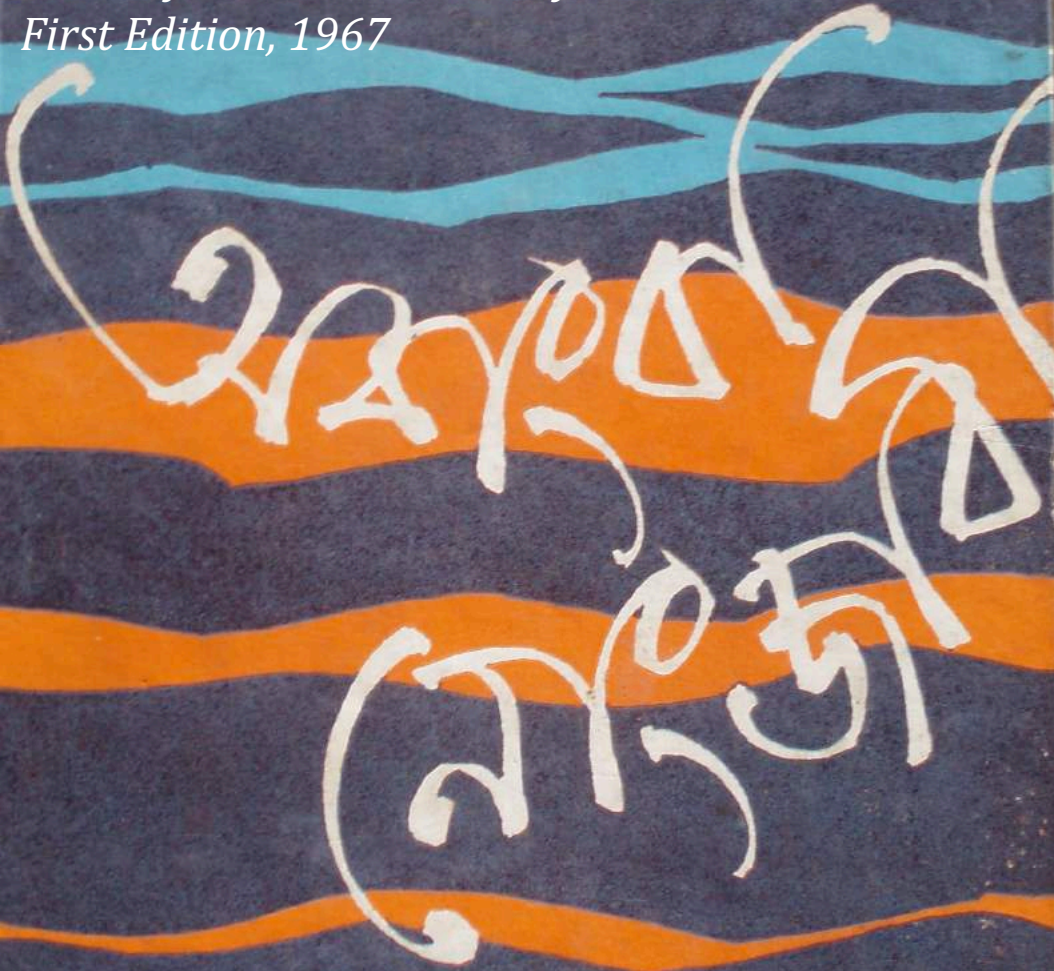


*Asangba Nongjabi*  
*Cover by Khaled Chowdhury*  
*First Edition, 1967*



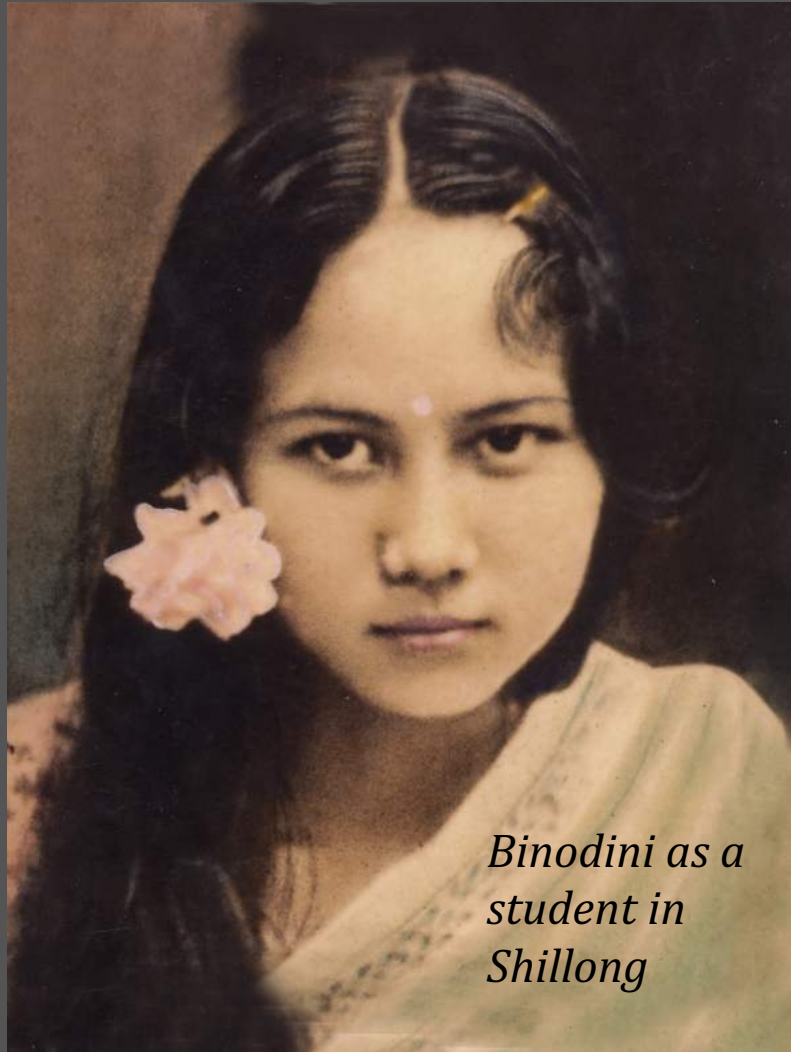
বিনোদিনী

## OF ART AND ARTISTS

Binodini and *Crimson Rainclouds*  
(A Play in 5 Acts, Manipuri, 1966)

**BINODINI**  
Writer and Sculptor  
(1922-2011)





