

Reflections of Thought

VSB ART presents eminent artist

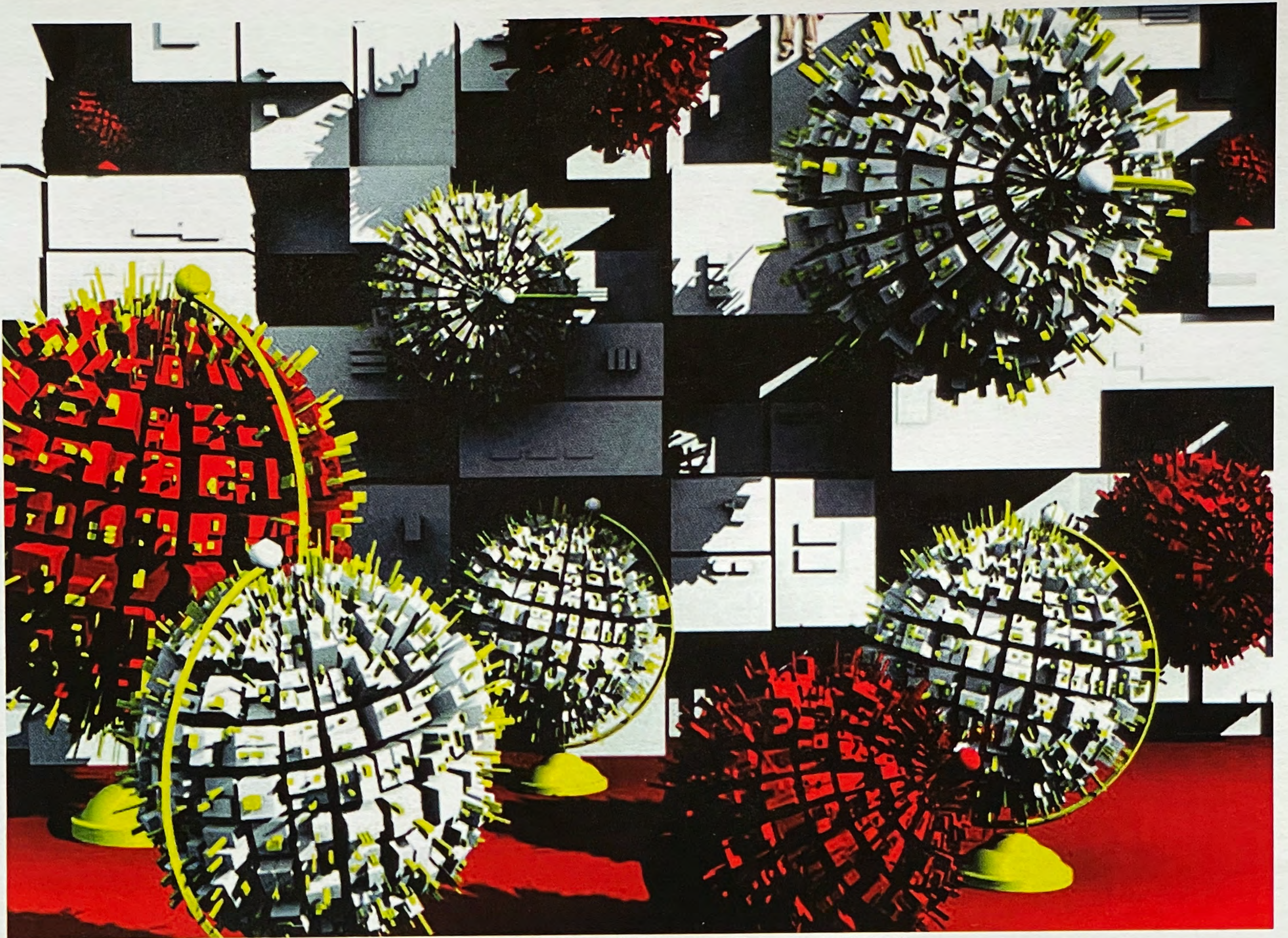
SHOVIN BHATTACHARJEE

By Lopamudra Pakira



Jewellery Designer and Art Curator Vandana Bhargava

Located in the heart of Delhi, India's capital city, at Square One Mall, Saket, VSB ART exemplifies the dynamic relationship between art and culture through art camps, workshops, exhibitions and other public programs. VSB ART has one of the richest collection of Lithographs, Oleographs, Old Nathdwara Paintings, Mathura Art Paintings, Pattachitra, Tanjore Paintings and fascinating Old Calendar Art depicting Gods and Goddesses of all religions that are not only an ocular pleasure and gratification to the viewer but also priceless assets. Owned and curated by the world famous jewellery designer, Mrs. Vandana Bhargava, VSB ART is enthusiastically supervised and enriched by her children Swati Bhargava, who is a NIFT, Delhi graduate in leather designing and Varun Bhargava, who is a jewellery designer having graduated from the Indian Institute of Gems & Jewellery,



Red in Universe, Mixed Media on Canvas, 2.6'x3.4'

Delhi. Vandana Bhargava states “VSB ART opened its door to the public about a decade ago. Since then, it has indeed been an unforgettable experience with art for me. Professionally, though I am a Jewellery Designer, pursuing art has, however, been my hobby as I have deep interest in India’s rich culture, tradition and heritage. This has led me to collect different forms of art since from very early days. And, I had opened

my art gallery – VSB ART with the basic objective to collect, conserve and showcase some of the rarest works of art, for the delight of future generations.”

It is also my effort, Vandana states, to promote serious endeavour in contemporary art that reflects theme, depth and deep thought. Over time, in association with some best known names in art, we at VSB ART have got created some stunning



