

A young child is sitting on the floor, focused on painting a scene on a wall. The wall is covered in colorful, hand-drawn illustrations. On the left, there is a parrot with red, green, and blue feathers perched on a branch. Next to it is a large owl with brown and white feathers. Below the owl are several red flowers with green leaves. To the right of the child, a blue and green bird is depicted in flight. The background of the wall is a mix of vertical stripes in shades of orange, yellow, and green. In the bottom right corner, a row of colorful crayons is visible, including red, pink, yellow, and orange.

CLINT MEMORIAL
INTERNATIONAL
CHILDREN'S
PAINTING
COMPETITION

THEME: KERALA

1976-1983

www.keralatourism.org/clint

Clint: A Masterpiece of Nature

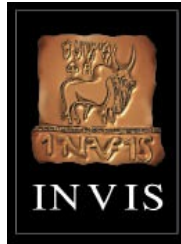
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Text

Ammu Nair

Edmund Thomas Clint (May 1976 – April 1983)



In a brief lifetime of less than 7 years, Edmund Thomas Clint (May 1976 – April 1983) created more than 25,000 drawings and paintings that reveal the rare imprint of an artistic genius. As an infant crawling on his belly, Clint debuted as an artist with perfect circles drawn on the floor with pieces of red bricks. Soon, the newly whitewashed walls of his apartment and sheets of paper that he could lay his hands on were throbbing with pictures of meditative owls, hungry wolves, mythological gods, fancy cars, breathtaking landscapes, lonely birds lost in the vastness of the sky and many many more. One can see a child's innocent simplicity and a master's skilled hand at play in his pictures.

Diagnosed with a fatal kidney disease at the age of 3, Clint often suffered from physical pain and fatigue. However, his art is an unrestrained celebration of beauty and life in and around us.

Clint: A Masterpiece of Nature



Snake boats at sunset

Snake boats and their rowers are cast against the iridescent splendor of the setting sun. In many of his evocative paintings, Clint sought to recreate Kochi, the picturesque port city in southern India.



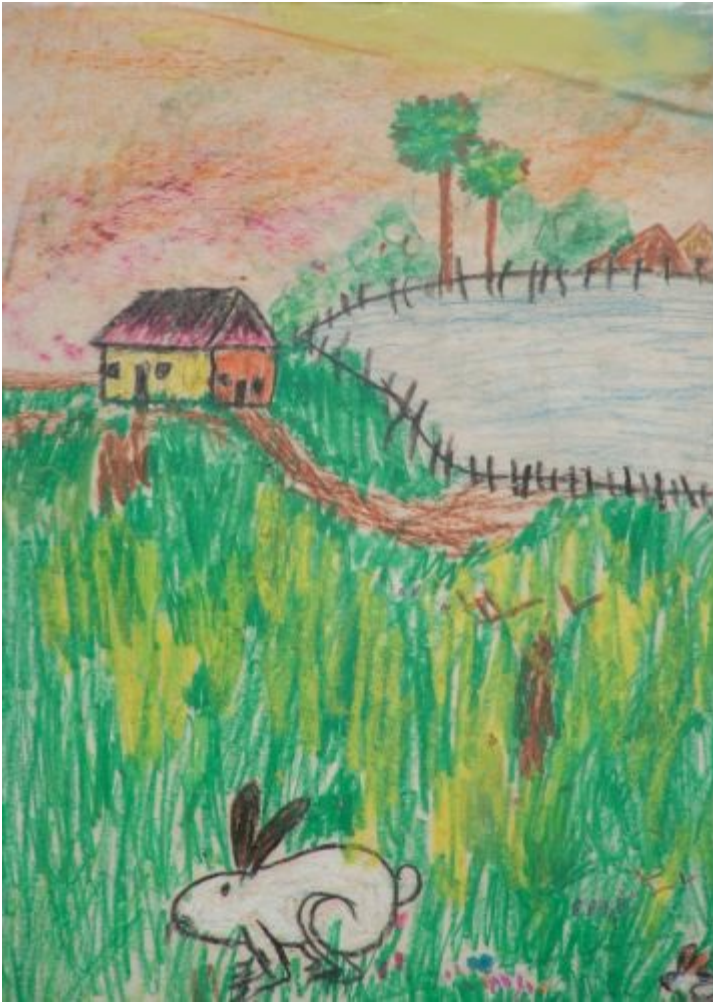
The distant temple and the sage

Before Clint set out to paint this picture, he sprinkled water on the drawing sheet. Then he painted on the wet paper giving the vivid colors a subdued serene effect.



