



Monthly News Letter// All India Fine Arts and Crafts society, New Delhi // January - February, 2016

88th Annual All India Art Exhibition 2015 being inaugurated by eminent painter Shri Om Prakash Sharma



6th All India Digital Art exhibition being inaugurated by eminent photographer Shri Ram Rahman





Chief guest Shri Om Prakash Sharma addressing the gathering

88th Annual All India Art Exhibition, 2015

This exhibition of Paintings, Sculptures, Drawings and Graphics, an annual feature of the Society, was held in the galleries of All India Fine Arts & Crafts Society from 18 December to 4 January, 2016.

In more than eighty decades the society catered all generations of artists and trends. If we see the earlier catalogues of annual art exhibitions there is big change in different trends. Earlier the wash paintings and miniature style was prevalent. Academic or British academic style of paintings were displayed in the exhibitions. Gradually the contemporary and abstract art came on the walls. The Society accepted all types of painting trends from time to time. To keep some painting traditions the Society started holding special all India exhibitions. These art All India Traditional Art Exhibition, All India Portrait Exhibition, All India Water Colour Exhibition, All India Studio Pottery Exhibition, All India Photography Exhibition and now added All India Digital Art Exhibition. All these exhibitions are well presented the true picture of trends of the time.

Young generation have always a challenge to their creativity to participate in these All India exhibitions. They create their best to compete with all the participants from all over the country. This results the best of works exhibited in this exhibition.

The jury members for this year Shri Ram V Sutar, Shri Paramjeet Singh, Shri Amar Kumar Kapur, Shri S K Sahni and Shri K Khosa had tough time to select works for this exhibition and for awards.

This year the Society received 1247 paintings by 645 artists, 272 sculptures by 150 sculptors,



Chief guest Shri Om Prakash Sharma releasing the catalogue

354 drawings by 183 artists and 256 graphics by 132 artists.

Jury selected 148 paintings, 41 sculptures, 63 drawings and 59 graphics.

Besides the award winning works some of the works are worth mentioning. Abhijit Kumar Paul's Lunatic is an expressive composition. Bandana Kumari's Chand ke par chalo is a satire in the modern context. Biplab Rej's Family looks like victims of circumstances. Kishin Awatramani's untitled is an abstract painting with contrast of tones and textures. Perna Sharma's Animals 2 reminds of bulls of the cave paintings.

Partha Pratim Gayen's dream in bronze is a fantasy with a flying elephant. Markandey Jajwara Putru's Mamatva made with pumpkin shells is a unique composition of mother and child. Jagabandhu Mondal's unity is a composition made with wax sheets and cast into metal. Two faces facing each other are in some dialogue. Madhulika Jha's Aaj Ki Lakshmi is lady with four arms busy in household work and operating a laptop.

Anand Vaishnav's Selfee consists of six faces with various distortions. Chaman Sharma's muscular man has established some relation with female figure. Ashok Kumar's Bold chair with a vulture sitting on the back tells the story of love for power. Lakshman Prasad's Opaque Obsession XXXXVI is a strong charcoal drawing of a profile of a woman associated with some other elements.

Aban Raza's multicolour lithograph of interior of a room creates required atmosphere. Arun Kumar Das's untitled etching is composed with massive areas with some varied textures. Neha Jaiswal's Cannibalism in dry point tells the fight for power for which one can come on street.

Over all it is a representative of modern Indian Art.

Paintings of Devesh Kumar

Held a solo show of paintings in the gallery of All India Fine Arts & Crafts Society from 6 to 12 January 2016.

His paintings are inspired by the out come of a Dyslexia patient. This he realized after knowing that his daughter Divita is dyslexic. This he explains, " It is a small processor problem in kids brain that they can not read or spell correctly, Their mind works in two ways one is to move according to the set formula what society has made and the other what their mind says. They think totally in different way, they have a power to create formulas and to invent something different." He says, " great painters Picasso, Leonardo Da Vinci and Einstein had such problems. They all were the Dyslexic people who had great power to create things. It is a God gift, not a curse." Devesh also suggests those people who are depressed with their kids that they can't perform well in studies. They have great ability to perform in the field of art or music. This has been observed in many such cases who held exhibition of paintings in art galleries.

