

# MUSE - ART AND ARTIST

the Muses were nine goddesses who symbolized the arts

## The deep rooted source of Sen's French inspiration

Gesturism is Sen's spontaneity of imagination which took birth and expression from living in Paris in 1994. Inspired by his French environs, Sen's artistic sensitivity swirled him into osmosis of the mind's eye, his fingers domineering over colours and brushes, the friction of which comes together to generate a painting on canvas. He challenged the idea that thinking exists; to him the stimulus for action is gesticulation. Sen explains that a human being's birth is the most valuable instant happening in the universe, but the exact time and date of conception is mysterious. It's not thought that starts life, nor can anybody predict life's end. So life's start and termination is within a boundary that is beyond control and thought. Instant actions in everyday living may result in some corporal substance that people call thinking, so the more actions we perform, we create stimuli for others. Our gestures, and not hazy intangible vapour, form the basis of Sen's Gesturism art movement. His painting philosophy in Gesturism is "don't think, push the act and let imagination take over."



Metropolitan Visitors - 2016  
Acrylic on Canvas, 91 x 122 cm  
Artist: Sen, Style: Gesturism

Gesturism is Sen's artist revolt against digital virtual art done through computer software. Overcoming our indispensable slavery to digital technology's virtual unreality especially in art, Gesturism is irregular deliberate strokes signifying unprompted, vibrant breathing, dynamic, unique ideology, endless purity, psychedelic waves, and shock of difference, fearless.



Mystic Island: Immoderate Nuraghi - 2016  
Diptych Acrylic on canvas, 122x182 cm  
Artist: Sen, Style: Gesturism

#### The deep rooted source of Sen's French inspiration

Starting as a sweeper did not stop Sen from imbibing the deep inner sense of French art and culture. Initially, a tourist friend had obliged him to visit Voltaire's house at Quai Voltaire in Paris. Later, immersing himself into the heart of the French artistic scene, he wondrously realized Voltaire's fundamental contribution to the French value of freedom. Sen discovered this artistic freedom expressed on canvas when artist Monet installed a forest garden at Giverny to express himself freely. This led to the genesis of modern art in 1870 which changed the world of art. No French King with every resource at his command could have created such a living garden. How was Monet inspired?



Her Trilogy - 2023  
Acrylic on canvas, 122 x 214 cm  
Artist: Sen, Style: Gesturism

Sen learnt that a new art movement was emerging focused on landscapes and rural folks. It was artist Jean Francois Millet who had left Paris in 1849 for fear of cholera, went 60 kms away to Barbizon, hired a barn and transformed it into his painting atelier. Other artists followed him, and so started the Barbizon school of art that went on to influence the birth of modern art. From artists Monet to van Gogh to Renoir, all were swayed by Millet. Similarly for Sen, Millet's small maison atelier in Barbizon has become a pilgrimage place. This atelier museum does not have Millet's paintings today, they have all gone to collectors, mainly in USA. In spite of coming from another culture, from a small squatted, slum-like refugee colony 10,000 kilometers away near Kolkata, Sen could experience the emotion and spirit of Millet in this small atelier. It was a spirit that had a huge dimension for the future of art, a spirit that gave access to Sen to be inspired by French artistry.

Millet's reason for leaving Paris revealed to Sen that Paris was being rebuilt to purify it from the plague that was becoming rampant then. Emperor Napoleon III had appointed architect Haussmann to stop the infectious disease. Haussmann destroyed the slums so the poor had to leave the city, which led to criticism that Paris has turned into a paradise for the rich. However, what Haussmann built in 1853 to 1870 has since become the all-time reference of art enmeshed in city architecture.

