

A R T NEWS



Monthly News Letter// All India Fine Arts and Crafts society, New Delhi // March, 2014

4th All India Digital Art Exhibition 2014 Inaugurated by Prof. R K Bhatnagar



4th All India Digital Art Exhibition 2014, organised by All India Fine Arts & Crafts Society was held from 17 to 26 February 2014 in the galleries of AIFACS, New Delhi .

With every exhibition the number of digital artists is increasing and also its popularity. Both in the national and international level the digital creativity we saw in the India Art Fair which concluded recently. Technology has given the artist advantage to explore impossible and convert into possible.

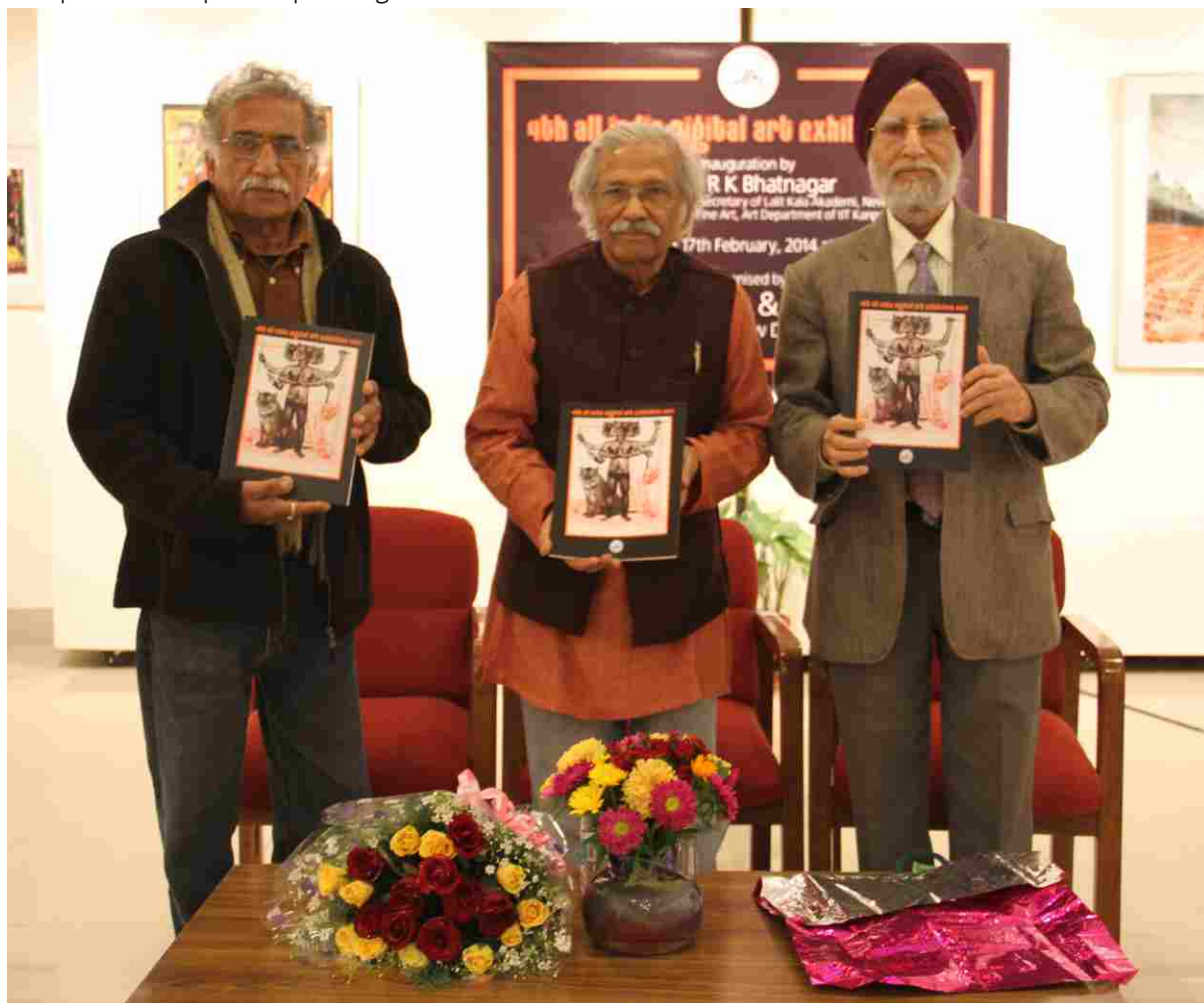
Digital art may be termed as an artistic work that uses digital technology as an essential part of creativity and digital artist can be described an artist who makes use of digital technologies in the creation of a work of art. Now both traditional or conventional artists and digital artists use all sorts of sources of electronic information and programmes to create their works.

