

Beyond what meet both the eyes

AGE CORRESPONDENT

✂ *The Shadow Trapper's Almanac*, is Tanmoy Samanta's first solo exhibition in the city. The exhibition features gouache paintings on rice paper and recycled book sculptures — two integral facets of his practice. Tanmoy's practice explores notions traditionally associated with sculpture, including "volume and void, relief and surface, container and content."

After receiving his MFA from Kala Bhavan in Santiniketan, Tanmoy went on to win several awards; the latest being the prestigious Pollack Krasner Foundation Award.

Talking about his early days, the Delhi-based artist says, "I was raised in an environment rich in literary and artistic experience. Both my parents were participants in the Bengali 'little magazine' movement." He grew up to savour the Tagorean ethos of Santiniketan, developing his practice there and later in the collegial setting of the Kanoria Arts Centre,



Ahmedabad.

In Samanta's works on paper, one might find elements of cutout and collage reminiscent of Surrealist and Dada practices as well as a nuanced surety that echoes the style of the miniature. Samanta begins a painting by layering rice paper onto a thicker base, using a series of colours going from dark to light. His book works explore various types of books, including the *kitab*, the *muraqqa*, and the *laporetto*. Samanta's use of desaturated colour and texture evokes a sense of rich nostalgia in the ordinary.

According to poet-critic Ranjit Hoskote, who is the curator of the exhibition, "Tanmoy Samanta's works, with their combination of exhilaration and menace, formal playfulness and philosophical depth, remind us that art is not an escape from the world, but a route that leads us back, replenished by dream and vision, to the perplexities of the everyday."

From November 22, 11 am to 6 pm

At Tarq, F35/36, Dhanraj Mahal, C.S.M. Marg, Apollo Bunder, Colaba

