

Call of the Divine

An exhibition of paintings by **Sandhya R Vaish** was held at Open Court, India Habitat centre, New Delhi from 25 to 31 July 2010. Sandhya did her professional course from Roorkee's Kala Angan (School of Art) and after being technically equipped, she stood first in a competition organised by the school. She says, "after that, I realised that I am more into water and oil colours and to show Nature to others through your own understanding, feeling and style is not any easy job at all."

For a small town girl, whose first priority was to establish herself in Delhi, it was a fight for not only survival but also a struggle to take forward the artist within herself to a higher and competitive level. Hard work and patience paid and Sandhya started participating in one or two exhibitions every year since 2007. Apart from AIFACS and Press club of India Art gallery, she exhibited her "Nature" works in the President House gallery as well where the President Pratibha Patil appreciated her work and said a few words which became a source of inspiration for her.

Over the years Sandhya's works as a nature artist has shown a progression which has now matured to another level. She has the unique ability to turn each work into unusual creative styling and makes her work particularly relevant also.

Any unfulfilled dreams yet-she wishes to go back and stay longer with nature once again, if she can.



Shri M K Bardhan

Life member and Vice-President of All India Fine Arts and Crafts Society, New Delhi left for heavenly abode on 1st August, 2010. Members and Staff of the Society pray to the almighty for peaceful journey to the departed soul.

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Shadow Spaces

An exhibition of **Kavitha Prasad's** water colours on deckle edged hand made paper was inaugurated by Sh. Keshav Malik, an eminent art critic and poet, on 26th July at Shridharani Gallery.

Kavitha's passion for art was recognised at early age by her mother Lakshmi Krishnamurty, herself a doyen of traditional Indian art and restoration and a pupil of the eminent artist Mr. K Sreenivasulu. Kavitha, under Mr. A Anjaneyulu's tutelage, began working with small format studies of nature.

An accomplished artist and architect, combines ideas, shades, shadows and lines to create works with great emotional range and depth.



Time and Light 19x66 cms 12008 Water colour on paper

Her recent works are characterised by delineating solid objects, playing with light to create dusty, partly lit, shadowy spaces. In this series she has used rugged hand made paper which is repeatedly washed, scrubbed and painted in the process of investigating new media-art form relationship.

Kavitha's evocative work has won her many admirers in India and abroad. Her watercolour and acrylic works are in the collection of the corporate office of Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and Residency hotel in Chennai, and private collections in India.



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Eight
Delhi Artists
celebrated
eighty-second
birthday
of
Shri R S Yadav
a veteran
Art Critic



Veteran Art Critic **R S YADAV** honoured

Eight Delhi artists decided to come together to put up a group show of their works at AIFACS for three days, from 13 to 15 July, 2010 in honour of Shri R S Yadav, the well known art critic who turned 82 on 13th July, 2010. The exhibition opened on 13th July and was inaugurated by Shri R S Yadav. In appreciation of this gesture, AIFACS also came forward to host a tea party on the inaugural day. The artists who formed this group are Ranjan Ghosh, S K Sahani, Prem Singh, Santosh Verma, Jivan Adalja, Hemraj, Koya N K P Muthu and Shovin Bhattacharya. On the occasion of the inauguration, a poetry session was organised ISAA (Inter-disciplinary society for Art & Aesthetics) in which many poets, Suresh Dhingra, Pavan Mathur, Umesh Verma, Vignyanbrat, Sushil Vats, Pratap Singh and Ashwin recited their poems. Presence of a large gathering of artists and art lovers marked the inaugural ceremony which was conducted by Sh. Ranjan Ghosh. Those who spoke on the occasion included SH. S K Sahani, Sh. Prem

Singh, Sh. Anand Dev, Sh. Vilay Kowshik and Sh. Suresh Dhingra. Acting Chairman, AIFACS and Sh. Yadav outlined interesting experiences and anecdotes of his long career as an art critic, poet and writer spanning a period of nearly six decades. The event was marked by poetic interlude by Dr. Preeti Prajapati, Sh Pavan Kumar Sh Suresh Dhingra and Sh. S Kumar. It is perhaps for the first time in recent times that an exhibition of paintings has been organised in collaboration with AIFACS to pay tributes to a veteran critic who has been around in the art world for such a long time. Indeed what could be a more befitting gesture by the artist community to honour Sh. R S Yadav.