During this same period, author Victor Hugo wrote his famous book, *Les Miserables*. At one of Sen's regular nightly walks around authentic old areas of Paris to experience the old time feeling of the city, he suddenly discovered the house of Victor Hugo. It was 2 am when he turned a corner of Place des Vorges to find this genius writer's home. Sen's introduction to French literature started from here. He is fascinated by Victor Hugo's dramatic writing, and equally attracted to his incredible paintings in sepia colour. Sen finds Ile Saint Louis, the natural islet where Paris originated, to have remarkable urban planning with all one-way roads, but Place des Vorges definitely scores higher in his estimation. Place des Vorges, a true square of 140x140 sq.mt built in 1605-1612 is more engrossing because Sen experienced the breath of history encased in this oldest square of Paris. Most importantly, it also nurtured artist-writer Hugo's compelling writing and striking application of light in his paintings.



Prosperity - 2016  
Acrylic on Canvas, 117 x 107 cm  
Artist: Sen, Style: Gesturism

Typically Paris by night for Sen was a stroll, not in Lido, but on the bank of Seine River. He would pause at the bookinists to devour the inspiring old books, photos, posters and artifacts they sold from temporary stalls. A poster that intrigued him was the back of a man wearing a red muffler. That "Aristide Bruant in his cabaret" was written on it made Sen curious. In his mind cabaret meant nude dance, plenty of which was part of Parisian night life. He then discovered Toulouse-Lautrec had painted this poster. Sen was already familiar with Toulouse-Lautrec because in the Cachan lithography atelier where he had worked as a sweeper, he was helping an artist engrave lithographic reproductions of Toulouse-Lautrec's paintings *La Modiste* (The milliner) and *Salle des pute* (chamber of prostitutes). If Toulouse-Lautrec painted this, Aristide Bruant's cabaret has to be very interesting, thought Sen.



So he made his way to Lapin Agile in Montmartre where Aristide Bruant's cabaret since 1855 used a vaudeville-inspired mix of song, entertainment and "comedy of the insult" satire to poke fun at the club's upper-crust guests who came "slumming" to Montmartre. That's how Sen differentiated Montmartre to be not touristic, but an artistic place where the cabaret is not nude dancing. Artists like Picasso, Modigliani, Apollinaire and Utrillo all spent time in such clubs. At the belle époque time beginning 20 century, many artists such as Dali, Picasso, Modigliani, Monet, Toulouse-Lautrec, Pissarro, van Gogh and Mondrian had their studios here. Sen has since taken many of his friends on touristic visits to see the beautiful white-domed Basilica of the Sacre-Coeur (Sacred Heart Church) and the street artists, but for him Montmartre remains the vast sacred heart of visionary art. Sen's childhood habit of walking down kilometre after kilometre on a river bank was restarted when he found the Loire river valley. It reminded him of walking down the Ganges river near his refugee colony where he would often take the ferry to cross the river and arrive at the erstwhile French colony of Chandan Nagar set up since 1673. This is what initially ignited him to come to France. The Loire valley walks inspired Sen. At first he was not enamoured of the Loire castles because they represented the establishment to him. But one day, after a French friend told

him not to ignore the French Kings because they were the big patrons of art, Sen went inside the Castle of Amboise. That's when he found out that King Francis I had invited Leonardo da Vinci as his guest and bequeathed him a small castle called Clos Luce about 500 metres from Amboise castle. This is where Leonardo da Vinci lived his last 3 years. This is also how, Sen found out, that the painting *Mona Lisa* is in Louvre Museum, Paris, because da Vinci arrived with 3 paintings, one of which was *Mona Lisa*. Clos Luce has since become another pilgrimage place where Sen goes regularly to breathe da Vinci in France.



According to Sen, the French soil, sky and freedom of social and artistic culture magnetized immigrant artists such as Dutchmen Vincent van Gogh and Mondrian; Russians Chagall and Kandinsky; Spaniards Picasso and Dali, German Max Ernst and American Man Ray among others to blossom in France. With this inspiration, Sen did not just live in France, he totally drowned himself in the French artistic experience. That's why he continues to "breathe France" with the Indian colours of his origin. The aesthetics, culture and artistic sense of France which he grew up with has been embedded in Sen's soul, and is expressed through his Gesturism style of art.

<https://inspirationalmuseblog.wordpress.com/2017/05/05/the-deep-rooted-source-of-sens-french-inspiration/>