Shovin Bhattacharjee



City on Water, Acrylic on Canvas, 4.5'x6'



Inner Quest, Acrylic on Canvas, 2.5'x3'

works that focus on India's unparalleled culture and heritage and a mere glimpse of these works is enough to stimulate viewers mind and thought. Today, my gallery, VSBART is closely associated with eminent artists including Dharmendra Rathore, Binoy Varghese, Pratul Dash, H.R. Das, Shovin Bhattacharjee, K.K. Gandhi, Ram Viranjan, Pradosh Swain, Anup Kumar Chand, Tapan Dash, Sachindranath Jha, Manish Pushkale, Vivek Sharma, Deepak Shinde, Yusuf, Suman Gupta, Ravindra Salve, R.B. Bhaskaran, ManashRanjan Jena, V.S. Upadhyay, Vijender Sharma, Gopal Samantray, Vinod Sharma, SomenathMaity, BaladevMaharatha, SibaPanigrahi and Amitava Das, among others.

Shovin Bhattacharjee candidly highlights the support being provided by VSB ART in keeping the tradition of art alive. He mentions that "We are now surviving in an era that is tech savvy. We have technology rule our lifestyle, our way of life, our culture and not to forget our art." Shovin Bhattacharjee who is also an art conservator and animator, says that he has never confined himself

toward any single kind of art practice, and his computer mouse is also his paint brush! His varied experiences in the field of arts interestingly extend



Eye, Acrylic on Canvas, 3'x3'



Family of Designers : (l to r) Swati Bhargava, Vandana Bhargava, Sunil Bhargava and Varun Bhargava

from that of learning the master strokes while conserving the art works of the master artists like Nandala Bose, Raja Ravi Varma to that of creating a

three dimensional view of the Ajanta Caves. With formal training in animation, Shovin creates myriad digital art works where he employs planned geometric architectural structures, three dimensional, surreal and picturesque panoramas in bizarre settings where the viewer can easily get lost in.