If we do not look at the paintings from their angle but as a normal painter as Devesh is, then his works are his personal creative pursuit. He must have observed his daughter keenly and appreciated her creative ability and seen through her eyes and mind. The decision to draw in that manner may be a difficult task because he is a normal person.

His paintings like Kamdhenu (Mother Nature) and 'Brahma' and other works are linear and highly decorative and full of texture. small divisions in compositions give different dimension. Bright colours illuminate major areas and dark colours help to project bright colours. This contrast in his paintings is well defined. Mother Nature has the combination of female figure as well as the cow which nurtures the off springs to make them good beings. Cris-cross lines divide the painting area to separate and give emphasis to the concept.

Similarly three faces which has three symbolic representation of Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva. He is a self born and lord of speech and creator of universe and various beings. Devesh's creation of his concept of Brahma is very modern. He has also a second version of concept which is totally design oriented. It moves towards landscape in which one house is seen in every composition symbolizing some place for rest or worship. In some works spiral designed lines go towards the house as if some spiritual energy is entering and the house is converted into a place of some spiritual activity.

Bright and strong colours filled in the cris-cross design made it a kaleidoscopic view. Some of these paintings create spaces where a small house like a hermitage in a serene atmosphere inviting to experience the sound of silence.

Devesh Kumar has tried to explore all such dyslexia into a higher level of thinking process which may result such creative works.



Kamdhenu "Mother Nature"

Inner Terrains of Marie Dias Arora

Exhibition of Works on paper by Marie Dias Arora was held in the gallery of Alliance Francaise de Delhi from 4 to 9 December 2015.

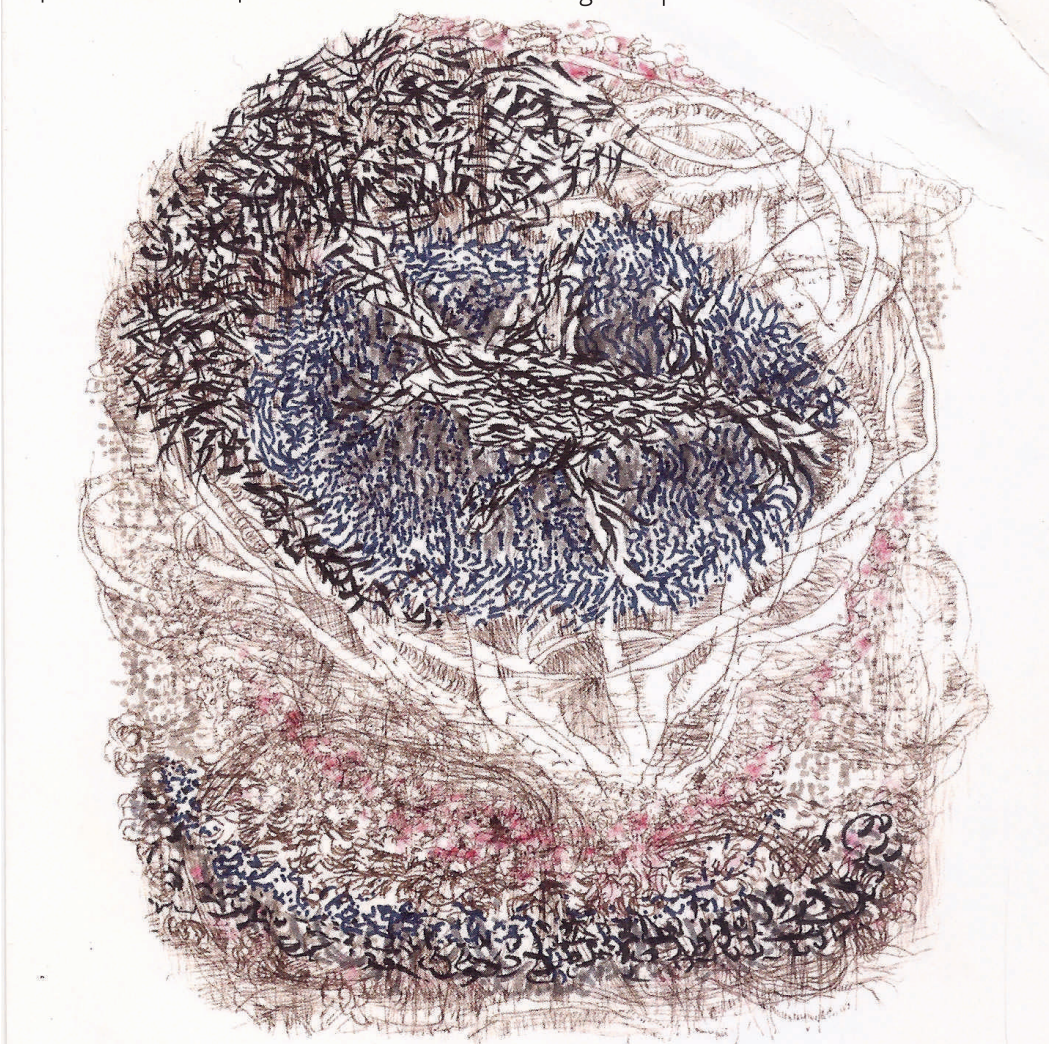
She studied painting from J J School of art, Mumbai and later joined College of Art, Delhi and graduated in the year 1968. She was awarded the French Government Scholarship and trained under master Printmakers William Hayter and Krishna Reddy at 'Atelier Seventeen' in Paris. She held solo shows of her etchings in Cite des Arts, Paris, Academy of fine Arts, Kolkata and Alliance Francaise, Delhi. She also participated in the All India Art Exhibition of AIFACS and was awarded.