*Binodini as a  
student in  
Shillong*

Princess, Leftist, Artist

*“This then, is the story  
of how I led my life  
in those days.*

*This is what contributed  
to what made the “I”  
in my later life.”*

*THE MAHARAJA’S HOUSEHOLD, 2008*



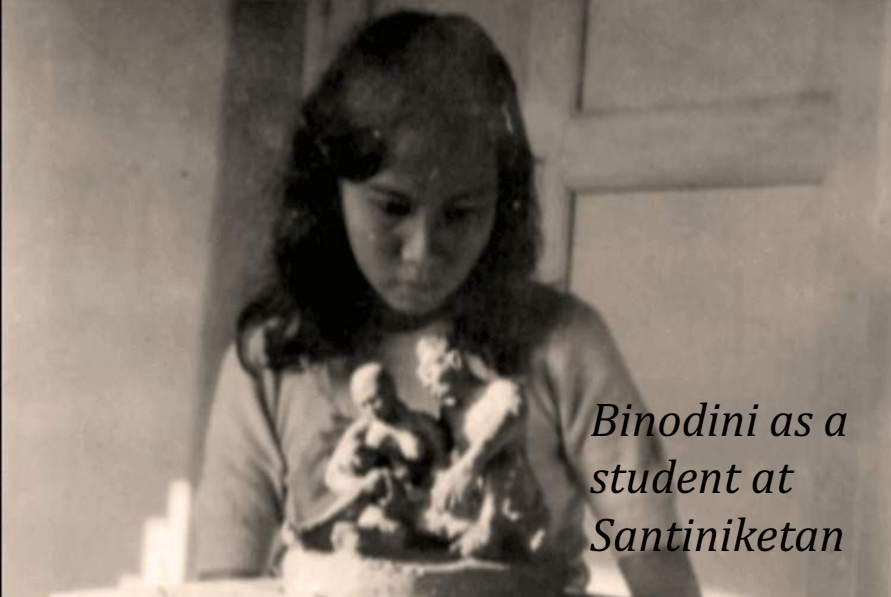
*Binodini as a  
student at  
Santiniketan*