Awarded the 'All India Gold Award' in Installation Art, Digital Art and 'All India Silver Award' in Installation Art by the Prafulla Dhanukar Art Foundation, Mumbai in the years 2016, 2015 respectively, Shovin finds his inspiration from distorted imagery, mirror reflections, and shadows. As Ernest Holmes says, "Life is a mirror and will reflect back to the thinker what he thinks into it.", so does the artist. He states that though it is true that the mirror does not lie but when a mirror is showing a distorted reflection, it of course is lying. This is best represented in his works Through My Window and Metro-scape. Every distorted mirror represented the diverse stratum in the society in which lies the age old saying unity among diversity. Among all the



Wind Chime, Acrylic on Canvas, 4'x4'



Untitled, Acrylic and Charcoal on Canvas, 5'x3'



Inner Quest, (dyptic), Acrylic on Canvas, 8'x4'

design, surreal gimmicks in his artwork, in it also inhibithumour, absurdity, satire and spoof. Shovin's art has the ability to point out the deficiencies in certain human behaviours and the social issues which result from them in such a way that they become absurd, even hilarious, which is therefore entertaining and reaches a wide audience. His enthusiastic humour also has the ability to protect its creator from culpability for criticism, because it is implied rather than overtly stated; and thus in his work Global Warming the red hot chillies depict the most imperative apprehension of global warming. Shovin's compositions are bounded at one extreme by the regular polyhedrons, the strenuous stereo metric forms, by spheres, by an infinite number of planes, by thermomorphic patterns, or also birds, canines, felines, fish, spectral human shapes etc. These patterns can transform themselves into squares, or they dissolve into waves, losing their identities. There are successive transformations. It

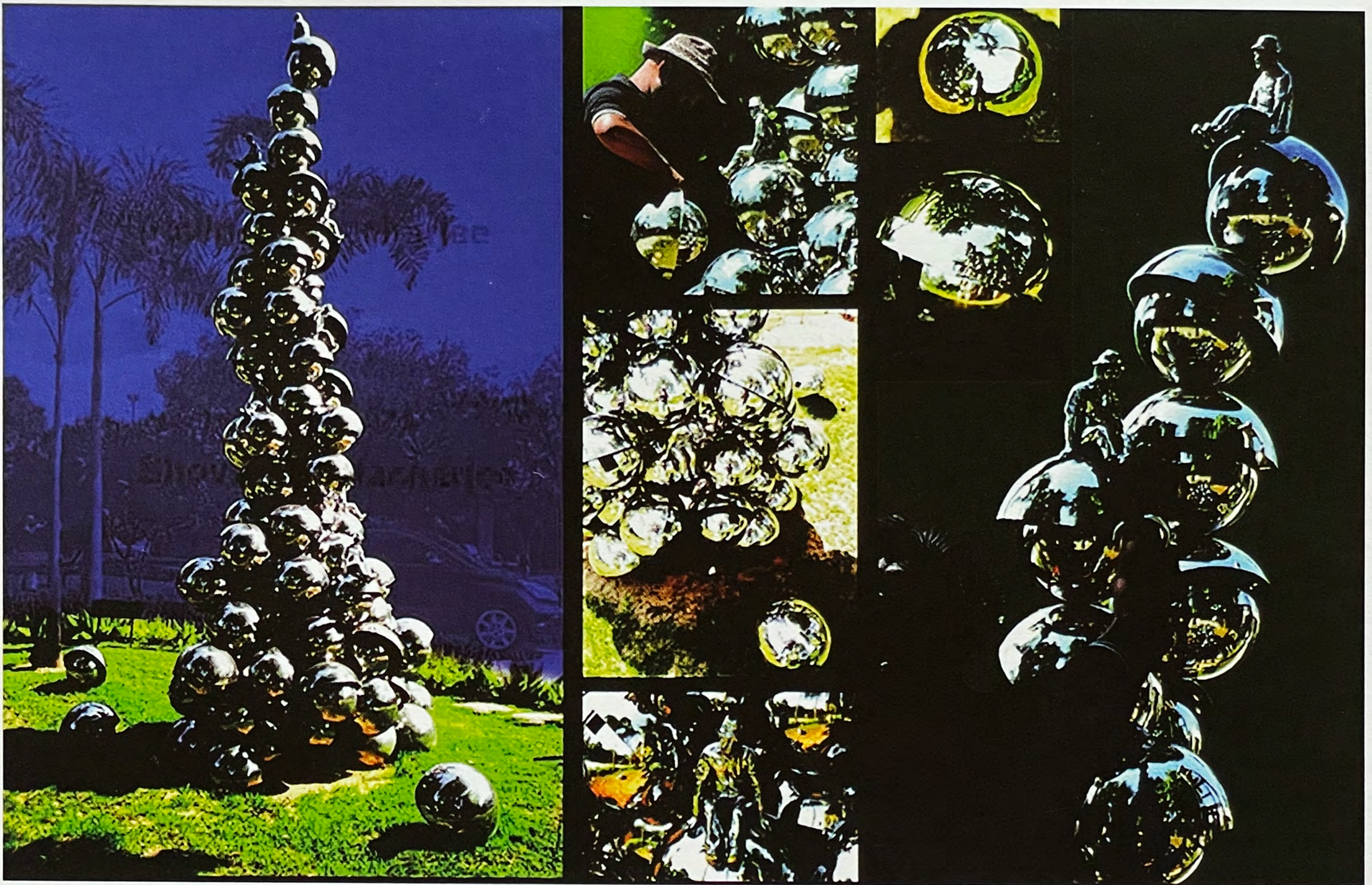
is, as it were, every detail can metamorphose into oddity.