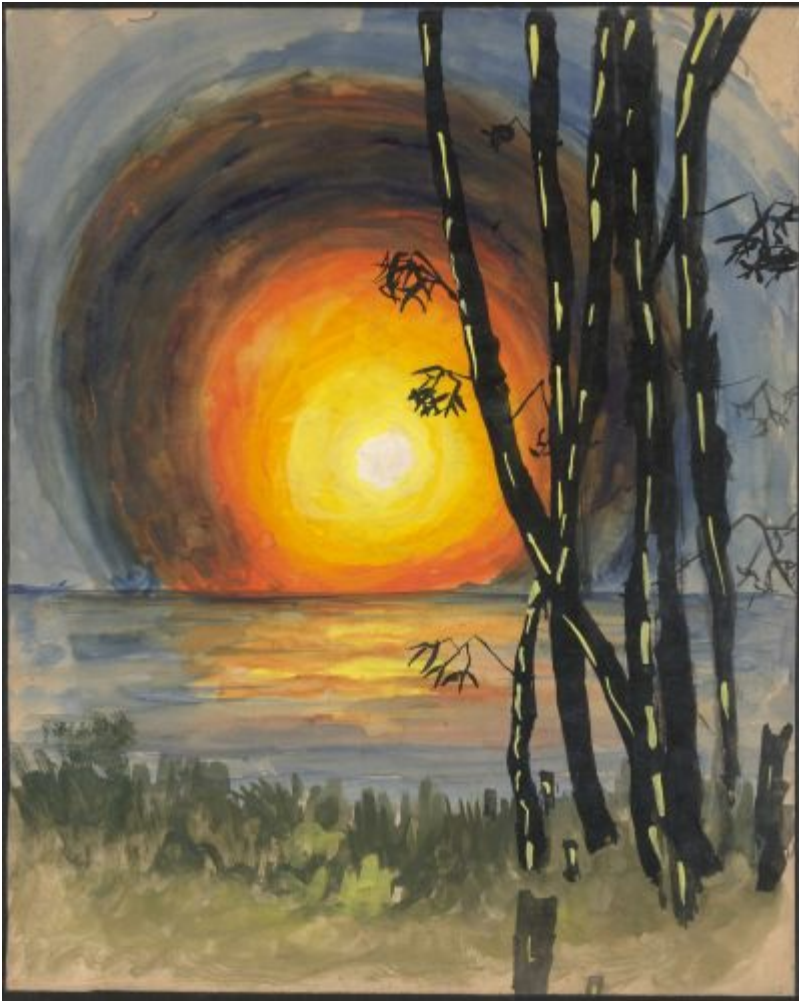
Butterfly on a blue blossom

At the age of 6, self-taught in the art of color mixing, Clint achieves a three dimensional effect in this painting by squeezing out and mixing undiluted tube colors directly on the drawing sheet.



An idyllic village

A great lover of the verdant countryside and its unhurried pace of life, Clint used to spend many solitary hours in the coconut groves and by the tranquil fish pond of his ancestral home in the suburbs of Kochi.



Sunset by the bamboo clusters

The sun departs for the day behind the bamboo groves skirting the backwaters of Kochi. Clint's mastery over colors is evident in the glowing three dimensional halos around the sun and their scattered reflection in the waters.



The rising sun and the waning moon

As his immunity was low, Clint was mostly confined to his apartment. Silently and raptly, he watched the dawns and dusks from his bedside window.