In India still all the Graphic arts are not widely accepted as compare to painting on canvas and

paper. Where as some technologies are used to create work of art, the doubt arises to appreciate it as work of art like- lithography, etching, serigraphy, wood-cut, lino-cut and now the digital art has added another medium of graphics as well as painting, that is, Digital Art or New Media Art. Its creative viability and commercial viability is clearly defined because it involves creativity and knowledge of art and design elements and principles.

Artists are always at the forefront of technological revolution, whether designing for mass communication, animation, book designing, computer games, website designing or any kind of effects through multi-media.

This year the society received 135 entries and the solo jury Shri Pankaj Mahatta selected 97 works and recommended seven works for awards. Pankaj Mahatta (Mehta) belongs to a family of photographers. The Mahatta Studios have a distinguished history as one of the biggest and and the well known family runs studios in North India. He





Chief Guest Prof. R K Bhatnagar admiring works in the gallery

joined the family's studio after finishing his studies in 1986 and introduced digital imaging in the same year for the first time in India. He, along with photography does fusion art. In fusion art he combined photography, computers and some times paints to create final work of art.

The Award winners are Ravinder Dutt from New Delhi, Sovin Bhattacharjee from New Delhi, Rakesh Bani from Kurukshetra, Anand Jaiswal from Kurukshetra, Niloy Sen from New Delhi, Amita Prithviwasi from New Delhi and Chimna Ram Dangji from Udaipur.

Bird cage by Ravinder Dutt has shown the grandeur of the royal palaces where extreme luxury is presented with a surrealist approach. Shovin Bhattacharjee is a regular participant in Digital Art exhibitions. His architectural precision is seen in his works. Perspective and shadows play important role in creating dimension. Rakesh Bani has played with

shadows trapped in cuboids. There is action and movements in the areas fixed. Anand Jaiswal showed the face with chipping out flakes like pieces which also create a kind of texture. Niloy Sen's a single feather across the working area creates no noise, a work with minimum work. Amita Prithviwasi presented five small colourful abstract compositions. One can enjoy these small works in single units.

Chimna Ram Dangji worked with a blue human figure hidden partly with a huge banana leave. These smooth surfaces are enhanced with the textured background. Besides these award winner works there are many other works worth mentioning. Ajit Kumar's "The Hollow Adam" is a very intricate design. Anupama Kumari's "Pratilom" places Tajmahal in new perspective. Dhruva Sonar's "Avatar 1" is combination of man and beast. Manish Arora's "Shapes was an abstract composition with masses of black and red and blue around it created contrast. □

Chief Guest Prof. R K Bhatnagar addressing the gathering



Versicoloured days of Mine

An exhibition of paintings by Archana Das was held in the gallery of All India Fine Arts & Crafts Society, New Delhi from 10 to 16 March 2014. As the theme expresses the paintings of Archana Das are having various moods and bright colours. Her concepts are changing and her palette is changing as well. Her portraits, animals have folk like shapes and motifs. Some works give a reflection of German expressionism.

