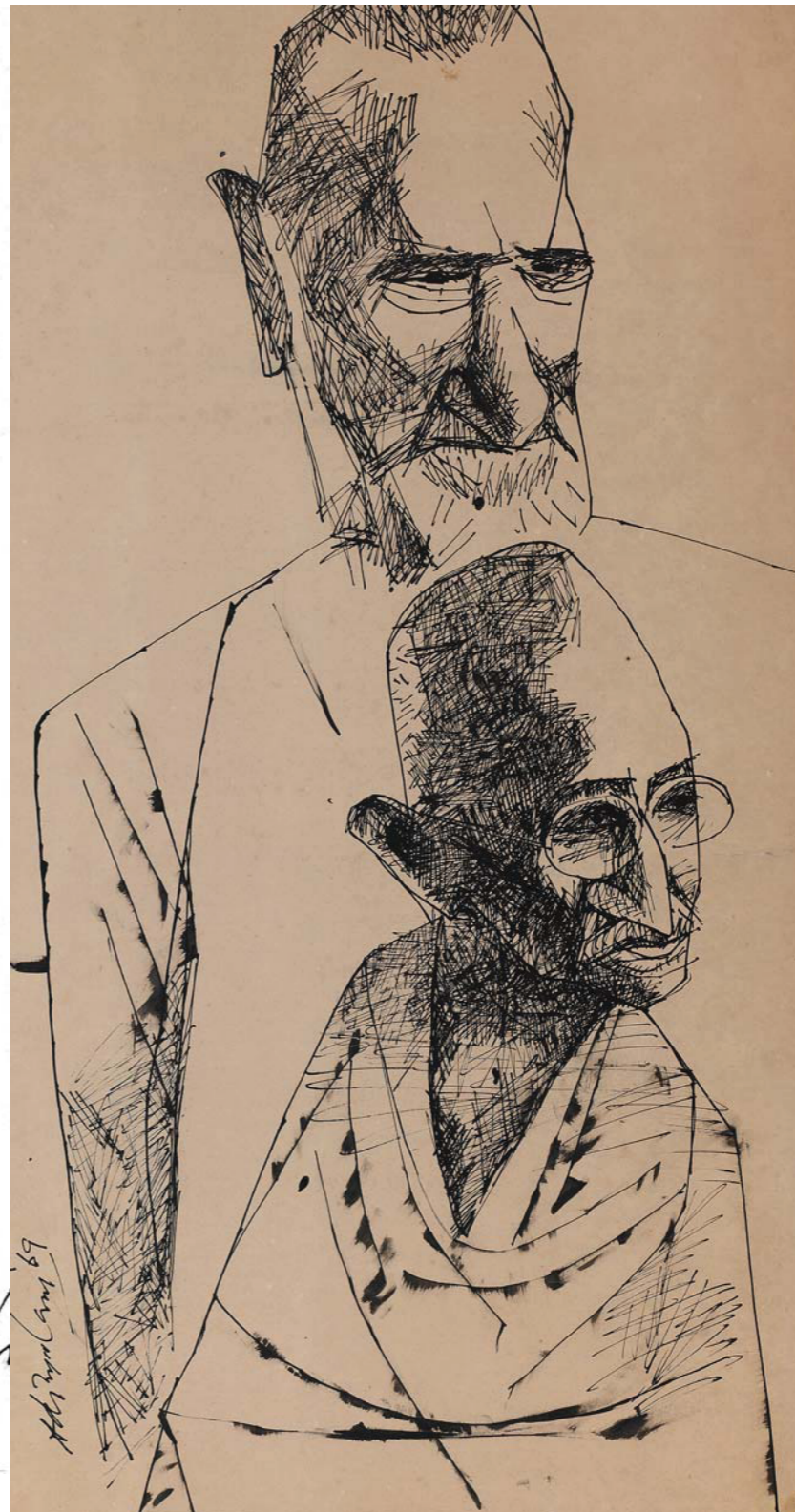




Gandhiji as a Young Lawyer (South Africa), pen and ink.



Gandhiji, Towards Noakhali, pen and ink.



Gandhi and Frontier Gandhi, pen and ink.

The Gandhi series

In 1969, to mark Gandhi's centenary, Adimoolam drew 100 different images of Gandhi and each brought out a different facet of the Father of the Nation. Talking about his Gandhi series, one of India's foremost painters, K.G. Subramanian, said: "Here he was inspired by his admiration for this world leader who by his attitude and action became an intimate of every man and woman in this country irrespective of age, caste or creed. He did these in a spirit of homage in the Gandhi Centenary Year. They portray Gandhi's interaction with a variety of people drawn from photographic documents; but without any effort at a close verisimilitude; they construct as it were an individual comic strip, where Gandhi features as the central figure and is portrayed with a kind of reverential elegance."

Subramanian further said: "This was not an easy thing to do. Gandhi was not dressed up and picturesque like his princelings and holy men. He had progressively divested himself of all external attributes that placed him within a social framework; and reduced himself to a nameless Indian, the poorest amongst poor. He lived and dressed as simply and abstemiously as one. He did not even make an effort to get his lost tooth replaced. One of his intimates once compared his looks, be it in spirit of fun, to that of Mickey Mouse. That, in spite of all these, Adimoolam has given his Gandhi drawings a remarkable sense of gravity and elegance, is therefore no mean achievement."