SO TO SAY: REINVENTING MYSELF



R S Yadav
Delhi/13.7.2010

From 1951 to 1962, while in Bombay, I functioned mainly as a writer, writing both in Hindi as well as English magazines and periodicals (mostly serious journals in literature and philosophy). However, by 1962 much of the literary activity in Hindi and English shifted to Delhi, the National Capital. I too shifted to Delhi and found the scene pretty Intellectualized and vibrant. I got a good opening with the National dailies and periodicals in the Hindustan Times and Indian Express Group of Journals. Plus intellectual magazines like "The Century" and "Thought". Later on Sapatahik Hindustan(Hindi) too was added to the list. The stage was very vital and alive and literary controversies were rife with the second generation of writers like Kamleshwar, Mohan Rakesh, Rajendra Yadav raising their voices and stock against the establishment.

I joined on the critical side. And in 1964 started a journal called DHARA, a magazine of translations into English from Hindi and other Indian languages. It soon picked up and the now non-existent Tea House, close to the Regal Cinema, became our adda, (it lasted till the restaurant's closure).

The monstrosity of the Vietnam war like everywhere else in the world gave the young writers and artists the necessary impetus. Dhara not only got a footing but also acquired a voice (it also inspired the publication of literary journals in Kerala, Bengal and Orissa journals which acknowledged Dhara's contribution).

Art reviewing of course came last Stalwarts like Charles Fabri and S. Krishnan were dominating the field (Ms Jaya Appasamy to contributed her bit).

The younger artists' lot wished something to appear in Hindi journals too. So I began with Hindi and later on shifted to the "Evening News" of the Hindustan Times group of journals where I was asked to run a weekly art column by its editor Shri B.M. Sinha, a sensitive editor and an encouraging hand. And I worked for it non-stop for more than a decade till its closure some years back, covering almost every art show that was held in the Capital. And my constituency was of course the younger artists who were crying for a place in the run. (I witnessed their protest at the time of the first Triennial India in 1964).

I am of course happy to see that most of the artists I picked on are not only on the flood-lit stage but are approaching the celebrity status. Their elevation almost justifies my contribution to the Indian art scene (that is, in the Capital). In fact, that is my real reward. And I am grateful to the most of them for the respect they harbor for me (indeed it is they who ask me to write their catalogue whenever they have a show).

I am of course highly obliged to the Dhomimal Gallery's director Ravi Jain and his successors Smt Uma Jain and Udai Jain who have been a good company in some of the most hectic years of my art journey (I have had the privilege of organizing the first two Ravi Jain competitions and annual shows). And have written the Gallery's history that saw the light of the day some years back.

I am also obliged to most other art galleries who have, cooperated with me in reviewing art shows held by them over a long stretch of time like Gallery Espace's Ms. Renu Modi, Gallery Anant's Ms. Mamta Singhania, Art Konsult's Sidharth Tagore and the then Meena Tagore, Smt. Krishna of Krishna Gallery, Arun Vadhera of Vadhera Gallery & Ms. Tuntty Chauhan. And most of all to those critic colleagues like Keshav Malik, Prayag Shukla, the late Santo Datta, Manohar Kaul and Prof. P.N. Mago who always had a good word to share with me, often after inauguration of a show.

And finally, I am grateful to Lord Brahma who has kept me alive and kicking so far.

Art Exhibition and Income Tax Department

WORKSHOP

This is the first time that the income tax department of West Bengal and Artists of Kolkata came together on one platform to celebrate 150 years of existence of Income tax in India. It was on 24th July 1860, Mr. James Wilson, the first Financial Member of the Viceroy of India, introduced Income Tax in India as resource mobilization.

To commemorate the occasion Dhiraj Choudhury, an eminent veteran painter and a teacher came forward and curated a workshop and exhibition of paintings and sculptures by eminent painters and sculptors of Kolkata at town hall, 4, Esplanade Row, Kolkata from 12 to 16 July 2010. Shubhra Mukherjee, Amal Ghosh, Anita Roy Choudhury, Ajoy Ghosh, Amitabha Sen Gupta, Ashit Pal, Asit poddar, Apurba Choudhury, Bratati Mukherji, Biman Das, Bratin Khan, Dhiraj Choudhury, Dipali Bhattacharya, Dilip Das, Dwilen Gupta, Ganesh Halui, Gopinath Roy, Jogen Choudhury, Kamalakhya Ganguli, Manoj Sarkar, Niranjana Pradhan, P K Das, Partha pratim Das, Prokash Karmokar, Shubhankar Moitra, Sukhendu Pal, Shyamashree Basu, Suman Choudhury, Sunil Das, Sukumar Ghosh, Tapsh Sarkar, Tapas Biswas, Tarak Garai, Tapan Ghosh, Tapan Mitra, Tanmoy Banerjee and Wasim Kapoor participated in the camp.

