



K.K. Gandhi, Acrylic on Canvas, 48"x48"



Manas Ranjan Jena, Acrylic on Canvas, 48"x48"

■ REVIEW ■

ART OF CALLING

by Sonam Agrawal

It is truly said that art has its own unique charm and wings that attract people from all walks of life. About a decade ago, artistic culture and its vast heritage brought a renowned international - famed jewellery designer Vandana Bhargava into its fold. Though she does not professionally belong to the art fraternity, she has mastered herself in curating exhibitions, camps, events and many more.

Vandana designs precious ancient and art-inspired jewellery from India, China, Egypt and Rome. Her contemporary jewel pieces are admired for their delicacy, intricately detailed finish and softness of touch.

Vandana's array of creations uniquely has elements of art in her creative ornaments with an assurance that each item is produced with highest quality and precision. Her each collection stands



Binoy Varghese, Acrylic on Canvas, 48"x48"

for the true elegance and beauty of gems and precious metals which outshine others.

Her 'Signature Jewels' under the Brand name 'White & Yellow' are possessed by some of the best known names across the globe and she has exhibited her creations in more than 20 countries earning wide-spread acclaim.

In the art field, Vandana is an innovator and visionary whose goal is no less than to radically reinvent, collect and conserve some rarest works of art from folk to modern, bronze casting, handcrafted silver plates and filigree objects which are fast disappearing due to lack of proper marketing and exposure to the art world.

Through a diverse practice, which includes conserving, housing and promoting ancient forms of art and crafts and plans for providing artists a unique yet easy platform for their creations, she has shifted the focus of curators from just organizing art events to promoting and perpetuating the rich Indian heritage. She has levitated art above the weariness induced by proper management, resurrecting its avant-garde tendencies and injecting a new sense of responsibility.

“I have a boundless love for Indian's temple architecture, stone carvings, bronze castings, silver filigree, murals and paintings. I, therefore, am deeply involved in conserving these works of art and am engaged for past few years in promoting artists, traditional craftsmen and sculptors who continue to practice our ancient forms of art despite many odds.”



Dr. Sunil K. Bhargava & Mrs. Vandana Bhargava

For the purpose, she launched a platform Galleria VSB at Square One Mall in Saket about a decade ago where she houses some early lithographs, oleographs, old Nathdwara paintings, Mathura art paintings, pattachitra, Tanjore paintings and fascinating old calendar art depicting gods and

goddesses of all religions, freedom fighters and the innate beauty of a woman.

The gallery organized an exhibition 'The Art of Silence' from April 18, 2015 to April 30, 2015 to display the finest art works produced by famous artists at Konark Sun Temple, a world heritage site, in Puri of



Dharmendra Rathore, Acrylic on Canvas, 48"x48"



Anup Kumar Chand, Acrylic on Canvas, 48"x48"

Odisha in April, 2014 and at Manali in the lap of mountains in November 2014. These two camps provided an opportunity to eminent artists from across India to display their 'passion in silence'. People from world of art and fashion gathered here on the opening day. The show 'The Art of Silence' was very well received and has in fact become the talk of the town.

The first national level art camp featured eminent artists,

including R.B. Bhaskaran, Vinod Sharma, Vidya Sagar, Amitava Das, Ravindra Salve, Somenath Maity, Manas Ranjan Jena and others.

R B Bhaskaran's repertoire is inspired by some African tribes. His subjects seem to have been a part of these tribians. They are placed in deep shadow with light from a distant source striking one side of the face. They are sensitive and appear rather contemplative.

Vinod Sharma draws surreal landscapes, deserts having the limits of water. It, at times, instills hopes of achieving desired results though we have no means of surviving while Vidya Sagar has weaved his that-time thoughts and emotions into with a varied range of hues on canvas.

Amitava Das' concept is a reaction to happenings. His series works as fora of opinions whether political or cultural. His brushes have become a language to speak the mind of a true urbanite, who does not want to be judgmental but wants to have a say in each and every happening around him.