*Binodini as a  
student at  
Santiniketan*

BINODINI

Santiniketan, 1945-1947



*Binodini as a student at Santiniketan*

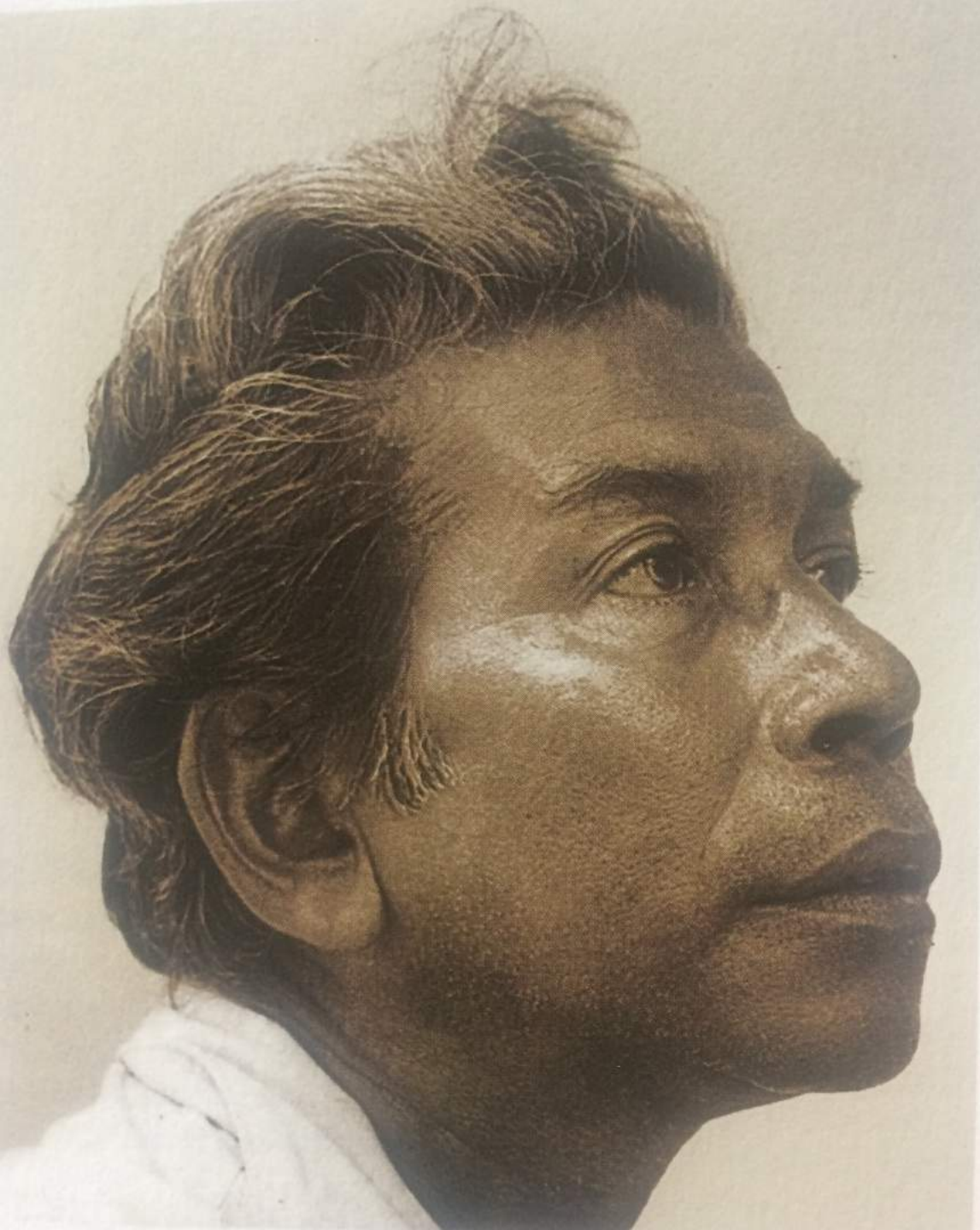


*Kiron Barua, fellow student at Santiniketan*

*“We came from different lands,  
we spoke different tongues,  
we looked different.”*

*We had all come from distant lands  
to learn to paint and sculpt.”*

*GIRLS HOSTEL, 1987*



RAMKINKAR VAIJ  
Sculptor and Painter

1906-1980

*How I loved it,  
how I coveted it ...  
I borrowed it from her  
every now and then.*

*At last  
I had borrowed it  
so often from her,  
I began to think that  
it belonged to me.*

