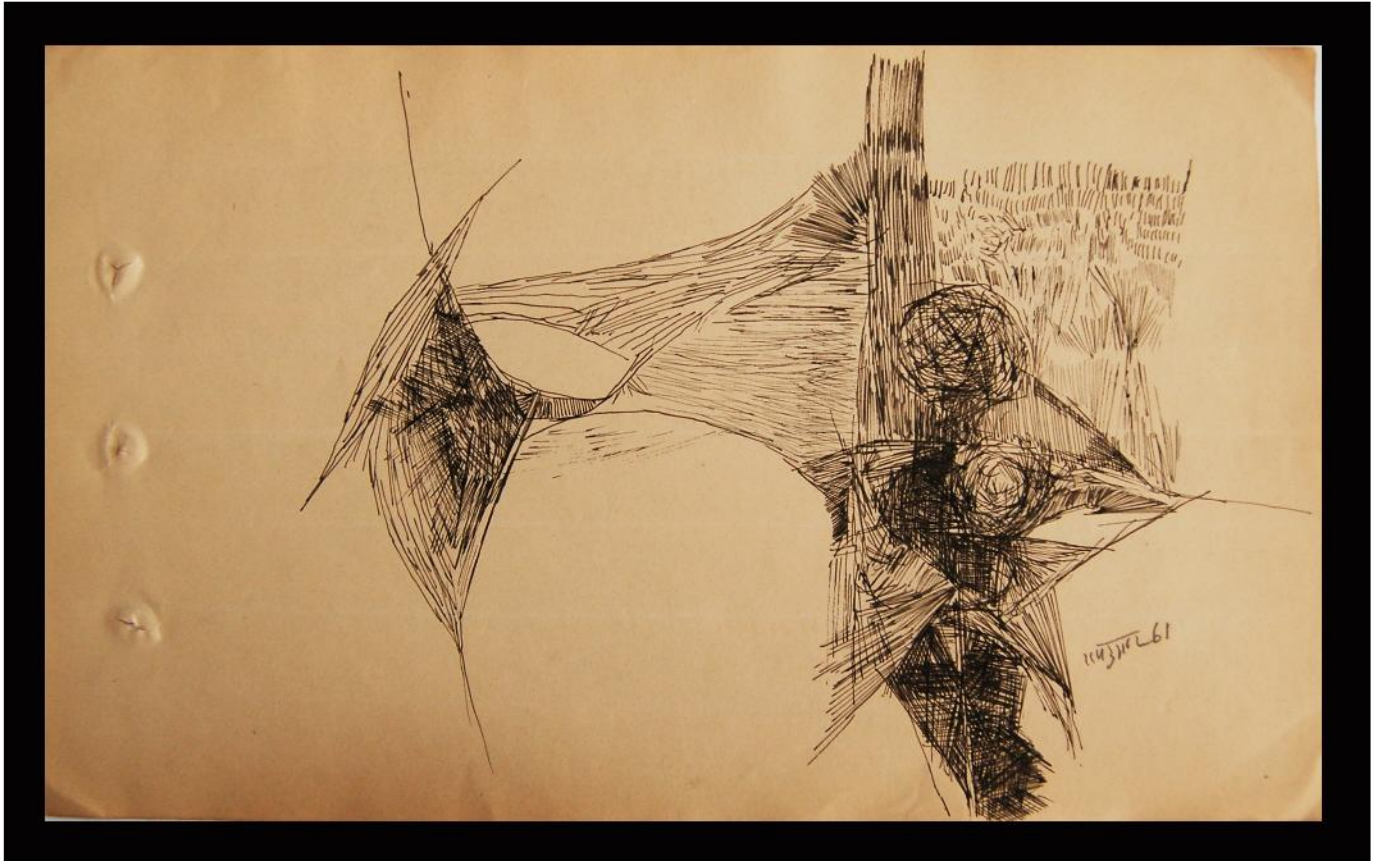


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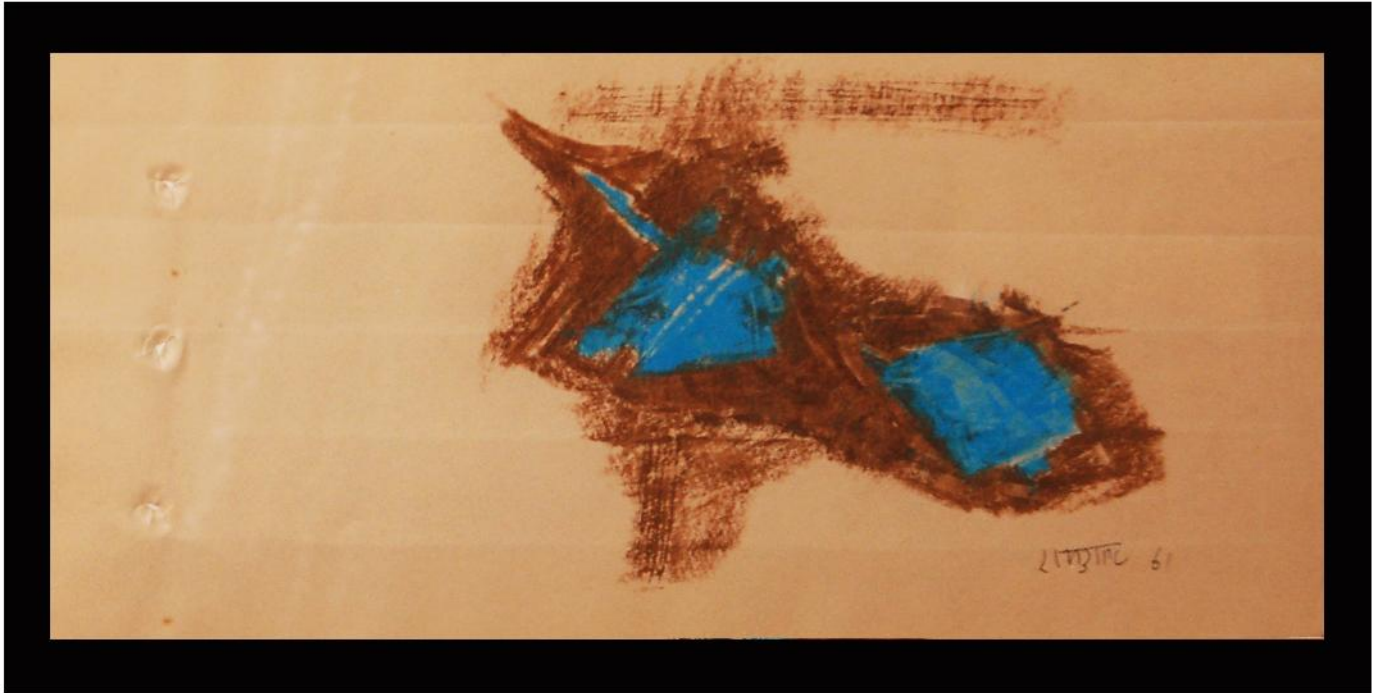


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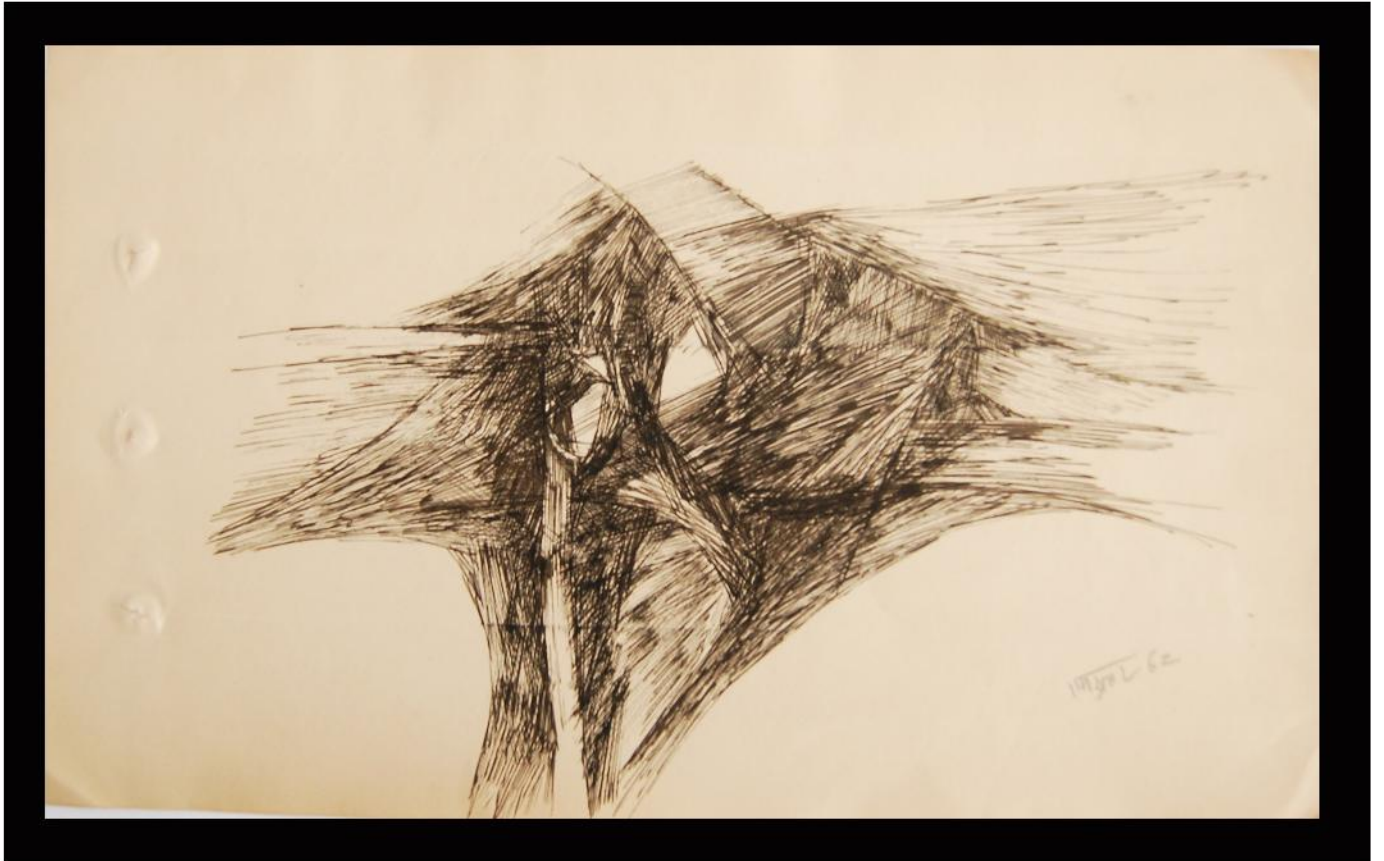