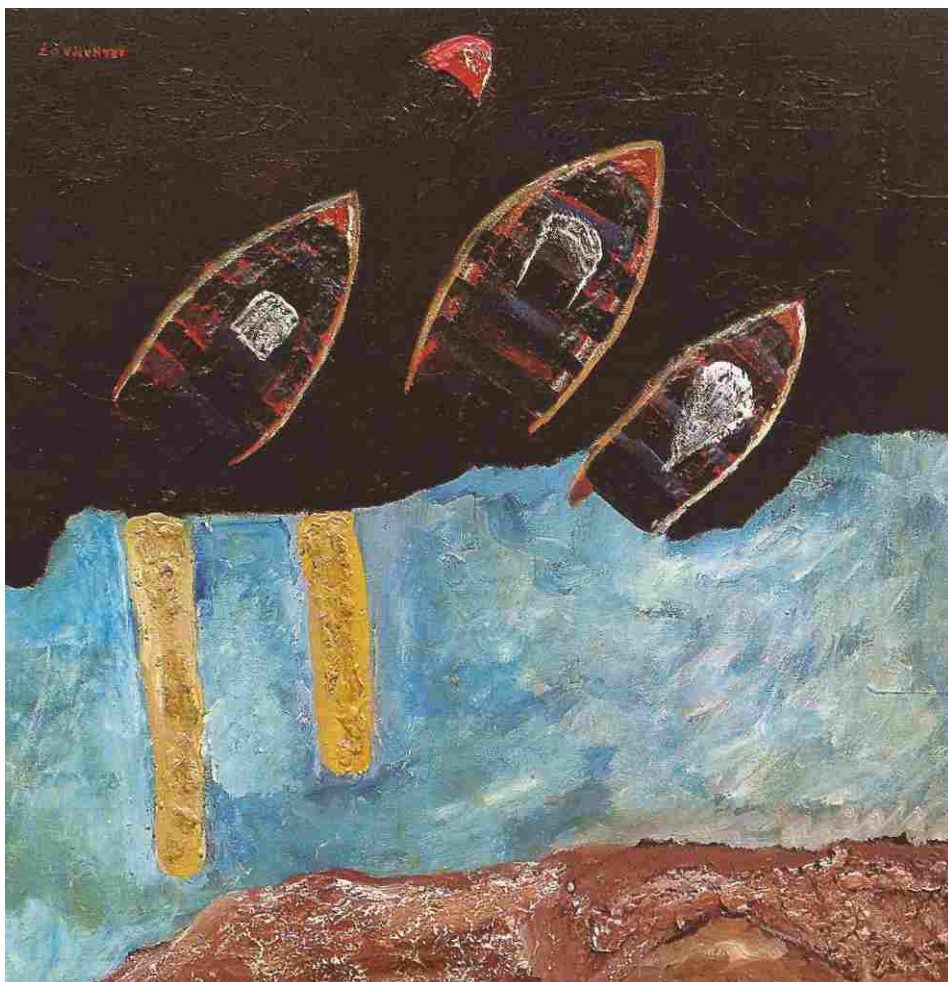
She expresses herself in the catalogue of her exhibition, "Throughout my professional career, I have always been in the field of sciences. However, since childhood, I have always had an inclination for writing poetry as well as making painting. During my time in the college I had to make many 'paintings' for my education in science; which are also known as diagrams. That is why 'making paintings was never missing. Thereafter, I married an artist; which is perhaps

why my longing for art got augmented."

Archana Das is an artist with a close contact with nature as well as social issues. She has done her doctorate in Anthropology and understood the physical and cultural characteristics as well as social and cultural relations with mankind as well as with other living beings. The relation with birds and animals has been explored with very conscious insight.

Archana Das might be self trained artist but she is comfortable in handling oil, water colour and acrylic colours. The application of colours have its spontaneous flow of strokes with comfort and ease.

Her elements in paintings are women and animals with a silent spiritual contact communicates every thing. Her works small or medium convey and hold the space infinite with all its elements intact. □



HEAD TALE

Exhibition of drawings by Soumen Bhowmick was held at Triveni Art Gallery, Triveni Kala Sangam, New Delhi from 15 to 25 March 2014.

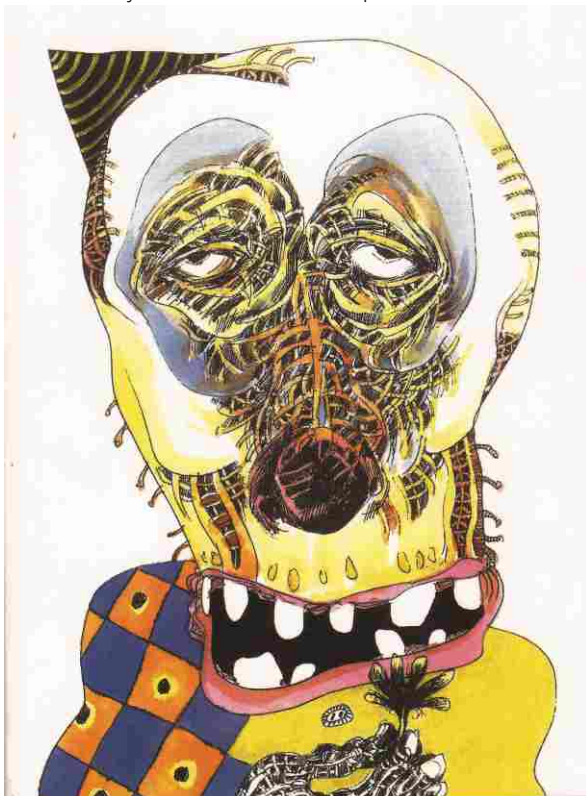
Soumen says, "One might ask why only head. Well, the head including the face is the real mirror of our soul. We read hundreds of faces in our life. Still we remember few, sometimes none. The head or face strikes you first and has its own story to tell. "HEAD TALE" is an assemblage of strange contradictions of contemporary life. Some faces will remind you of the friend you just met on the street or the stranger who just make you laugh with his uncommon acts. Among millions of faces, some are truly memorable, for reasons unknown to us. Just too hard to erase from ones memory. Why we treasure them, is truly mysterious. This unknown connection may be known as human bonding, so prehistoric yet surviving the troubles of our time. This element of mystery make our life naturally loveable. That