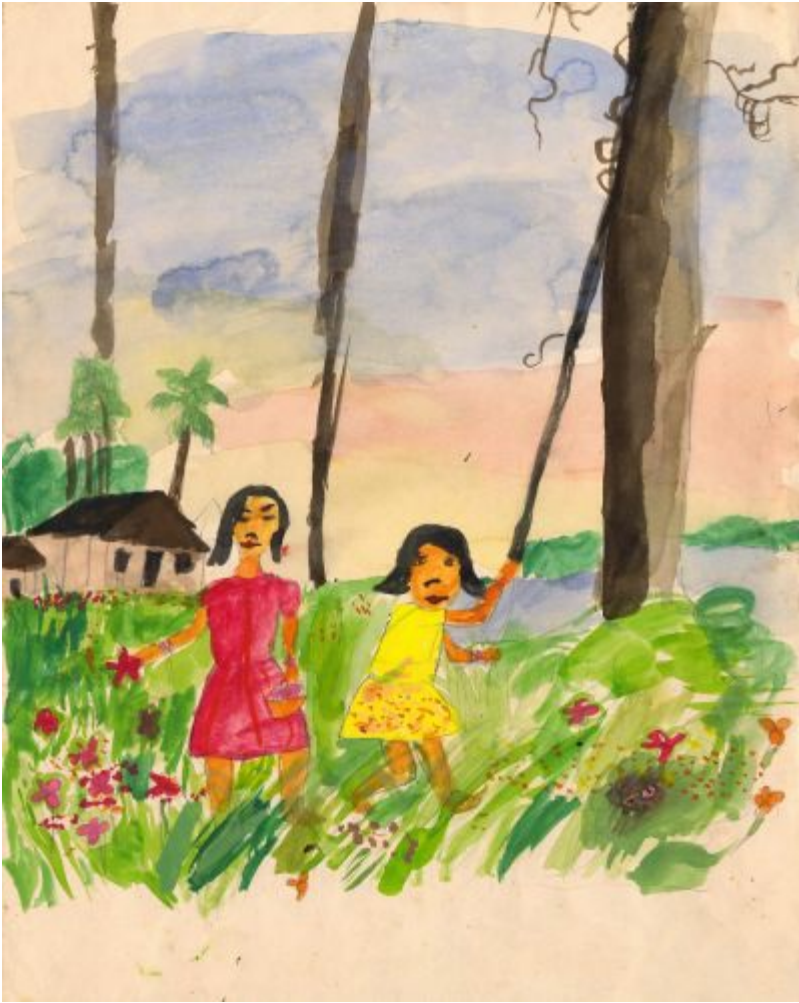
Tropical butterfly on a daisy

Clint never outlined his pictures before coloring. Swift vigorous brush strokes, a sureness while mixing colors, and absolute control over lines were the most extraordinary characteristics of his style of painting.



