

**SPOTLIGHT ON**

**BHUPEN KHAKAR**

**Stonewall**

# Who are Stonewall?

This resource is produced by Stonewall, a UK-based charity that stands for the freedom, equity and potential of all lesbian, gay, bi, trans, queer, questioning and ace (LGBTQ+) people. At Stonewall, we imagine a world where LGBTQ+ people everywhere can live our lives to the full. Founded in London in 1989, we now work in each nation of the UK and have established partnerships across the globe. Over the last three decades, we have created transformative change in the lives of LGBTQ+ people in the UK, helping win equal rights around marriage, having children and inclusive education.

Our campaigns drive positive change for our communities, and our sustained change and empowerment programmes ensure that LGBTQ+ people can thrive throughout our lives. We make sure that the world hears and learns from our communities, and our work is grounded in evidence and expertise.

Stonewall is proud to provide information, support and guidance on LGBTQ+ inclusion; working towards a world where we're all free to be. This does not constitute legal advice, and is not intended to be a substitute for legal counsel on any subject matter. To find out more about our work, visit us at [www.stonewall.org.uk](http://www.stonewall.org.uk).

Registered Charity No 1101255 (England and Wales) and SC039681 (Scotland)

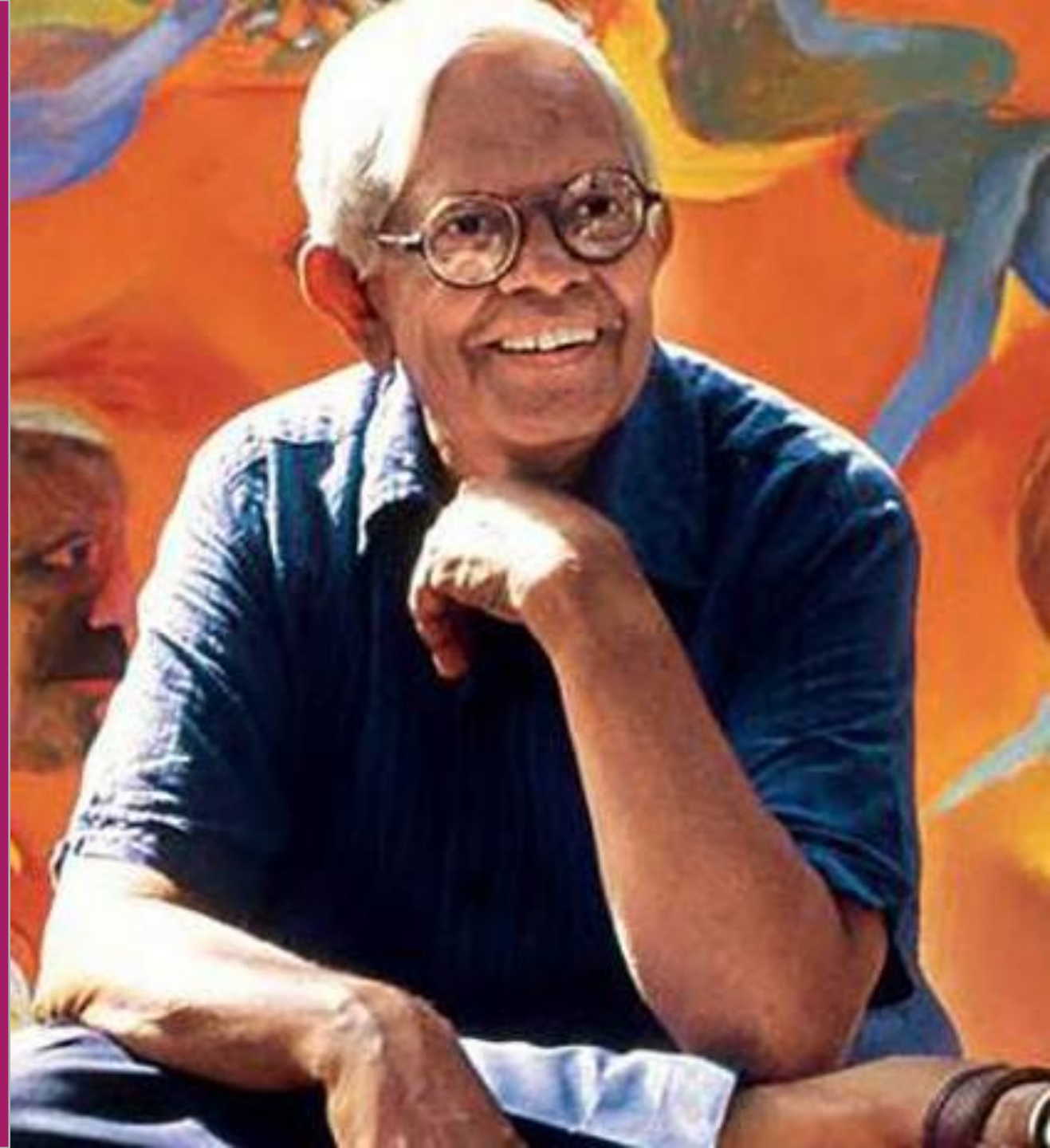
# **Bhupen Khakar**

## **(he/him)**

**Bhupen Khakar was born in India in 1934.**

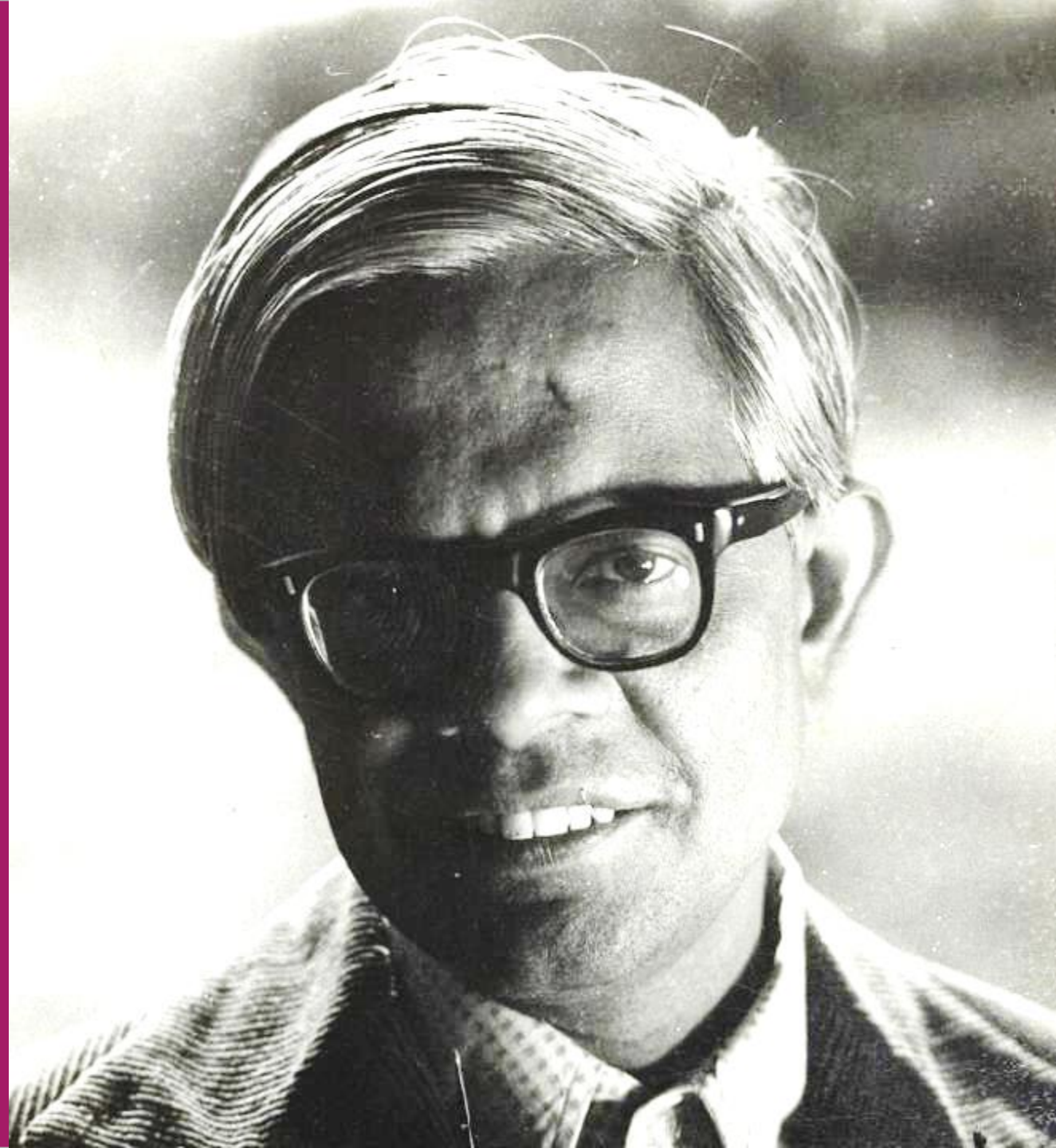
**Bhupen grew up speaking Gujarati, Marathi and Hindi.**