In this Inner Terrains she exhibited works done in last four years. These mixed media works on paper with pen and ink and pastel create various

tones and textures. Her study in painting and later on training in etching helped her to create these linear works. Her inspiration came from various form in nature, such as; leaves, branches of trees, roots, pebbles, sand, water, cliffs etc.. The entangled roots of trees gave unlimited possibilities in creating compositions. In many works the strokes of pen created impression as if these are etching or dry-point lines. Different thickness of lines created dimension in between and around.

Soft brown lines of various tones and thickness create another plane on the paper surface. The trees, leaves and pebbles changed into a new shape bring required effects in the compositions. The control of the pressure of nib created various thickness of line. The pleasure of handling material is enjoyed in each work.

Her other experiences of life are related, in using these objects, which also have to go through the process of birth and death.



Unpretentious Elegance of Sukanta Dasgupta

An Exhibition of paper collages was held in the gallery of All India Fine Arts & Crafts Society from 6 to 12 January 2016.

Sukanta Dasgupta has pursued painting, photography and other forms of artistic expressions for over three decades. He has experimented with paper collage for about ten years. He has produced the effects which are achievable by oil colours. He has achieved by simply pasting torn papers. Despite the plasticity of the medium the artist has explicitly chosen paper collage as his medium of expression. His works look simple but the application of the correct pieces of coloured paper is a strenuous work. He has been trying to find out the beauty in chaos and harmony of disorderliness.

Whatever he paints is his observation of things happening around him. He produced the works with external action combined with the internal thought process.

Sukanta says, "I get my ideas from anything I see, read or hear but over a period of time I found most of my ideas have come from



Mythology and religious beliefs of people or their culture. In addition, my educational background of nuclear science have been a huge source of ideas constantly providing me opportunities for playing them out on canvas."

Collage is used first with the invention of paper in China. It has been used in many ways in different centuries but the modern collage in painting was started in the early 20th century. In the modern period George Braque and Pablo Picasso used in their cubist works and applied it to charcoal drawings. And the trends followed.

Sukanta Dasgupta used purely printed papers from glossy magazines available in the market. His selection is very specific and application of small pieces of papers worked as brush strokes or spatula strokes of an oil painting. Excellency has been achieved by him to transform these small pieces into masterpieces.



