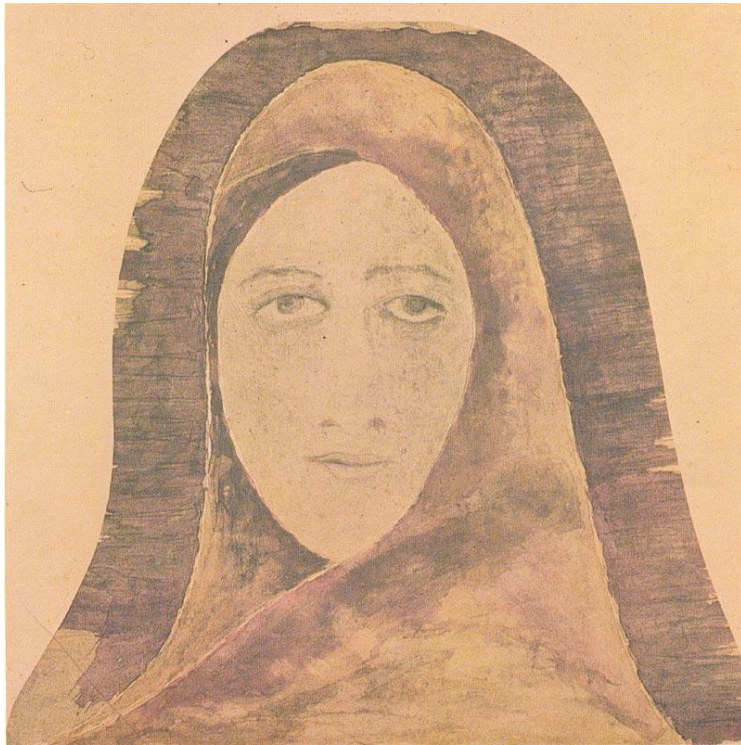


*Debjani Chatterjee*

Inspired by two Rabindranath Tagore paintings

Photographs of Tagore's paintings are taken from internet sites that describe them as being in the public domain. But the author and publisher will be pleased to acknowledge any copyright holder if notified of inadvertant omissions.



**Lost and Found**

Sarada Devi died in your lonely childhood;  
 losing a mother is sorrow indeed.  
 Then Kadambari, the friend of your heart.  
 Wilde would have observed: 'careless on your part!'  
 But when Mrinalini, your life's partner,  
 also died, followed by precious daughters,  
 Renuka and Madhurilata, grief  
 was beyond expression, your silence reigned.

Brush and pen gave a new incarnation  
 to the women you loved.

Your poetry and paintings brought them back.  
Master-poet and artist, all you lost  
are found again in your immortal art:  
Mrinal and iconic Binodini,  
Mrinmayi and tragic Mrignoyonee,  
passionate women like Charulata,  
and unconventional Giribala,  
nameless women you painted forever,  
women you loved and women you revered.  
Now we see Everywoman in your art:  
a new Eurydice sprung from the heart.



### **Brooding**

Rodin's 'thinker' did not know the world's weight that you, like Atlas, bear. It bows you down.

Who are you, brooding in this gallery?  
Are you one who prayed in Gethsemane?

Sorrow etched deep upon your noble face,  
too human for a Titan or a god.

Are your eyes closed to blot the misery?  
Is your fist curled to block the memory?

Your golden robe anticipates a shroud  
to shelter you from unbearable grief.  
You are womankind and anonymous,  
we find you gentle, we find you gracious.

Nameless, you absorb every viewer's pain,  
your strong arm supporting more than your chin.  
Your brooding bearing is justly famous.  
Mother, see us; we are you, you are us.

**Debjani Chatterjee** has been called a poet ‘full of wit and charm’ (Andrew Motion). She grew up in India, Japan, Bangladesh, Hong Kong, and Egypt, before settling in the UK. An international poet, children’s writer, translator, creative arts psychotherapist, Olympic torchbearer and storyteller; her awards include an MBE, Sheffield Hallam University’s honorary doctorate, and Word Masala’s Lifetime Achievement in Poetry. A former Chair of the National Association of Writers in Education and the Arts Council’s Translation Panel, she has held important writing residencies, and is a Patron of Survivors Poetry, a Fellow of the Royal Society for Literature and an Associate Royal Literary Fellow. Her 70+ books include: *Namaskar: New and Selected Poems*. Hedgehog Poetry Press will publish her latest collection in 2021.