slight twist of eyebrows, that cunning smile, the pale look, happy faces hiding every thing beneath them, the anger blowing hot faces, old and tampered faces and so many of them. Scratched, curved, chilled, painted, pampered, cannibalistic, injured, glorified and drowned in pain. Faces unlimited."

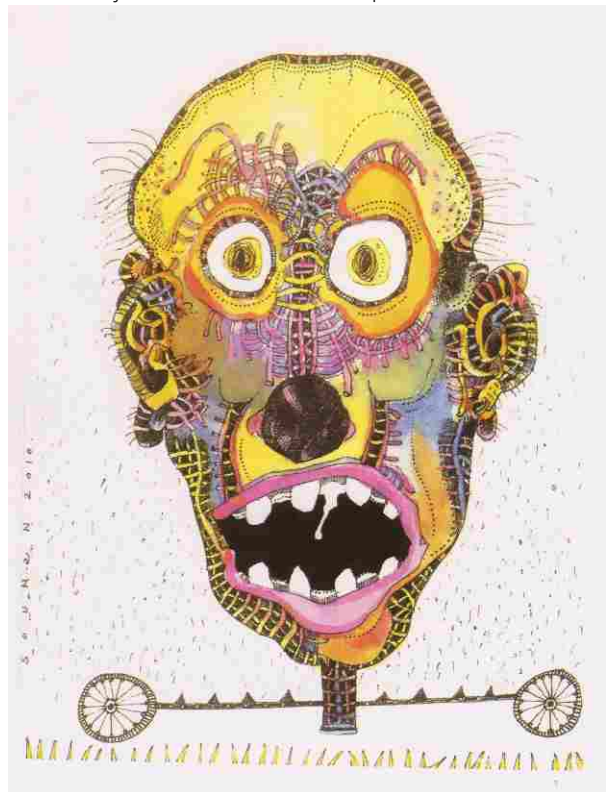
Soumen Bhowmick is a wanderer and experienced the people on the street with bitter experiences of life. Just to earn a square meal they have to do acrobats in street crossings in a high risk areas by their children. He has seen many homeless people live on the streets of metropolis as well as in small towns. Hopelessness is reflected on their faces. Soumen has been disturbed by such scenes of humanity. The best way for an artist is to express his feelings through his works. He has taken drawing as his medium of expression. Faces in a very satirical way. He has stretched feelings on every portrait to make it the loudest noise to be notices by every viewer and react.

The distortion is the most appropriate way to stretch these feelings. Ribs within ribs or veins take the viewer deep inside the face. The linear quality of his drawings has spontaneity and leads from one plane to another.□

Boozy Head Pen & Ink on Paper 8 X 6 cms.



Cycle Head Pen & Ink on Paper 8 X 6 cms.



mera gobind

An exhibition of paintings on the life of Shree Guru Gobind Singh was held in the galleries of All India Fine Arts & Crafts Society, from 25 to 31 March 2014.

Painter Anup Chitrak was inspired by the life of sikh gurus while he was illustrating a series on Dus Guru Saaheban in 1983. From then onward he thought of making a series of paintings on life of Guru Gobind Singh.

Chitrak hailed from Karnataka, graduated from Sir J J School of art and lived in Delhi as an illustrator and painter. He started listening to Gurubaani Kirtan every evening and studied many books on sikhism and discussed with many scholars of sikh history to understand to reach in

the core of the subject.

