

## **Artform: Sohrai Painting**

Sohrai painting is a venerable tribal art form originating from Jharkhand, India, deeply rooted in the cultural tapestry of communities like the Kurmi Mahto, Santhals, Oraons, and Mundas. Traditionally practiced during the Sohrai festival, which coincides with the harvest season and Diwali, Sohrai paintings are expressions of gratitude to deities for a prosperous harvest. Originally created exclusively by women, Sohrai art has evolved into a beloved folk style known for its vibrant depictions of nature and agricultural life. The art uses a limited palette of natural pigments - black, white, red/maroon, and yellow ochre - derived from local soils, reflecting a harmonious relationship between art and environment.

## **Artwork: Tree of Life in Oraon Style**

The "Tree of Life" painting in the Oraon style of Sohrai by Adam Christopher Imam is a poignant representation of the symbiotic relationship between humans, nature, and wildlife. The artwork portrays a majestic tree not merely as a source of oxygen, but as a provider of sustenance and shelter to animals. Imam skillfully captures the essence of tradition passed down through generations, depicted through a mother imparting wisdom to her child amidst the wilderness. Through intricate brushwork and a profound understanding of Oraon traditions, Imam's artwork celebrates the continuity of life and the interconnectedness of all living beings within the natural world.

## **Artist: Adam Christopher Imam**

Adam Christopher Imam is a versatile artist hailing from Jharkhand, India, renowned for his proficiency in painting, mural art, and design. With a passion for preserving and promoting tribal art forms, Imam's works have been showcased in numerous exhibitions and art camps nationally. His dedication to the Oraon style of Sohrai painting not only preserves cultural heritage but also revitalizes it with contemporary interpretations. Imam's artistic journey is marked by a deep-seated respect for tradition coupled with a modern artistic sensibility, making him a pivotal figure in the realm of Indian folk art revival.

**Location:** Baharat Mandapam, New Delhi

**Team Member:** Rajan Kumar

