

78 स्वतंत्रता दिवस

Art as a Form of Freedom before Independence

Dear Indians,

As we celebrate Independence Day 2025, we take a moment to reflect on a powerful truth: Art has always been more than expression—it has been resistance, identity, and hope.

In India's long journey to freedom, art played a silent but stirring role. It captured the soul of the freedom movement, inspired unity, and helped build the nation's cultural confidence in the post-independence years. This month, we explore how artists—then and now—have shaped our understanding of what it truly means to be free.



The Bharat Mata (Mother India) by Abanindranath Tagore

Art in the Freedom Movement: Beyond the Canvas

- Abindranath Tagore and the Symbol of Bharat Mata

Before independence, Aabindranath Tagore created an iconic painting of Bharat Mata, depicted not as a militarized figure but as a serene woman offering food, clothing, and learning—representing nurture as strength. His vision challenged colonial narratives and placed Indian values at the heart of nationalism.



- Nandalal Bose and the Visual Language of Resistance

Under Mahatma Gandhi's guidance, Nandalal Bose and his students at Kala Bhavana designed posters, scrolls, and emblems for the freedom movement. His illustrations for the Haripura Congress Session of 1938 visually narrated India's village life and dignity—ushering in a new aesthetic of cultural pride.

- Jamini Roy, Amrita Sher-Gil & the Roots Revival

While Jamini Roy turned to folk styles like Kalighat to redefine modern Indian identity, Amrita Sher-Gil brought global modernism into dialogue with Indian themes. These artists forged a visual identity for India that was deeply local yet globally resonant.

The Role of Art in Post-Independence India

After 1947, Indian artists didn't stop at celebration—they became builders of culture and critique.

- M.F. Husain reimagined modern Indian mythology and the spirit of democracy.
- K.G. Subramanyan brought craft and fine art together, blurring boundaries between elite and folk traditions.
- Nasreen Mohamedi explored personal freedom through abstraction and minimalism.

Their work reminds us that freedom is not just a political condition—it is creative, intellectual, and emotional.

CAMI AUGUST 2025 ARTFEST

Topic : My India, My Freedom

We invite young artists to express their vision of India—grounded in its past, conscious of its present, and hopeful for its future.

Submission Deadline: August 29, 2025

www.childrensartmuseumofindia.com

Volume 43



July 2025 Winners



Aarushi J
Artfest Winner



Shashwati M
Artfest Winner



Arshiya Q
Artfest Winner



Ezhilan SP
06-10 Years



Anushree N
11-15 Years



Shivani R
11-15 Years



Akshita R
11-15 Years



Divya D
16-18 Years



Anuraag
16-18 Years