**He was 13 when India gained Independence from Britain.**



## **New directions**

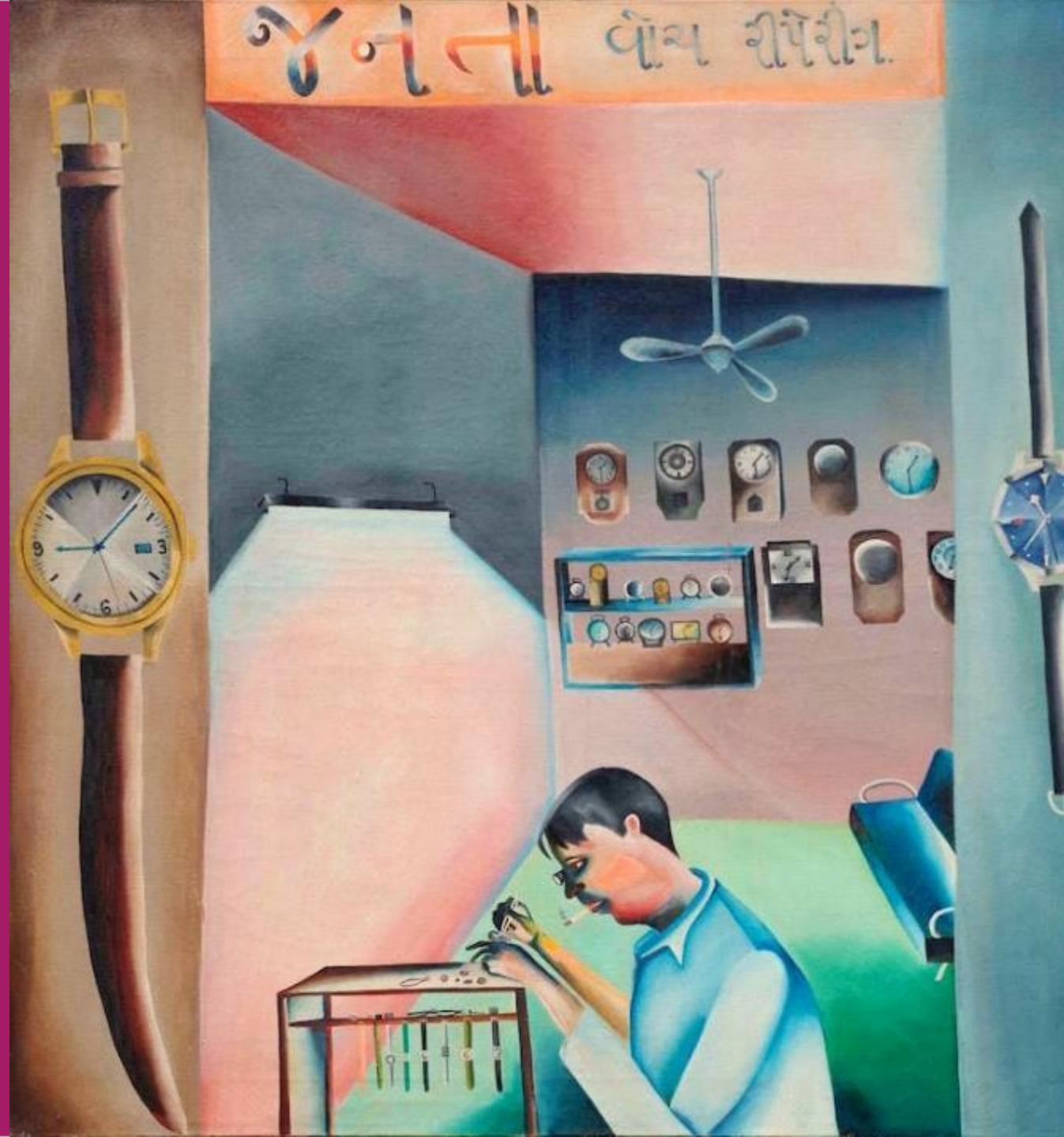
**Bhupen was an accountant for a long time, but became an artist after a friend encouraged him to.**



# Day to day struggles

Bhupen is most famous for his paintings.

His paintings showed people's day to day struggles, including his own.



# International travel

**Bhupen's first trip abroad was in 1976. He visited several countries including the UK. In the UK he stayed with a friend called Howard.**

**He returned to the UK for 6 months in 1979 and worked as an artist-in-residence at the Bath Academy of Art.**



# Love

**When he was in the UK, Bhupen saw that his LGBTQ+ friends were starting to be treated more fairly.**

**Bhupen told people he was gay in 1980.**

**He was with his partner, Vallavbhai, for over 20 years.**



# A change in law

**Until 2018, it was against the law to be gay in India.**

**This is because of a law introduced by the British in 1861, whilst India was under British rule.**





# Success

**Bhupen's art has been shown in art galleries all around the world.**

**Bhupen died of prostate cancer in 2003, just a few days after the death of his partner.**