Siba Panigrahi splashes vibrancy of colours of nature like gradient of turquoise blue up to the horizon in the river mouth of sacred Chandrabhaga in Konark city of Odisha helping him paint the melody of dream in the sky.

Manas Ranjan Jena depicts a woman's era which is rich both in details and colours. He

Manish Pushkale, Acrylic on Canvas, 60"x36"



Pratul Dash, Acrylic on Canvas

emphasizes femininity which reflects her beauty and faces the forces of an adverse social system. He paints symbolic and abstract harmony of women's beauty being free from her fantasy storyline or social commentary style.

Taking the opportunity of organizing the event in Odisha where sculptural art has been carved out in each and every temple's walls, Baladev Maharatha emulates the elegant female sculptural figures on the walls of the world famous Sun temple though he bifurcates them in his style.

Ravindra Salve incorporates bold use of colour suggesting a virtual flight of fantasy. Figurative and religious themes

give shape to his ideas. His best quality is he uses larger than life images in sense of proportion as well as colour while another artist Gopal Samantaray works on king and as a king of his field. He portrays a lion roaring and giving a call to his friends and foes as for life he requires both. The style of Deepak Shinde is making his paintings a celebration of hues not in the thoughtlessly liberal sense but rather a celebration of the spirit within. Simple and spontaneous in a blaze of colours, his work has a distinctly rustic feel.

Suman Gupta depicts people in everyday actions along with variable objects. They are taken from anybody's life of which he becomes a part of. He often

pairs two or more disparate elements to get an iconic twist, a new signification that decontextualizes those presented. Rendered to minute details, the paintings allow onlookers to have a feel of local flavors and raise existentialist issues while Somanth Maity uses lots of fluid and luminous shades to bring eloquent his work with the influence of Konark temple.

About the camp, Mr Manas Ranjan Jena says, "The tranquility influence of golden sea beach, majestic Sun temple, rich signature of Odisha art and heritage played as an encouraging factor for the participating artists in celebrating the aesthetic opportunity."



Varun Bhargava, jewellery designer



Swati Bhargava, leather designer



Pradosh Swain, Acrylic on Canvas, 48"x48"



R.B. Bhaskaran, Acrylic on Canvas, 48"x48"

The second camp at Manali organized by Galleria VSB brought together the big names, including Manish Pushkale, Pratul Dash, H R Das, Tapan Dash, Sachindra Nath Jha, K K Gandhi, Binoy Varghese and others.