His works illustrate monumentality, scale of urbanisation. Within this urban landscape and surreal regular polyhedrons, the arduous stereo metric forms, spheres, theomorphic prototypes, and also birds, canines, felines, fish, ethereal human shapes, Shovin uses small depiction of himself and often tends to become the protagonist of his own work. Works Rail-Habitat and City on Water astound the viewer and one cannot but question if god's own world looks like this. His merges his perspective – bird's eye view together with front view. This unanticipated amalgamation gives his canvases a state of uncertainty, however these sooner or later transmute into idiosyncrasy. Shovin's art tries to wake us up to the basic strangeness impending behind taken for granted monolith structures, whether grand buildings or gross dogmas. The only sound axiom being that there are other truths behind the one truth. So if on one level, this work offers pleasure and amusement, on another it poses serious questions. Included in this exhibition are also the artist's digital prints and other works based on India's ancient caves. These are sober, exacting recreations of an ancient world. But he has created a beautiful set of works in pure white, using a classical structure. Here we observe the artist become an architect or a landscape choreographer. His work uses this as inspiration to transcend the boundaries of classical art.

Shovin does not limit himself to only digital art work or canvases. The viewer can be more content once they look at his good-humoured, conceptual installation which pokes fun at the illusion as well as

Inner Quest (Installation), Medium :
Stainless Steel, Fiber Glass and Painting
on the Wall, 22'x17'x2'





“Mystery of Life” (Installation), Stainless Steel and Aluminium, 14’x8’x8’

endow with brawny communication and Shovin’s response to the social, economic, political conditions around him. The Mystery of Life is a 14 feet high outdoor installation that again satirically comments on how the various stages of life are faced by any human being. The stainless steel structures represent how any human being begins their life within a crowd of people but soon find themselves on the top of the

ladder but all alone, thus leading to the fall of the person. Yet another interesting installation where Shovin plays surrealistically with perspective is Inner Quest. Trapped within the growth of urbanisation, this installation made of stainless steel not only reflect absolute geometric perfection but repeats the artists concept of shadow, distortion and impairment.

Exploring the idea of absolute space, surreal ideas, absurdity, lampoon and satire, Shovin creates a wonky world that will make anyone think if the Gods were actually crazy?! ■



Rail Habitat, Acrylic on Canvas, 4’x5’



Lopamudra has a master’s degree (gold medalist) from Maharaja Sayajirao University, Baroda, Gujarat in Art History and Aesthetics. She has a very good knowledge of Indian history, art, architecture and sculpture, critical writing and art criticism and appreciation. Also

studied contemporary European, western modern and post modern art, art of China and South West Asia. She is an art writer and blogger. She was Assistant Lecturer with Sri Aurobindo College, Delhi.

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VSB ART
(Curated by Vandana Bhargava and Swati Bhargava)

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