One day he noticed a falcon sitting on the terrace of his house and visited for a week at the same time. This inspired him more.

Sunita Bansal wrote in his catalogue, "The basis of his work has always been deep study and true understanding of the subject. He has been researching on Guru Gobind Singh intensively for over 5 years. Incidentally, the exhibition coincides with Hola Mohalla, a tradition established by Guru Gobind Singh, which also happens to fall in the month of March. Behind every piece of his creation, are numerous sketches, thorough research, inspiring music and true emotion."

Some of the sketches rather drawings were also displayed. Guru Gobind Singh in meditating posture was an excellent rendering. Paintings also had excellent rendering of colours with the lighting effects in all the paintings. The over all effect was as if you are moving in a renaissance period gallery.



of reclaimed identity faces

An exhibition of paintings by Puja Kshatriya 'faces of reclaimed identity' was held in the Open Palm Court, India Habitat Center, New Delhi from 29 March to 19 April 2014.

She graduated from College of Art, New Delhi in 1974.

She has held thirteen solo shows and participated in a number of group shows in India and Abroad.

Puja is known for a bigger format of canvas with a lot of energy in the compositions. This show of small format is not as Pooja's recognised format and becomes difficult for those who are aware of her earlier works, to view as her works.

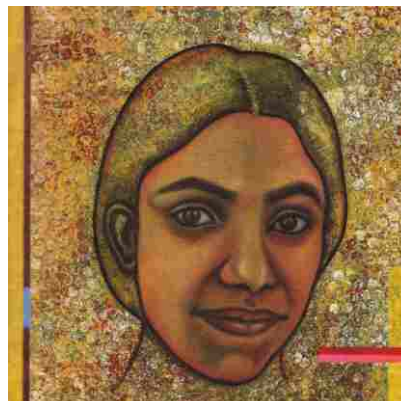
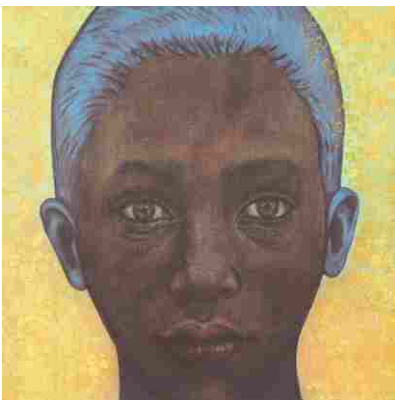
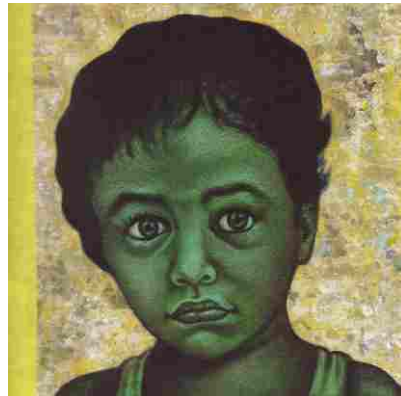
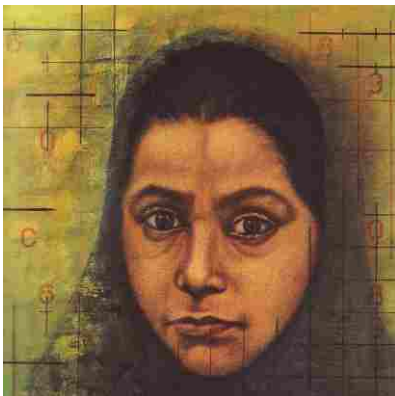
These small format portraits narrate many stories which may be left to the viewers. Young children straight looking at the viewer's eye hold the viewer for a moment. They may look helpless and demanding also but their silence keep the viewer stunned. If one sees repeatedly then their mood

and intensity of staring increases.

In Pujas catalogue JohnnyML writes, "Even in small format paintings Puja makes these faces iconic as if they were the gods and goddesses of their own times. She portrays faces and events through emblematic registrations. Though their identities are not fixed, they seem to have assumed the identity for all those who are dispossessed by socio-political and economic realities as well as (re) claimed by a parallel society that operates within the social networking sites."

"Interestingly, unlike her early works, she has invested a lot of tenderness in these images. While the earlier works debated the male-female relationships within an urban context through deconstruction and juxtaposition of images, in the present body of works. Puja gives each image a separate identity by giving each nameless child a new name. With their new names, these children who are often denied subjectivity and presence, on Puja's canvases acquire and reclaim their identity in society."