6th All India Digital Art Exhibition 2016

This year the digital art exhibition of All India Fine Arts & Crafts Society was held in the galleries of the society from 21 to 30 January 2016.

Every year the experimental possibilities and creativity is showing its promises of growth. It was clearly visible in the works of this art form. It's exploration has given world wide experimentation which is seen in many national and international exhibitions and art fairs.

From conventional to non-conventional mediums it is a matter of understanding and acceptance. These mediums of graphics are not widely accepted as painting on canvas but gradually it is being recognized as new media of art. Creativity in any medium is of the utmost importance irrespective of technology involved. Excellency and beauty is the amalgamation of aesthetic and technology.

Still there are confusions among some people to differentiate between Digital Art and Digital photograph. Digital art can be purely computer generated or taken from many other sources such as drawn image and scanned photograph using a mouse or graphic tablet with the help of graphic software. Similarly digital paintings are created in

similar method using software and digitally producing the image on canvas. Digital photography is a form of photography that uses cameras containing arrays of electronic photodetectors to capture images focused by a lens, but convention method was an exposure on photographic film. The captured images are digitized and stored as a computer file ready for further digital processing and viewing or printing.

The Society has shown its sincere effort to project and make people aware of this medium as creative medium of visual arts. More and more artists are trying to experiment in this medium. More and more participation in this all India exhibition reflects the gradual popularity.

This year the Society Received 205 entries by 111 artists. Solo jury Sh. Karan Khanna took great effort and selected 116 works and recommended 7 awards from these selected works

The Society is optimist and hope the response in the coming times will increase with more creative efforts by artists.

This year the entries had a big variety of digital

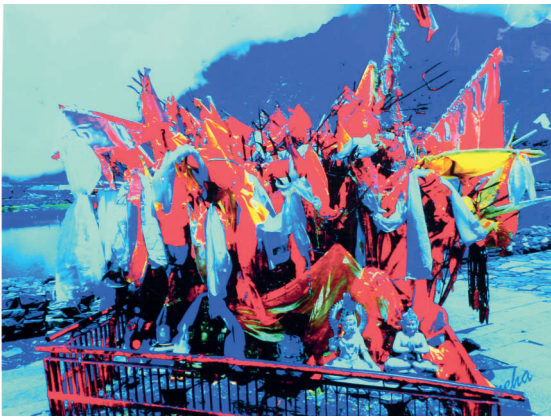


Chief guest Shri Ram Rahman admiring the works in exhibition



Chief guest Shri Ram Rahman welcomed by Shri Ram V Sutar





works which created different effects to communicate the concept.

'Smoke of Terror' by Mohit is a modern day situation of a terror stricken face full of fear represents the humans who have suffered and the fear engulfs even after thinking of such situations.

Surinder Kumar Kadyaan's 'composition' is a simple composition using some basic shapes creating different picture planes. Contrast of red and blue complement the composition.

Anand Jaiswal's 'Composition' is one have a number of elements create many stories. Nude sitting figure and the bathing figure from the painting of Edouard Manet Titled 'The Luncheon on the Grass' is the Bull's eye of the Painting. Other elements placed to attract attention create many compositions as well.

B S Chauhan's 'Peregrination Part I' is a work which may be considered as pure painting if it would not have been done digitally. A man sitting with a bird in his hand and there is one clock on the left upper corner has no cut paste elements to stamp it as a digital work.

Kajal Kumar Roy's 'Childhood' is his memory

taken from his photo album and placed in front of the shattered parts of some houses. Treatment of colours is dreamy and effective for the subject matter of the work.

Manish Arora's 'Reflection' reminds of the viscosity print of Krishna Reddy. Vertical divisions of the space with small elements filled in them gives some dimensional effects.

Mulul Kadyaan's 'Save Environment Save future' is the most popular and demanding slogan in relation to the global warming and danger to all the living beings. Poster like work has the message to communicate.

Nityananda Sandha's 'Depend' is a landscape with surrealistic approach to place elements along with the tree in the centre of the composition.