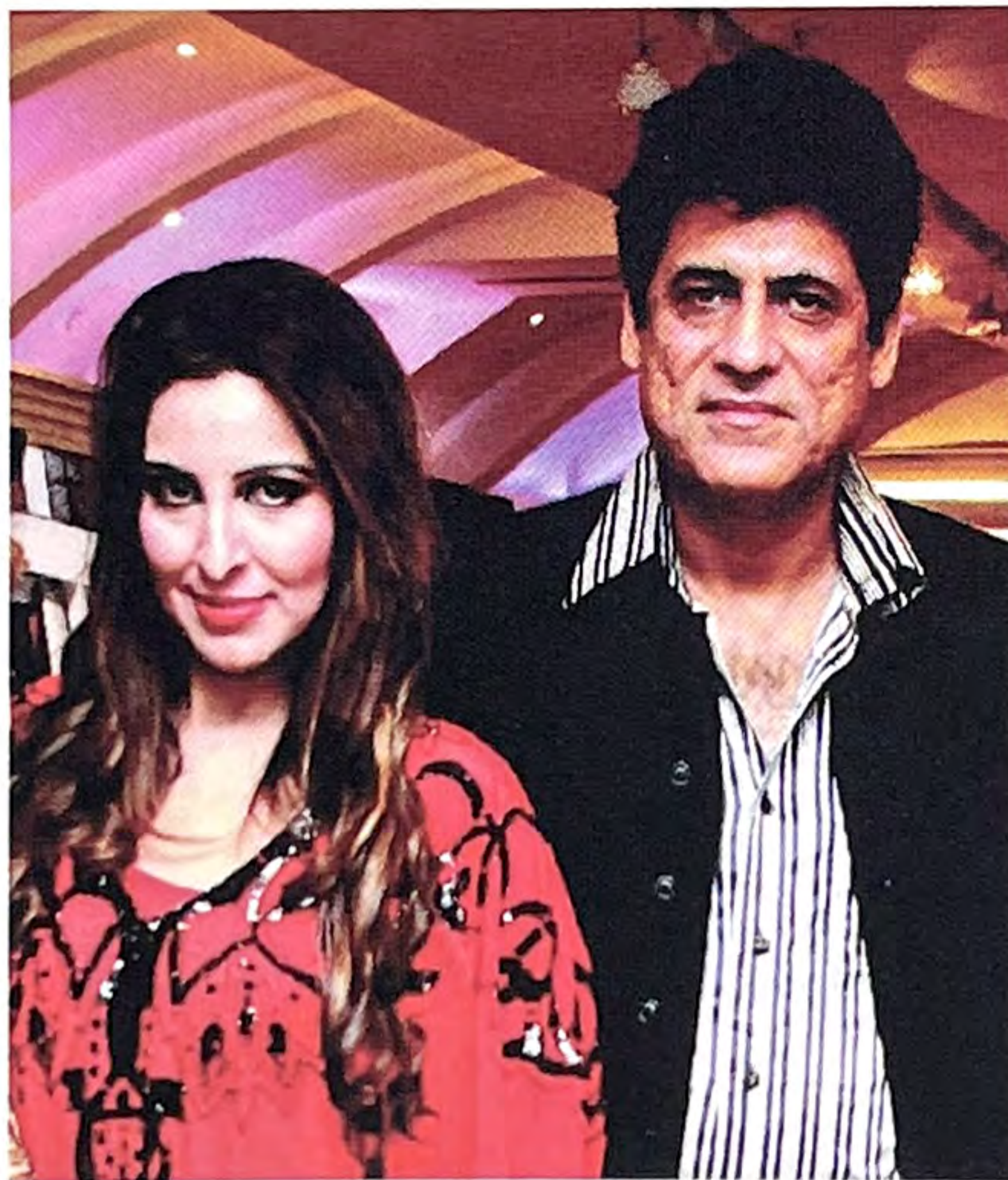
Binoy Varghese sketches plight of migrants or people, especially children and women, affected by natural calamities or sometime manmade disasters. He weaves on canvases these people's emotions and feelings of losing their near and dear ones, land or hutments in such tragedies or on the name of developmental projects. He then paints this string of emotions with new hopes and dreams of rehabilitation.

The works of Dharmendra Rathore seem to be inspired by musical instruments, vivid colours, miniature paintings and colourful clothes of Rajasthan.