Puja has full command of her brush and colours. The treatment given the faces and mild scratching where ever necessary brought the tenderness of the individual skin. Textures in the background enhanced the faces.



The Phoenix Woman

Exhibition of paintings and sculptures by Renuka Sondhi Gulati was held in the Shridharani Gallery from 6 to 16 March 2014.

Renuka has been continuously working for more than 15 years. She has held six solo shows and participated in number of group shows. She has been participating in the annual all India exhibitions of AIFACS. She has many awards and honours to her credit.

As her title of Phoenix woman symbolises the present woman of equal strength has made her position in her working and living space. Most of the women artists in our modern time conceptualize her subject they reflect themselves to depict either the sufferings she goes through or the woman power with which she overpower the man dominated society. Though their works are simple and pleasing though some kind of struggle within her personal domain brings out the feelings of that concept. Her phoenix women in her painting space are very comfortable and relaxed. They are strong and well trimmed personalities. Some where they are in a meditative mood and their placing in the similar manner leads to some kind of silent



Expansion Bronze 15" X 11" X 11" 2013
dialogue between them. Other supportive elements in the composition narrate their own stories. Some patches like foot prints somewhere add to the compositions and somewhere they are not complementing.

Renuka presented sculptures also in which she has got some proficiency. She worked in bronze and fibre glass. Her figures are similar to that of figures in paintings. They are strong and confident. "The Bonding is the only sculpture which is a group of figures like a family. Some are in a meditative mood. The patina on these sculptures add to the dimension of the surface in its physical space.□

Feeling the Freedom Oil and Acrylic on canvas 48" X 72" 2013



FACE ⇌ FACE

A solo exhibition of paintings by Deepak Khandelwal was held at Shridharani Art Gallery from 27 March to 6 April, 2014.

Deepak hails from Rajasthan. He did his graduation from Rajasthan School of Art, Jaipur, did his post graduation from M S University, Baroda and PGCHE from Nottingham Trent University, London, U K.

His roaming eyes look for the faces with various emotions. Classifying is not the prerogative of the artist. He paints these feelings on his canvas.

Emotions are closely related with nervous system. Emotions are complex state of feeling that results in physical and psychological changes that influence our behaviour. Experience of fear usually occurs in response to a threat. Emotions are also linked with behavioural tendency.

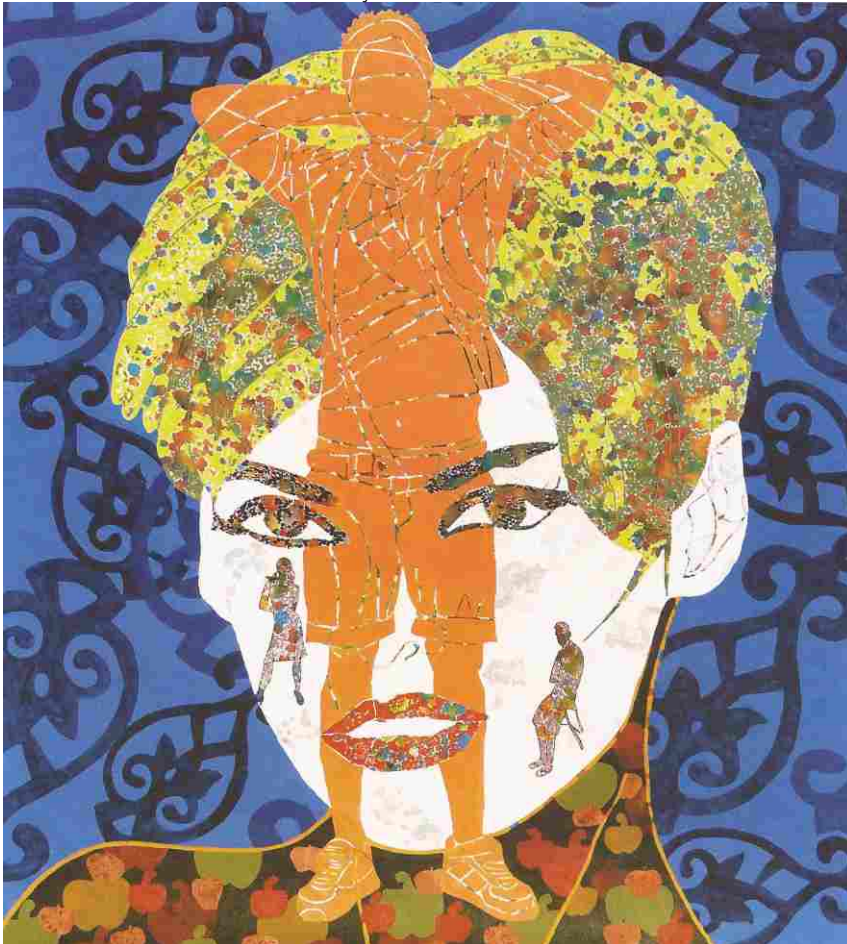
Extrovert people are more social and express their emotions where as introvert people are