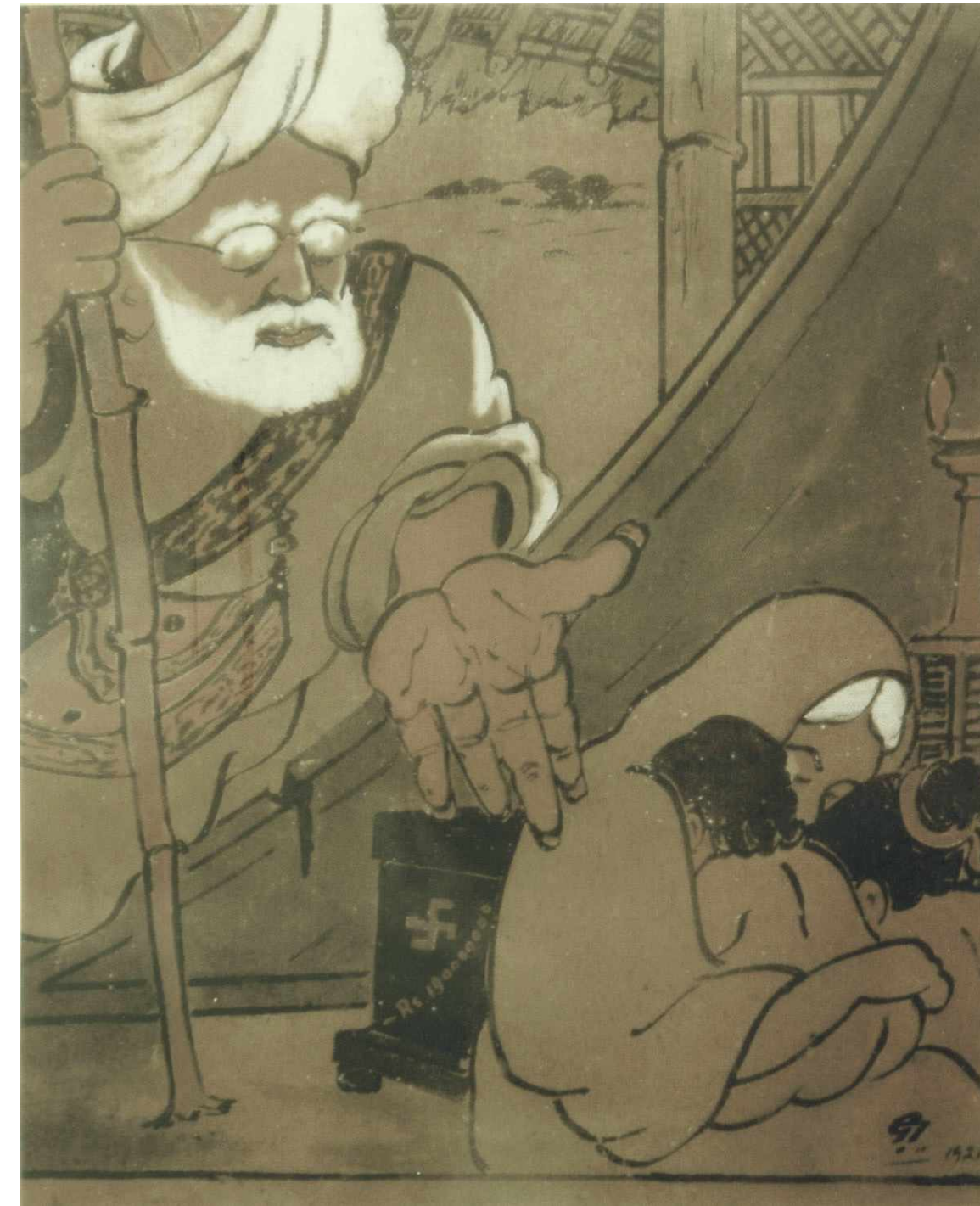
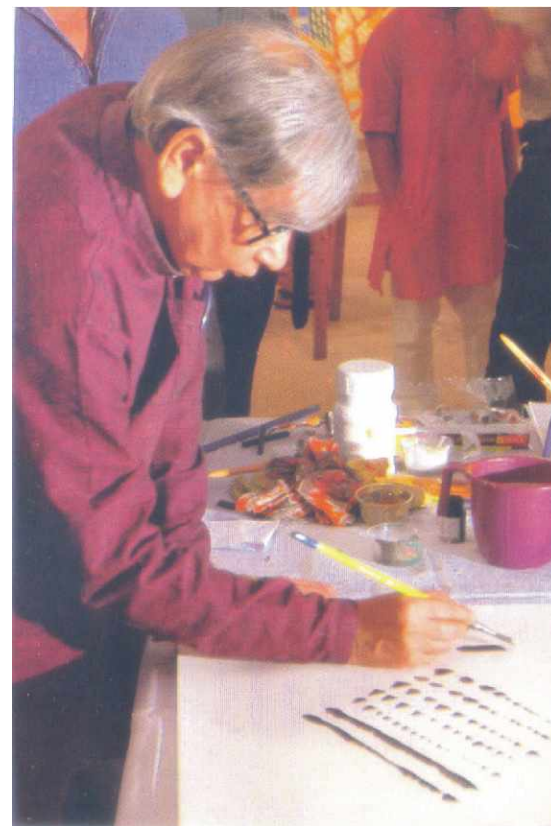
Artists from Delhi also shared to commemorate the occasion by participating in the exhibition which was held in the galleries of the All India Fine Arts and Crafts Society, New Delhi from 24 to 29 July 2010. These artists were Hem Raj, Jai Zharotia, Jagdish Dey, Jagdish Chander, Kalicharan Gupta, Krishan Ahuja, Niren Sengupta, Prem Singh, Paramjeet Singh, Rakesh Gupta, Suhas Nimbalkar, Santosh Verma, Sangeera Murty, Tapan Bhowmik and Vandana Prakash.