*GIRLS HOSTEL 1987*



*Kiron Barua,  
Binodini and fellow  
students at  
Santiniketan*



*BINODINI*  
*by Ramkinkar Vajj*

# BINODINI BY VAIJ

Paintings  
Sculptures

National Gallery of Modern Art

*“If your portrait  
has to be very handsome...*

*is it all right  
if it doesn't look like you?”*

*CRIMSON RAINCLOUDS, 1966*



*“If it is good to look at,  
it is fine not to understand.”*

*CRIMSON RAINCLOUDS, 1966*



*. “If you are too lazy to look,  
go buy a book  
and read about it.”*

*CRIMSON RAINCLOUDS, 1966*



*“But your feelings,  
your spirit,  
who will you learn those from?”*

*CRIMSON RAINCLOUDS, 1966*





# BINODINI

## The Sculptor

*Maharaj Kumari. Binodini Devi  
At Home with her Sculpture  
Imphal, mid-1960s*



*Sculptures by Binodini, late 1950s-60s*



*CRIMSON  
RAINCLOUDS*  
The Play, 1966

*Stage Play  
Asangba Nongjabi, 1966*



THE MUSE  
LOOKS AT  
THE ARTIST



*BINODINI by Ramkinkar Vaij*

*“And who is that beauty over there?  
Is that the one called Indu?”*

*“No. You could be her.*

*Anyone could be Indu.”*

*CRIMSON RAINCLOUDS, 1966*



*“Aren't I a normal human being?*

*How does one live,  
this living like a normal human being  