more likely to be socially withdrawn and do not disclose their emotions easily.

Dr. Sweta Gupta writes in his catalogue, "We come across different people almost every day and in every walk of life. The aura around each individual persona is unique in its own way. Deepak has tried to expose these varied personas in his paintings. He believes that each individual is a beautiful creation and a gift of god to mankind and is born to serve a purpose called "life". But unfortunately, It appears that people have forgotten the actual purpose of their existence in the roller coaster ride of everyday struggle and the pomp & show of today's fake world. People try to portray a face which is very different from their real self. And to a great surprise the deception behind each face is to touch upon the meager ends of a futile life....."

Deepak's faces are sharp edged like collages with heavy textures. Superimposition looks as if the the standing figure has the same emotions as on these faces. □

Emotions - B Acrylic on canvas 57" X 48" 2012



SEEDS...

Kavita Nayar held her solo show in the Art Heritage , Triveni Kala Sangam, New Delhi from 18 to 26 March 2014.

She did her graduation from Santiniketan and her post graduation from College of Art, New Delhi. She held many solo shows in India and abroad. She also curated many exhibitions in Print Making under the banner of "Multiple Encounters". She was the vice president of Indian Print Maker's Guild from 1999 to 2000.

Kavita's recent works are based on seeds Referring the seed which is in the womb of the mother and nourished by her through umbilical cord.

Kavita says,"I often think of creating each one of my works has been like giving birth. Beginning with an impression, nurturing it in the folds of my mind and finally the almost miraculous moment when it starts to emerge into the world. A combination of essential thoughts and emotions

in me comes out in a format that is visible to the eye. I look at this work in front of me with a realisation that I am part of this marvelous chain and think in surprise. 'That is me but not mine". Her second symbol is the lotus flower, which she connects with the umbilical cord. In Indian iconography lotus (Padma) symbolizes beauty and purity. Though it grows in mud but the flower floats on the surface of water, away from dirt , untouched . The lotus leaf is a metaphor for performing one's duty detachedly, leaving the results of one's actions to God, Just as the leaves also stay untouched by dirty water.

In our religious poetry it is described that Lord Krishna as 'Lotus eyed one" Lakshmi, Goddess of wealth, is shown standing on a thousand petalled lotus. The body chakras are depicted as lotuses. Kavita has created most of the compositions with these two elements lotus and umbilical cord. The twisted stems of lotus flower is denoting the umbilical cord. The rhythm and delicate and sensitive relation is spiritual. This is the reflection of that who left for heavenly abode few years ago and she works with a foundation on her name.

Me the Flower multiplate etching 11" X 15"



Satish Sharma's recent paintings

Satish Sharma has done his diploma in arts & crafts from Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan and after that studied art under the guidance of Rameshwar Broota at Triveni Kala Sangam.

He held his solo show of recent paintings at Shridharani Art Gallery, New Delhi from 24 February to 5th March 2014.

Satish Sharma has transformed from his early figurative works to non figurative works.