Mr. S S N Moorthy, Chairman, Central board of direct Taxes said "Contrary to the popular perception our officers are infused with multidimensional talents which find expressions in such creations. I also note with pride that the paintings which have emerged from this workshop are being exhibited at All India Fine Arts and Crafts Society, New Delhi."

In his foreword Mr. G Choudhuri, Chief Commissioner of income tax, Kolkata expressed "I hope through this exhibition of these exquisite works of art by eminent artists, a new and vibrant image of Income Tax and convey to the tax payers as well as the people of this country at large. I wish this wonderful initiative a whole hearted success."

Convener of the art camp and exhibition Ms. Bratati Mukherjee, commissioner of Income Tax, Kolkata is also a painter and participated in the camp with all the eminent painters of Kolkata said "We have also learnt from close interaction with these senior artists their view points on the functioning of our department and these have found expression in their respective work of art either in the form of painting or sculpture. The works of art had been explained by individual artists through his or her statement on the subject matter. It is expected that this workshop would go a long way in developing sustainable image of the department in the eye of the general public."

Eminent painter Ganesh Halui at work in Kolkata workshop



The reproduction of a painting the first "Tax Collector" representing Shri Surendranath Tagore as collector, painted by Shri Gagnendranath Tagore

Source: Catalogue, 150 years of service to the nation, Income Tax Department, West Bengal
Courtesy; Indian museum, Kolkata



Glimpses of the opening ceremony of the ART EXHIBITION on the occasion of 150 years of service to the nation Income Tax department, West Bengal Held at All India Fine Arts and Crafts Society, New Delhi 23-29 July, 2010



Summer Breezer

The exhibition 'Summer Breezer' brings together an eclectic mix of five artists and their respective works. The exhibition showcases an assortment of works ranging from pure abstraction to pure realism in art. All five hailing from the College of Art, New Delhi bring together the diverse spectrum the College believes in. This exhibition was held in Convention Foyer, India habitat centre, Lodi Road, New Delhi from 7-10 July 2010 and was inaugurated by Prof. Jai Zharotia.



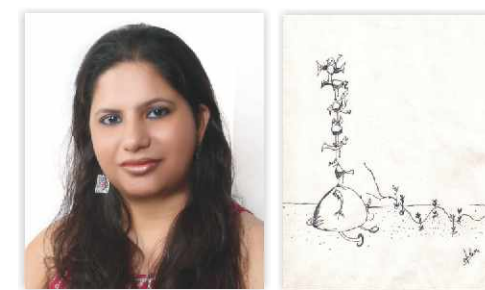
Chetna on the other hand uses complete abstract idiom to express the Urban Maze she dwells in. She draws her inspiration from the concrete complexities of the urban landscape and through her work simplifies the same, with bright colors being her forte.



Dr. Dhanpal's works forms a mid way between realistic and at the same time an attempt for abstraction. His works use a lot of texture and mix of bright colors to highlight the artists' attempt to bring out the various diversification possible with the human figure and expressions..



Miwon Park's works are like a take on the so called Modern Society that we very fascinatingly dwell in. Bright reds and a lot of decorative elements dominate Miwon's works yet the compositions appear simple and non complex. Visually her works are quite stimulating.



Deepika's works, mostly black and white uses a lot of Indian symbology, in the form of lines, dots, arrows etc. Deeply influenced by 'Kinetic Art' and Indian religious motifs, her work perfectly amalgamates Western with Indian expressions.



Myoung's beautifully executed absolutely realistic works are simple yet quite interesting. A lot depth and an attention to detail can be noticed in his works. Myoung seems to have found his space comfortably in natural Indian habitat.