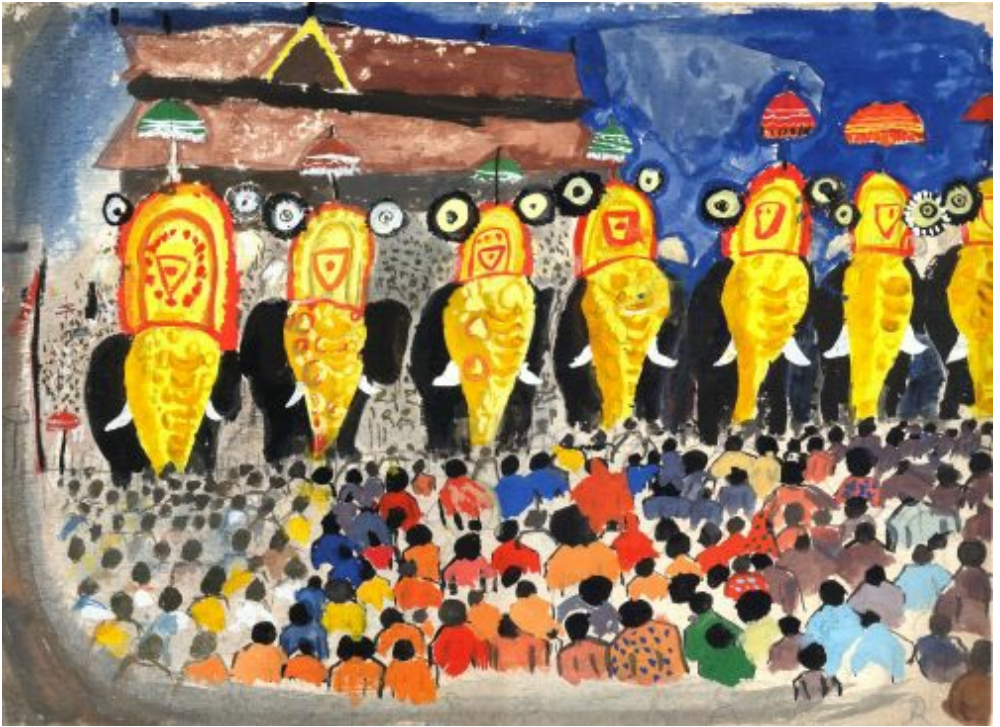
The cascade

Gushing down the rocky cliffs, this cascade nourishes a verdant tropical landscape. Clint never had the opportunity to see a waterfall.



Girls picking flowers

Thatched huts, flower dotted meadow, the crimson skies, and the two little girls who occupy the center of the scene are framed by towering coconut palms. The artist's playfulness and love for vivid colors find full expression here.



The seven temple elephants at the festival

Clint brilliantly captures the local festival scene with the mighty elephants, their gaudy caparisons, the sea of spectators, and the temple during the bluish grey twilight hours.



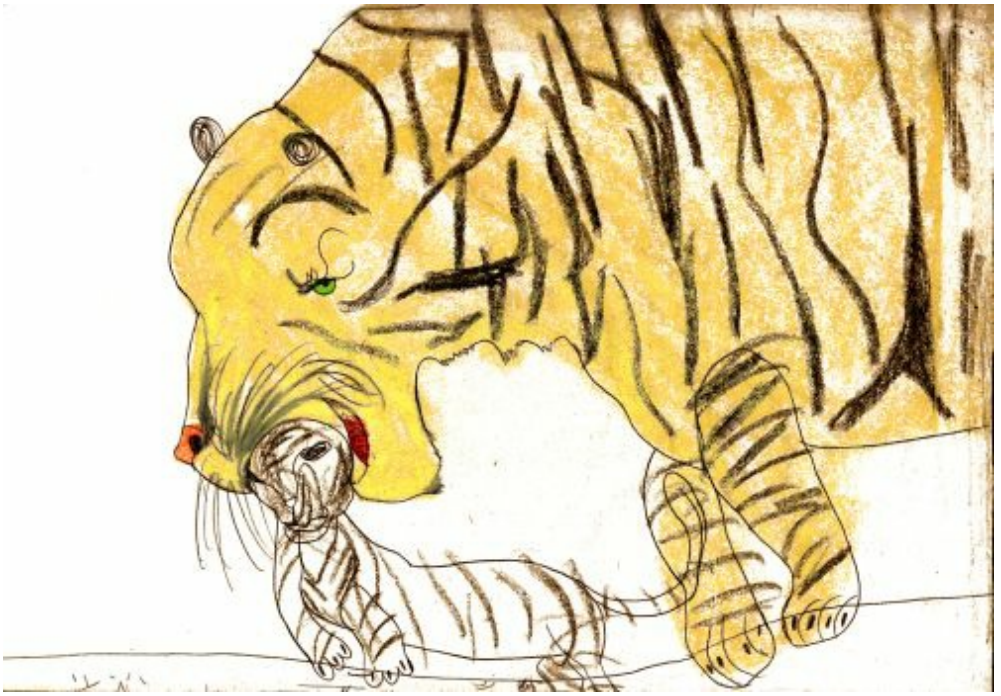
Kavadi Festival in the neighborhood temple

On their shoulders, devotees carry the Kavadi, a wooden board decorated with long-stemmed bright paper flowers and peacock feathers that bounce and bob, as they dance to the hypnotic drumming.



The three temple elephants at the festival

Clint drew the same scenes and themes over and over again. Some strikingly different and others in a more subtle way, they are not copies of one another.