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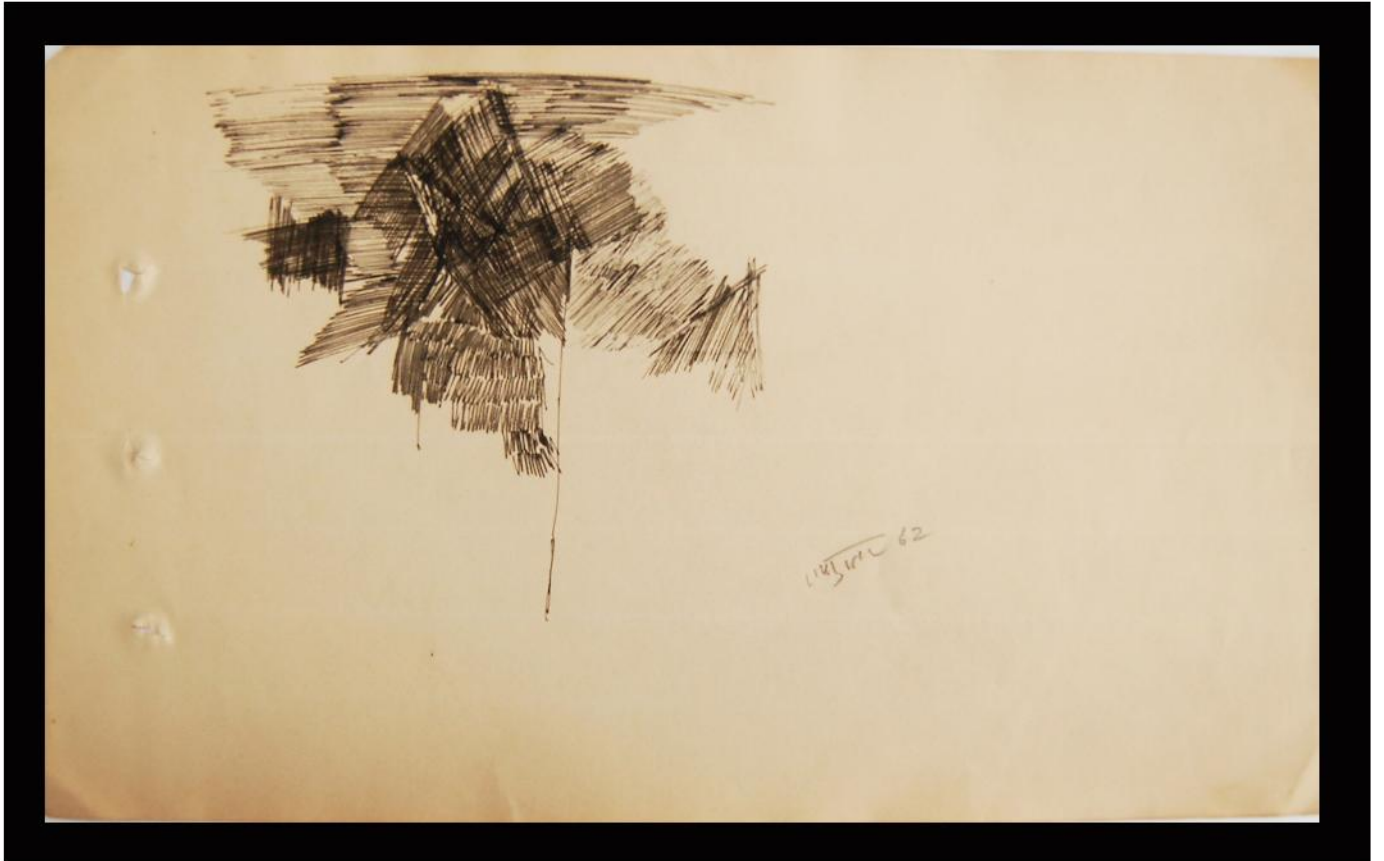


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If you would like a **Private Preview** of the works, either at your residence or your corporate space and for **Reservation Of Works**, please contact Mr. Newton D'souza or Ms. Rhea Rao on  
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