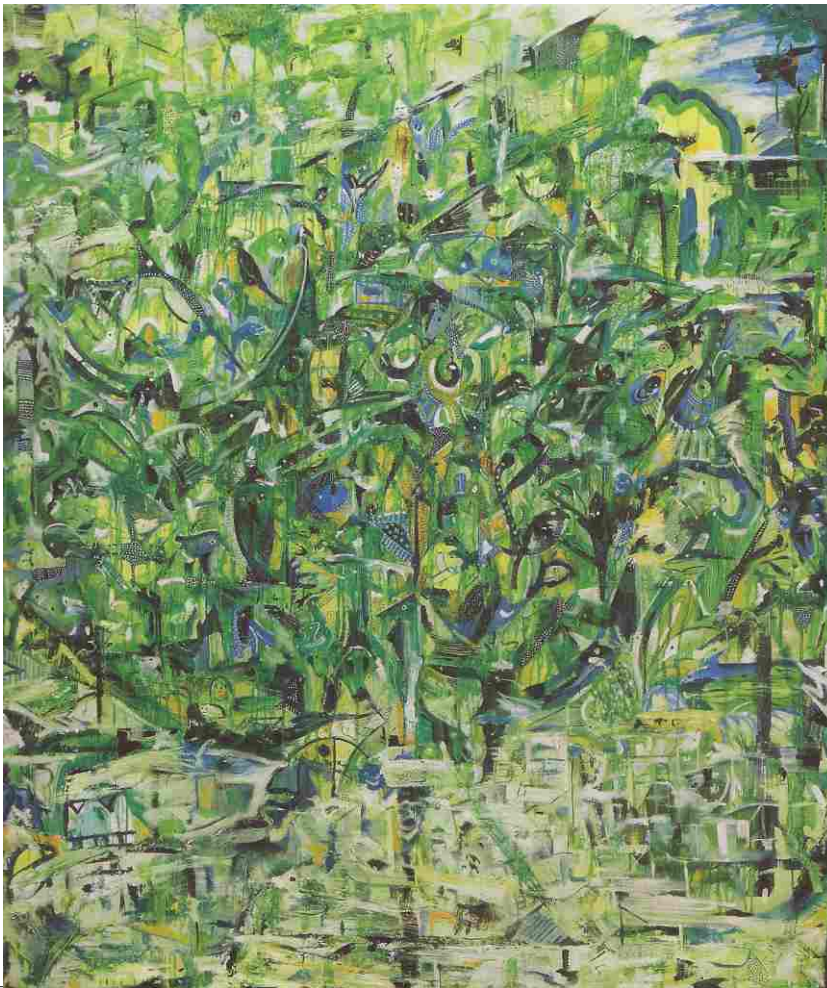
'Shape of the universe' is the theme of his paintings. A theme in which the whole universe can fit in with one's personal idioms. the canvas space can lead to the infinite distances. It is the painter who decides where he wants to stop the viewer. Some of his paintings give the feeling of an action painter or the painter who drip the colours and let it flow till the colour falls down to the other edge. A purposeful flow or a spontaneous flow and its over lappings create new dimensions in the picture frame. His other

paintings are over crowded with the city life elements and animals which are directly associated with human life. They are so crowded that they do not leave any breathing space in the composition.

Satish has given some quotations of some painters and among them Jackson Pollock said. "The modern painters cannot express his age, the airplane, the atom bomb, the radio in the old form of renaissance or another past culture. Each age finds its own technique." He developed his own style to paint with the force of his whole body specially the large canvases. Because of his style Time Magazine dubbed him "Jack the Dripper."

Satish is trying to find out his own technique of his age. His search is continuing and may find appropriate technique which brings individuality. "Art is a lie that makes us realize the truth." Pablo Picasso □

Shape of the universe 1 oil on canvas 72" X 60" 2014





All India Fine Arts & Crafts Society

Established in 1928

With the dawn of freedom movement of India the Society got a boost and Government of independent India received many cultural exchange programmes, such as exhibitions and Delegates. The Society came to the aid of Government and took up the job of Cultural exchanges with different countries and organised Art Exhibitions and also sent delegates to foreign countries between 1947 and 1954 namely China, Japan, Australia, Egypt, Turkey, Iraq, USSR, Poland, Bulgaria, Cuba, USA and Czechoslovakia (Czech Republic).

Exhibitions to be held in the year 2014-15

28 May to 3 June 2014 Exhibition of Paintings created in Senior and Junior artists camps 2014 held from 1 to 3 March 2014

5 to 24 December 2014 87th Annual All India Art Exhibition, 2014

21 to 30 January 2015 15th All India water colour Exhibition 2015
13th All India Traditional Art Exhibition
2015 8th All India Portrait Exhibition 2015

17 to 28 February 2015 5th All India Digital Art Exhibition 2015

3 to 9 March 2015 19th All India Studio Pottery Exhibition 2015

14 to 16 March 2015 Junior and Senior Artists camps 2015



All India Fine Arts & Crafts Society

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