Namrata Nair's 'Two Faces Twenty Eyes' is a simple composition with two faces joined together with three eyes. The treatment is like spatula strokes used to make these faces.

There are many other works which are representative to the exhibition of Digital art. It is the real presentation of these young artists who are experimenting in this medium.

SERENDIPITY

An exhibition of paintings by Suvra Chakravarty was held in the gallery of Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi from 3 to 9 January 2016.

Suvra got his Diploma in Western painting from Academy of Fine Arts, Kolkata. At present he is a freelance artist working in practically all the mediums of painting. He has exhibited in India and many countries abroad.

Serendipity, "The faculty of making happy and unexpected discoveries by accident" was first coined in 1754 by writer Horace Walpole in a letter to his friend. The phenomena he named was inspired by a Persian fairy tale, 'The Three Princes of Serendip,' who go on a journey making discoveries, links and associations, solving problems through their wisdom. Pasteur describes serendipity as an additional state of receptivity - "in the elusive role of serendipity and the field of observation, chance favours only

the prepared mind", courtesy his catalogue.

His paintings of mythological personalities and Gods & Goddesses executed with a deep meditative experience. There is close contact with the canvas during the creative process. The final result comes what we see on his canvas. He wanted to convey happiness and peace through his paintings. This may be the reason he paints saintly personalities which mesmerize the viewer.

'Maya' is a painting personified the expression with soft and mild gestures to communicate with the viewer. Soft tones added the feelings conveyed.

'Mayura' title itself takes the viewer to Krishna. Whenever a flute and peacock are associated in a painting, it symbolizes Krishna irrespective of its cloths or facial character.

'Seeking Jesus' is another painting which creates the feelings of a religious and spiritual waves to the concerned.

His all other works also have the spiritual bent to convey serenity, tranquility, peace and happiness irrespective of the religion.

'Mayura' Acrylic on canvas 40" X 30" 2015



Glimpses- Stories in watercolours

An exhibition of watercolours by Srividya G S was held in the gallery of All India Fine Arts & Crafts Society, New Delhi from 8 to 14 February 2016.

Srividya is a Bangluru based artist specialized in watercolour medium. A medium practiced from the very beginning of the civilization. From cave paintings onward watercolour changed in the modern day to transparent water colour with synthetic base. There are other forms of watercolour such as- Gouache and tempera which are also known as opaque watercolours. Another form of water soluble pigments is the synthetic polymer paint, known as acrylic colours. These acrylic colours can be used like oil paints but many artists used it in a manner pure transparent watercolour. Cave man used pigments mixed with water to create cave paintings. Ancient Egyptians used water based colours to decorate temples and tombs and finally on papyrus. Chinese and Japanese created their own traditions. Renaissance masters used watercolour as a means of drawing for developing compositions.

In present day all the traditions of watercolour are practiced but the transparent watercolour is the most popular and spontaneous medium.

Srividya is a very keen observer of nature. She can capture essence of her subject matter from her surroundings. Present works are the combination of nature and urban life, like a cart of vender, Rickshaw, a car, small hutment with humans under bright blooming red or yellow trees as if these bright colours radiate energy to the surroundings. Her nature study of flowers with tree trunk and other also show life in them as well as the spontaneous application of brush strokes.

She has established her identity with her style. His works are realistic with a touch of some abstraction. Which may be due to the style or application she has adopted. Blooming seasons of our trees like Gulmohar and Amaltas trees has inspired her the most.

Moving in the gallery was a kind of celebration of colours. These small format watercolours are well controlled. The play of colour shows the confidence the artist have to eliminate the detail and bring the impression of the objects.



Group of four at AIFACS

Tones & Textures is the theme of paintings by Dr. R A Agrawala held between 8 and 14 February 2016.

Dr. R A Agarwala has done his Ph D from B H U, Varanasi but his artistic talent came out in childhood by seeing his mother's folk paintings. The village environment with mud houses and terra cotta roof tiles. This reflects in his village scenes. His mountainscapes are the impressions of Hardwar and Rishikesh which he has visited many times. His abstract paintings reflect some organic shapes or fossilized objects floating in the canvas space.