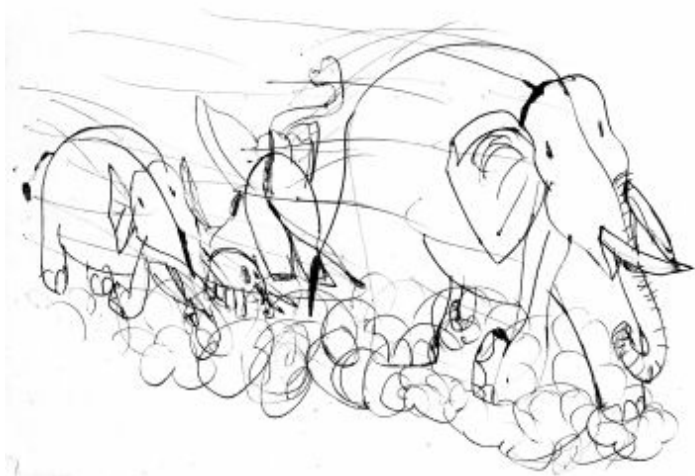
The tigress and her cub

The tigress' soft green eyes brim with anxieties about her cub. The tenderness and agony of maternal love is a recurring theme in Clint's drawings.



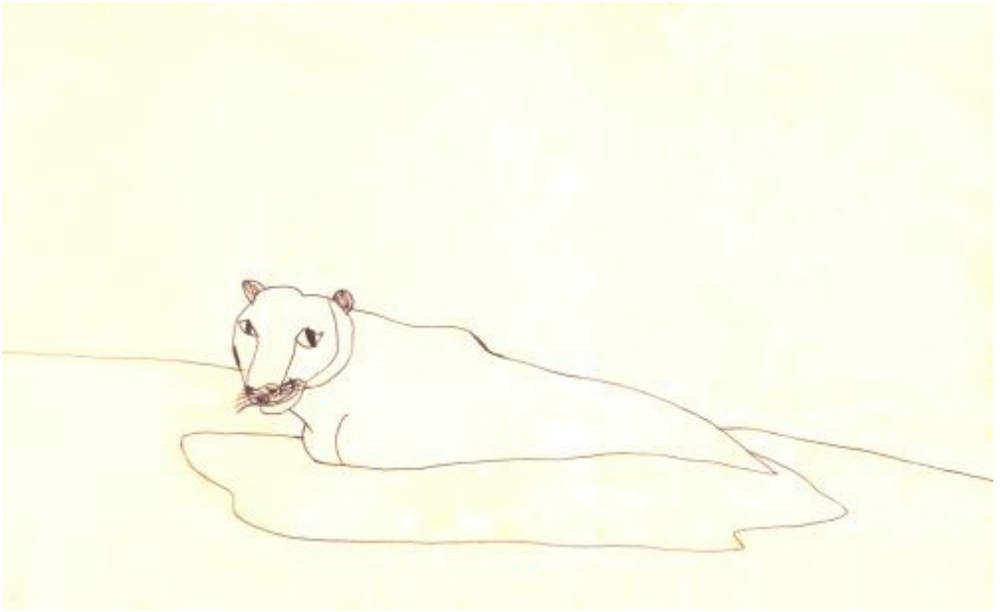
Tiger reaching over the wall

This highly convincing and realistic picture shows a tiger surveying over the outer edge of a wall. His powerful legs, keen ears, and sinewy form are testaments to Clint's artistic brilliance and ingenuity.