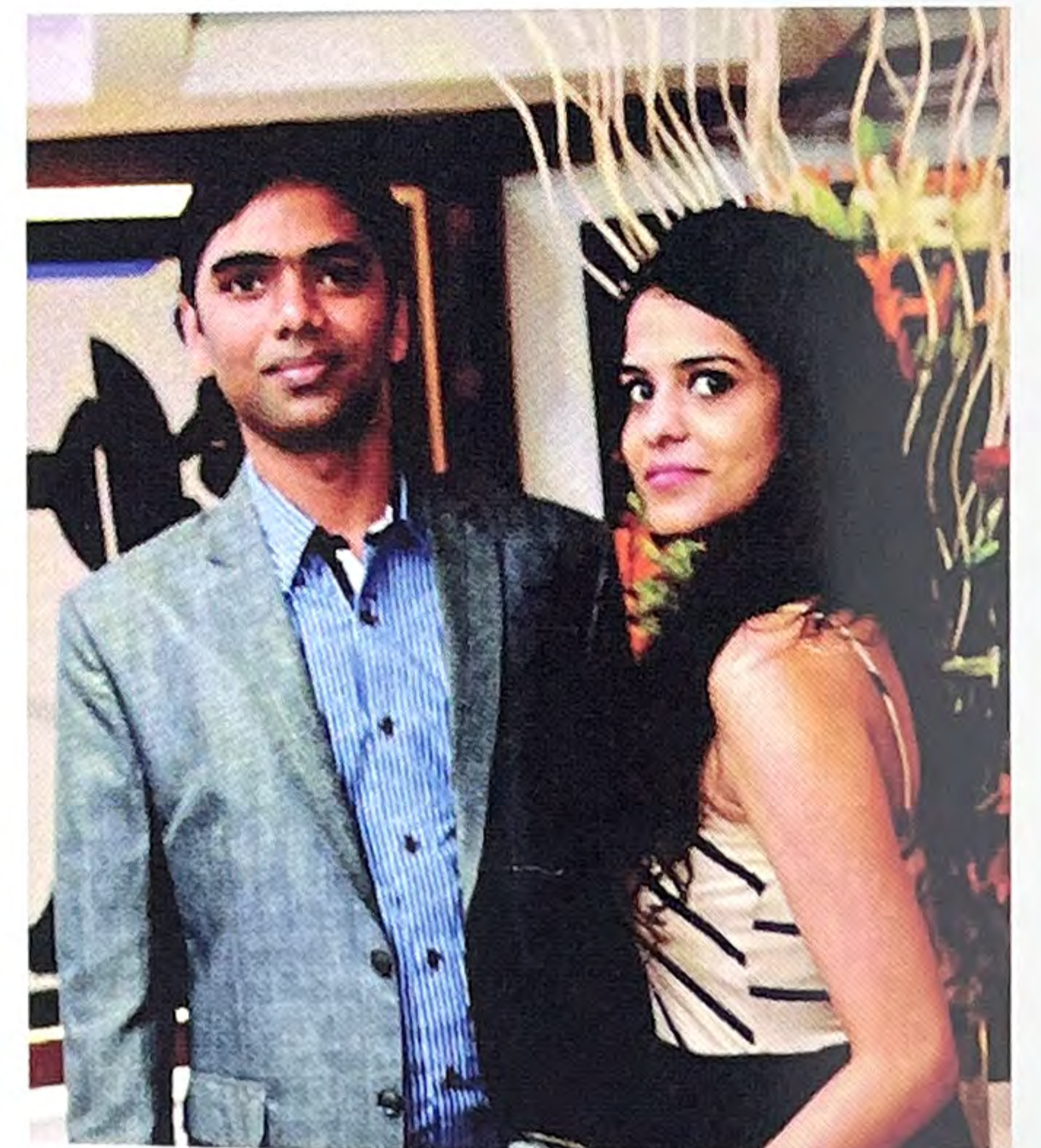
Manish Pushkale largely and candidly plays with colours. His canvas evokes texture forms with shades becoming the core around the theme. He aims to

paint an artistic quest within him amid the immersive environment within which he explores textures.

Pradosh Swain's frames reflect the technology era where nature itself in the dilemma of losing the identity of



Mr. & Miss Sonia Kapoor



Prateema with a friend



Namisha, Vineti & Sanny



Sameer, Rishab & Jaiveer



Vinod Sharma, Acrylic on Canvas, 48"x48"



Shovin Bhattacharjee, Acrylic on Canvas, 48"x48"

its characteristics. Technology and no-time-for-others theme has engulfed the nature-created society in such a way that the nature is compelled to protect its components itself.

Focusing on contents and expressions and capturing moments with photography and video, Pratul Dash moulds his thinking in re-working and representing the old photography with low-tech theory. His works express concern with neo-liberal urbanization and resultant socio-economic fall-outs of the subject.

Anup Kumar Chand emulates a toddler's happiness on seeing birds, kites, butterflies and moon. He is no more afraid of dark or big cats which in turn staring him with hungry and cold blooded eyes. He, however, splashes dark shades of red and black to contrast the natural theme.