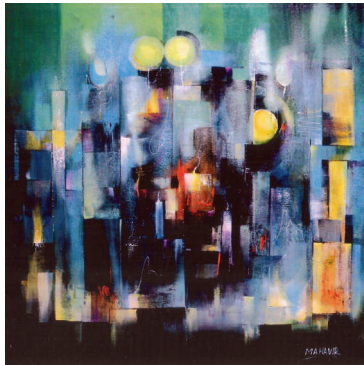
Dr. Rajendra Rajen has created Basantotsava through colours in his landscapes. His landscapes speak of the silence of the nature. Colours of tree leaves tells about the effect of seasons. His other works tell about some social issues concerning all. Suppression of woman like bonded labour without speaking of their freedom. Save daughter is another issue he showed through his paintings. These kind of issues are very sensitive and convey the message to change the male dominated society's mind set.

Dr. Rajbal is a colourist and an abstract painter who has played with colours on the space of the canvas. Movement has been created by the strokes of the brush. The force of the movement radiates energy to create some environment in the painting. Many planes are created due to the tonal values of colours. feeling of spaces create some dramatic effects. The contrast of colours red and blue complement each other. There are some works which have soft tones which create harmonious effects. The images created may look abstract but in this abstraction some identified faces of human being are visible.

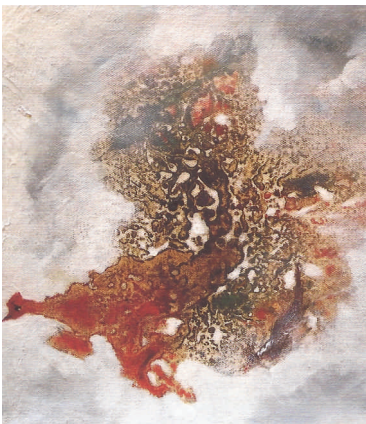
Dr. Mahavir Singh's 'The Confluence of Colours' are his paintings with abstract approach towards his present thinking. Dr. Mahavir Singh is basically a landscape painter who exhibited his watercolours in small format in this gallery earlier. But this time he has totally changed to abstraction and few figurative works. His female figure is reflected in the abstract strokes. Strong vertical strokes make his paintings serene. The head of a man is through the abstract strokes on canvas. Some spiral shapes create whirling force in some compositions as if some flying image with movement showing direction. The possibilities are experimented with shapes.



Dr. Rajbal



Dr. Mahavir Singh



Dr. R A Agrawala



Dr. Rajendra Rajen

Elegance of Life

Exhibition of Paintings by Kamini Baghel was held in the gallery of Lalit Kala Academi from 13 to 19 February 2016.

She graduated in painting from Khairagarh and after that she never looked back. She held many solo shows and participated in group shows in India and abroad including London, Mauritius, Netherland, Germany, France and Switzerland. She also participated in many National and International camps.

She mainly concerned with the relationship between humans as family or society. Relationship with nature has its own importance. Such relationship is strong, deep and close association between two or more people that may range for short time or for ever. This relationship may be based on love, solidarity or some social commitments. It can vary from family relations, marriage relations, friendship or relationship with associates, work, neighborhood or place of worship.

Kamini has tried to explore the relationship of Mother and Child, man and woman and friends. Her paintings have very simple and common figures of an middle class family. She wanted to establish the relation which we have inherited being a social being. She has experienced the family bonding, social relations and friendly relations.