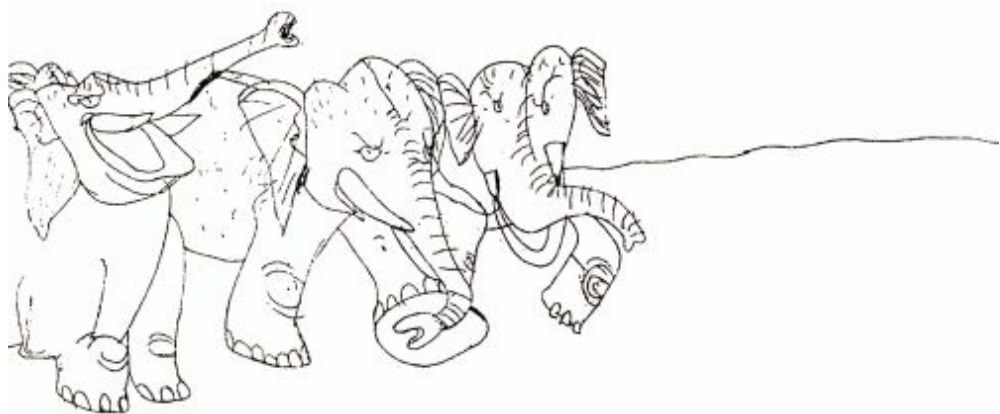
The relay race of elephants

In this action packed drawing, clouds of dust rise as the tuskers rush towards the finishing line. With a few hasty strokes, Clint conveys the feel of action and movement.



The bathing mountain lion

The line drawing of a puma taking a dip is acclaimed for its unbelievable technical perfection. In a few bold lucid lines, Clint presents before us the blithe swimmer and a placid brook.



Angry elephants

Insightful and observant, Clint saw that not just humans but all the denizens of nature experienced and expressed emotions. His pictures illustrate a broad range of emotions such as love, wonder, fear, and grief.



The suckling tigress

As one of her cubs walks away, the tigress becomes ever more vigilant. Even as the mother enjoys the tenderness of the moment, she fiercely snarls at imaginary intruders.



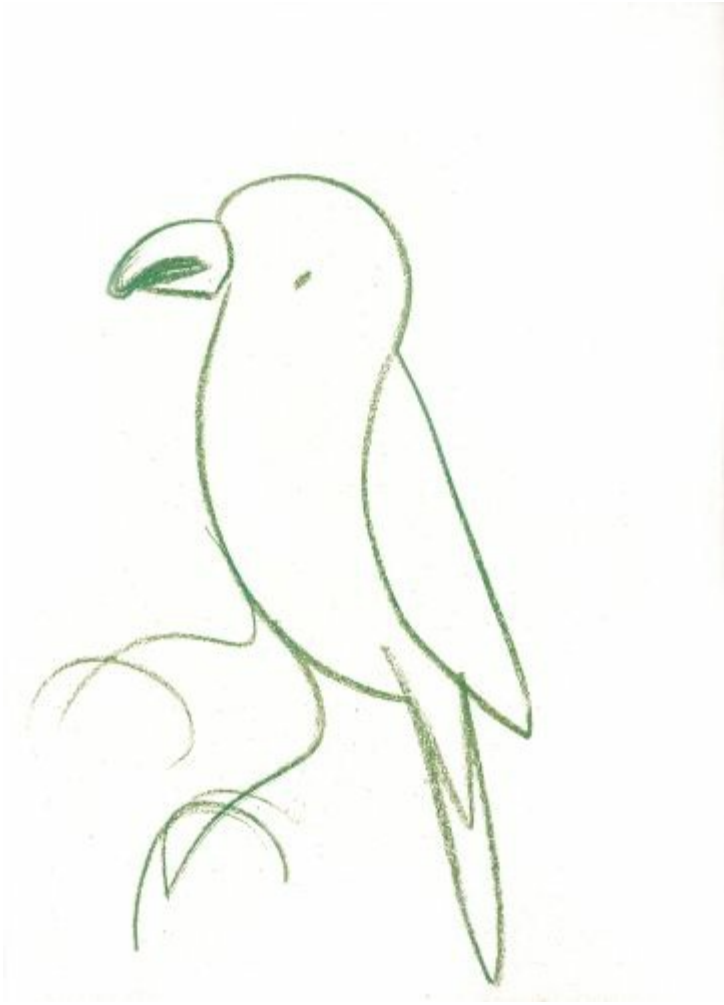
The epicurean rabbit

A chubby rabbit bites into a carrot with utmost focus. To enhance the gourmet experience, the rabbit closes its eyes. A passionate admirer of nature, Clint sensitively portrayed animals and birds.



