



राष्ट्रीय आधुनिक  
कला संग्रहालय  
NATIONAL GALLERY  
OF MODERN ART

## National Gallery of Modern Art

Bengaluru

presents a talk on

### 'The Provenance of the Penis in the Works of Bhupen Khakhar'

to commemorate the  
10th death anniversary of Bhupen Khakhar

by

**Sadanand Menon**

(a reputed art editor and a teacher of 'Cultural Journalism')

on **Thursday, 5th September 2013 at 5.00 p.m.**

at the **Auditorium**, National Gallery of Modern Art

Manikyavelu Mansion, 49, Palace Road, Bengaluru-560 052

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Bhupen Khakhar - 1996

Photo: Navroze Contractor

*This is the tenth anniversary of the passing away of Bhupen Khakhar, one of the most charismatic and quizzical painters of contemporary Indian art. Bhupen's works, replete with the robust energy of popular streetside imagery and a playful and sardonic engagement with the canons of high art, hugely influenced his peers as well as the subsequent generation of artists. Besides other artistic achievements, Bhupen is also known for the bold manner in which he acknowledged his own gay orientation in paintings and created a body of witty, vulnerable and sexually/politically provocative works. This talk by Sadanand Menon will explore the tussle that the artist undergoes in expressing his sexual and gender identity and the socio-political context within which it challenges the normative, even as it resonates with meanings that anticipate problematic political futures. The focus of the talk will be Bhupen's famous 1995 watercolour 'The Old Man from Vasad who had Five Penises Suffered from Runny Nose'.*

Sadanand Menon is a nationally reputed Arts Editor, a popular teacher of 'cultural journalism', widely published photographer, arts curator and prolific writer and speaker at seminars on politics, ecology and the arts. He is currently Adjunct Faculty at IIT, Madras and the Asian College of Journalism, Chennai. He is on the apex advisory council of the National Museum, Delhi; the Lalit Kala Akademi, Delhi; general council, Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla; and is managing trustee, SPACES, an arts foundation, Chennai. He is also on the advisory committee of NGMA, Bengaluru. He is known for his major counter-historical retrospective of the collected works of Dashrath Patel at NGMA Delhi and Mumbai, 1998/99. He is also connected with the contemporary dance movement in India through his near life-long association with the legendary choreographer Chandralekha.