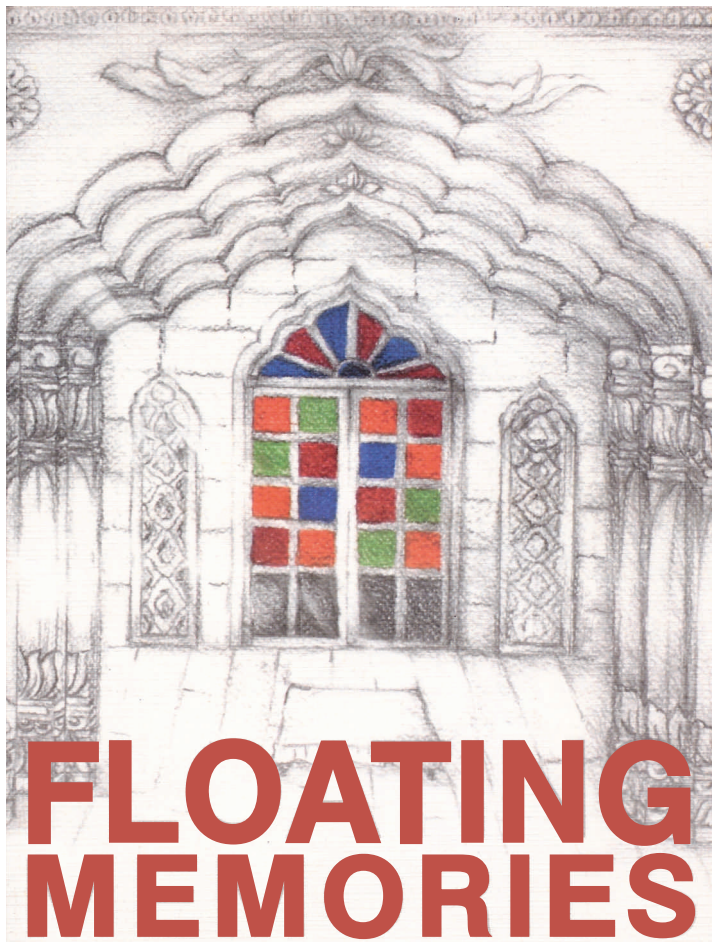
Simplicity of forms and application of colours with transparency and soft texture attract attention. Her compositions have one division which helps in narrating the story of relationship.

In her 'Elegance of life-1' has a family of four people and fifth person has been separated in a vertical block expressing some discord in the family or inviting to be part of the family.

'Elegance of life-3' has a direct contact of male and female relationship with body contact and with a flower in hand symbolizes an well wisher's offer for an eternal relationship.

Overall her paintings create a situation to communicate with the viewer. The situations created are common in today's life style. Simplicity in compositions is effective.





Padmini Mehta held a solo show of paintings in the gallery of Lalit Kala Academi from 21 to 27 February 2016.

Padmini belongs to Varanasi. She did her Bachelor of Art in painting from Krishnamurti Foundation, affiliated to B H U, Varanasi, Art Appreciation Course for Conservation of Museum and Historical Glass and Ceramic objects jointly organised by Conservation Institute Rome & Embassy of Italy with A S I & National Museum, New Delhi, Diploma in Textile Designing from International Women's Polytechnic, New Delhi.

She held twelve solo shows and participated in a number of group shows and art camps.

Earlier she painted from nature- landscapes and flowers. The present exhibition is her vision of different cities and monuments. Her theme of this exhibition is the memories of her visit to different places, different cities which fascinated her the most. She took the most memorable monument or buildings with reflection in water and paced them as per her vision to see that particular image.

Pranati Mehra writes in her catalogue, "Her present series is cityscape attempts to capture different places- big, small, religious, modern, rich in history, soaked in tradition, lucky to be regional flag bearers- as heritage symbols. Her paintings are an offering of gratitude and concern for their unique character, mood, architectural value, colour. She thinks that she must capture in time the still- flowing water bodies which deserve special attention lest their life- enabling character changes for the worst and we are left with concrete jungle, haphazardly developed and dirty river sites."

Leaving apart the mismanagement side of these cities and look at the paintings and its aesthetic approach of the artist then we value it as the work of art with justification. 'Millennium City- Delhi', 'City of Glory- Mumbai' 'Ever Lasting Love- Agra', 'City of Joy- Kolkata', 'Beauty of Thimpu', 'Vibrant Country- Russia', are just to mention few works which create impressionistic effects differently for each city as per the requirements of the Floating Memories.