The watchful owl

Even though he has never seen one in real life, Clint has drawn more than 200 pictures of owls, one distinct from the other. Among birds, he found them the most wonderful and mysterious.



The wild parrot chick

In Clint's drawings, it is difficult to find out where he began drawing the line and where he ended it. With effortless and fluid pencil strokes, he created exquisite line drawings.



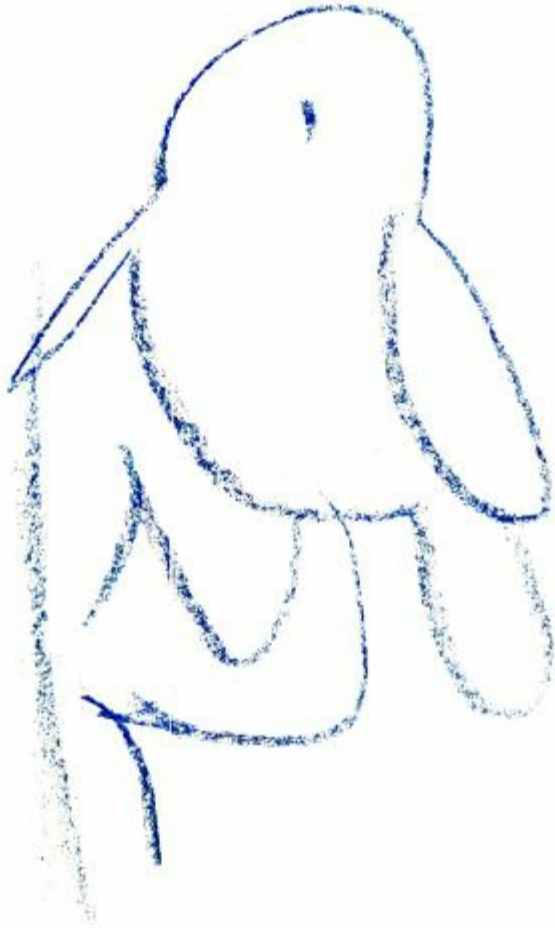
The happy heron

After the harvest season, paddy fields in the outskirts of Kochi become shallow ponds teeming with tadpoles, water beetles, and tiny fish. Flocks of white and purple herons descend on the fields adding more color to the landscape.



The lone kingfisher

After the monsoons, low lying meadows and fields in Clint's neighborhood would fill with crystalline rainwater. Brooding kingfishers would perch on poles to feast on the burst of aquatic life in the shallow pools that would dry up in a few days.



Clint drew this picture with his left hand. When his mother sat by his hospital bed and massaged his cramped right arm, he continued to draw with his left.



A cargo ship at Kochi Harbor

Laden with cargo, a ship leaves the port of Kochi. With squawking seagulls, massive Chinese fishing nets along the shimmering Kochi Lake and colossal ships that sail away into the Arabian Sea, Kochi Harbor fascinated Clint.



The sinking ship



Elements of the sea

The smallest of the four objects, the seagull, is depicted as the biggest in the picture and the largest object, the sun, as the most diminutive. Even Clint's early drawings illustrate his uncanny ability in conceiving the complex relationship between space and perspective.



Fishing boat in the Arabian Sea

Small fishing boats bobbing on the undulating blue waters of the bay are a regular sight near the Port of Kochi. Clint effortlessly conveys the disorienting vastness of the Arabian Sea in this picture.



Kathakali

The Indian classical art form, Kathakali, in all its colorful grandeur is shown in this painting. The dark night highlights the vibrant colors of the curtain, crown, and the facial makeup of the performer.



The goddess Theyyam

In this painting, the Theyyam dancer dons the grand costume of the goddess and becomes possessed by her. The percussionists and onlookers keep their distance as the Theyyam dances in a divine trance.

Tell the world about this little Master who filled his canvas with all the colours of this world.



*Clint pictures are set in the dreamscape of Kerala.
To know more about this wonderful land visit
www.keralatourism.org*

Express solidarity with the memory of this little genius by joining the Clint Memorial Global Painting Competition.

Visit

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