

Artist Spotlight

**Alakananda Mukerji - Rethinking/Reconnecting**



I've never been one to take a conservative route with my art, but lately I've begun rethinking how to use my time productively with limited sources and materials. While I have tried not to get isolated from the art world, lithographs have become a staple of my work at home.

Gardening, painting outdoors, and unexpected wild animals in the backyard all largely inspired the drawings for my lithographs. I've always liked bodies of water, but lately I have spent long periods of time observing the movement, rhythm, colors and reflections of water and I tried to capture them in my work.



L. *Sylvan Woods*. 9x12' Lithograph 2020



R. *Under The Lake* 9X12' Lithograph 2020

During this period, I have also taken the time to reconnect with nature, family, and my dog. I have realized that I have been running around for too long, and for years I have never really had time to sit down. Rethinking and reconnecting with things that I always liked growing up and realizing my inner needs was unexpectedly fascinating. I did things that I haven't done for 30 years, such as feeding the birds, growing vegetables, talking to childhood friends. I was also able to paint and draw every day for the last five months which is a freedom I haven't had in decades.



L. *Beverly's Cat*, 9x12' Lithograph, 2020



C. *Mother Cow*, 9x12' Lithograph 2020



R. *Mono Rail, Burlington NJ* 9x12' Lithograph 2020

The lockdown, teaching online, and nationwide protests were all new experiences that made me drastically reconsider my own style, which I think is evident in my recent work. I was also distraught over the disastrous situation in India when public transportation was shut down with little notice. People were stuck for months at their workplaces, away from home and family. Laborers started walking home by foot, which sometimes took days. This suffering has more sharply become the focus for my paintings or drawings.

My upcoming shows include a solo virtual exhibition of recent paintings, lithographs, and drawings at Manhattanville College, in Purchase, New York, from December 1 2020 to January 31, 2021, and a Blue Mountain show in March 2022.

Additional works at [Alakanandamukerji.com](http://Alakanandamukerji.com)