as you call it?”*

*CRIMSON RAINCLOUDS, 1966*

*Film Still  
Asangba Nongjabi,  
Aribam Syam Sharma 2003*

*“Do you know what binds me?”*

*Freedom,  
Absolute freedom....”*

*CRIMSON RAINCLOUDS, 1966*



*“What is it  
that I want –*

*Is it a thing,  
a place,  
a color*

*I do not know  
sometimes.”*

*CRIMSON RAINCLOUDS, 1966*





*“But it isn't that either,  
there is more.*

*It lies beyond my limits...”*

*CRIMSON RAINCLOUDS, 1966*



RAMKINKAR  
AND HIS WORK

K.G. SUBRAMANYAN

*“My canvas, my you:  
I do not know which is which.”*

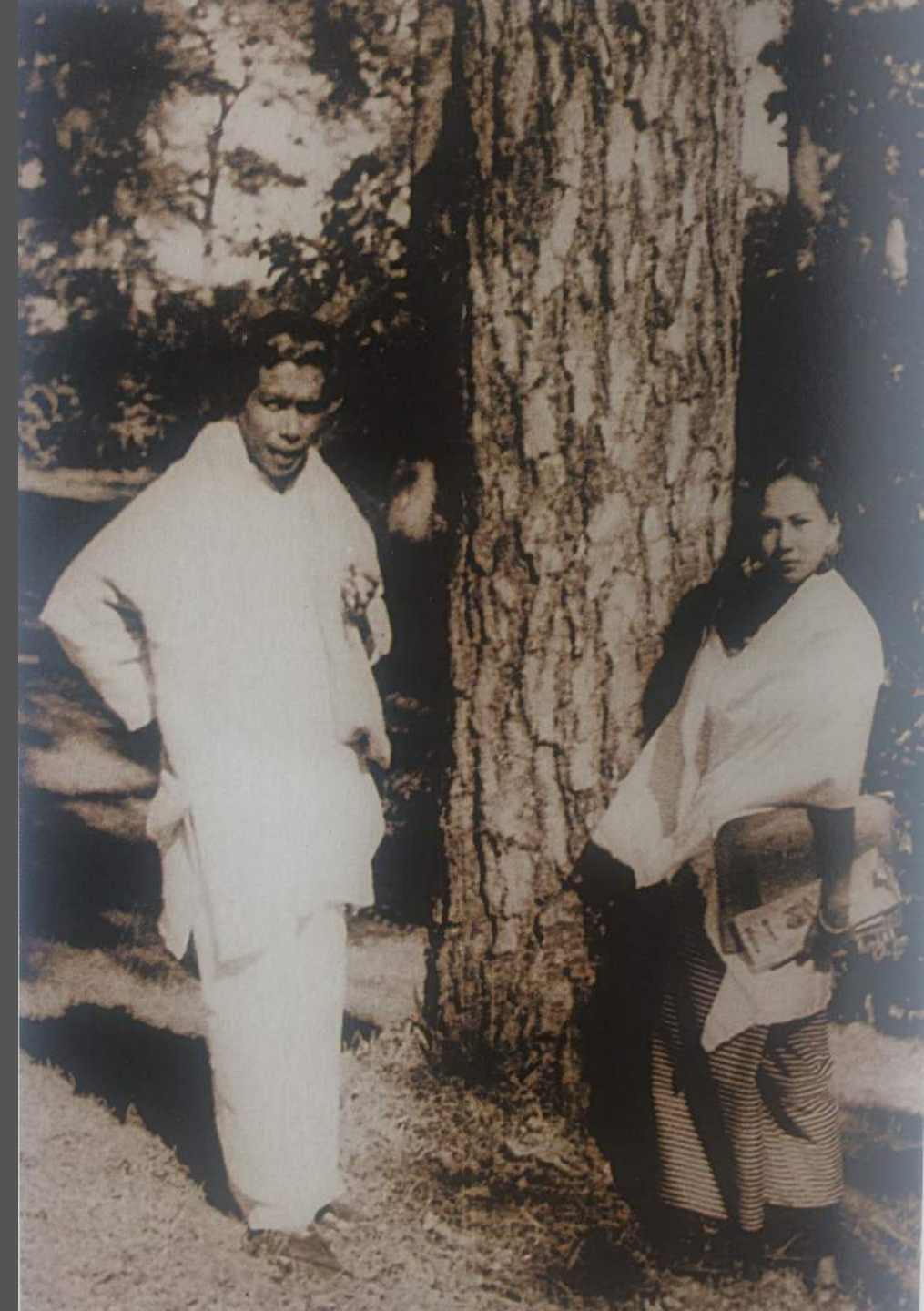
*Your heart beats  
in every one of my canvases.”*

*CRIMSON RAINCLOUDS, 1966*

*BINODINI by Ramkinkar Vaij  
Retrospective Catalog Cover,  
National Gallery of Modern  
Art, New Delhi 2015*

## ARTIST AND MUSE

*He was a human being of the  
highest order - Binodini*



Excerpts of Binodini from:

*Crimson Rainclouds*, Thema Books 2012

*The Maharaja's Household: A Daughter's Memories of Her Father*, Zubaan Books 2015

*Girls Hostel*, 2018

All translations by L. Somi Roy



**IMASI**

The Maharaj Kumari  
Binodini Devi Foundation

[www.imasi.org](http://www.imasi.org)