Nature, traditions and ambience takes away K.K. Gandhi's creativity into a new direction that his repertoire

merges the boundaries of past and present. The picture of dawn taking a bath in first few sun rays and a girl attired in a

traditional dress taking her flock of sheep for grazing soothe art lovers' eyes. It gives fresh deviation from so-called



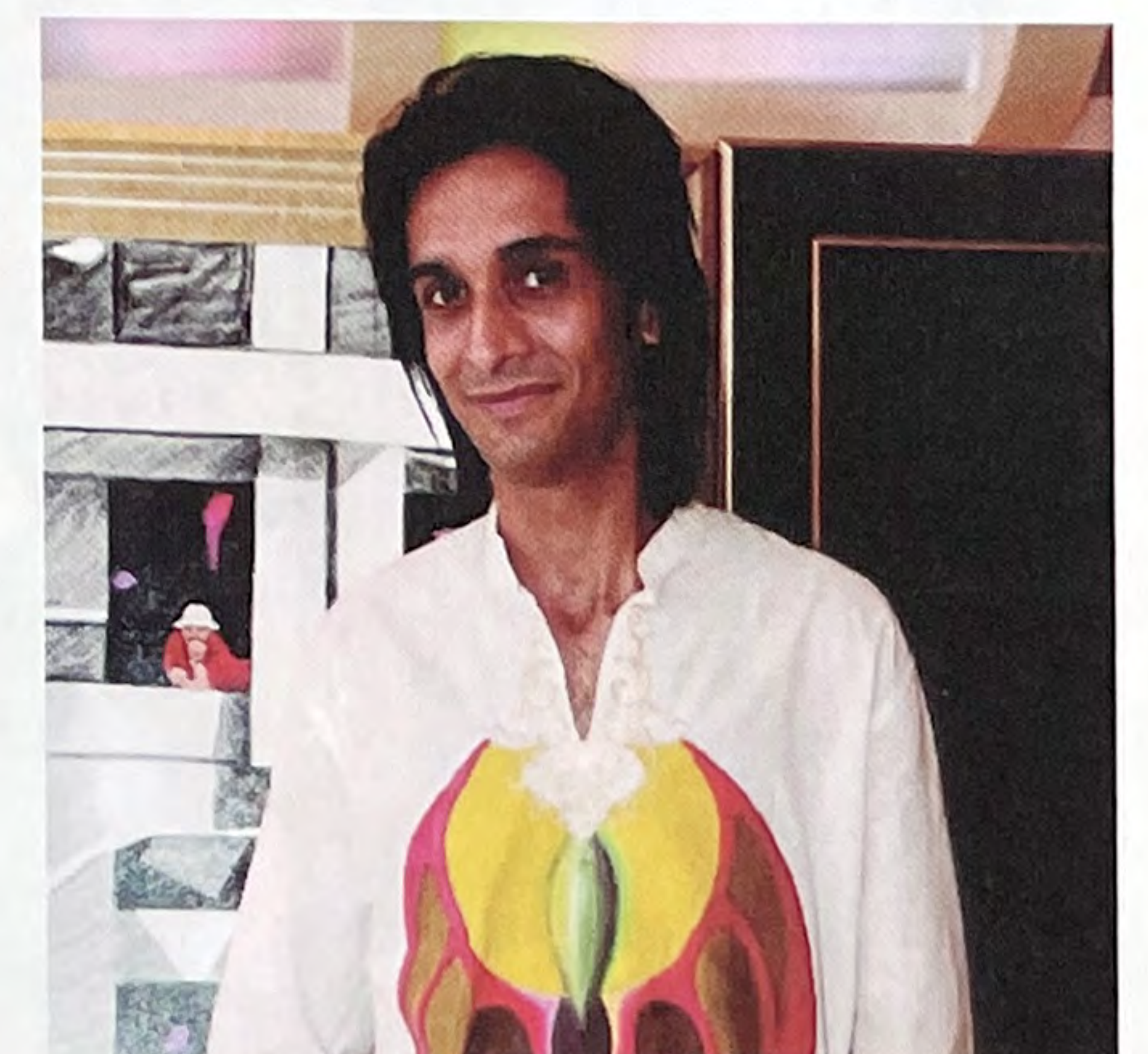
Amitabh Acharya



Lalit Soni & Suman Soni



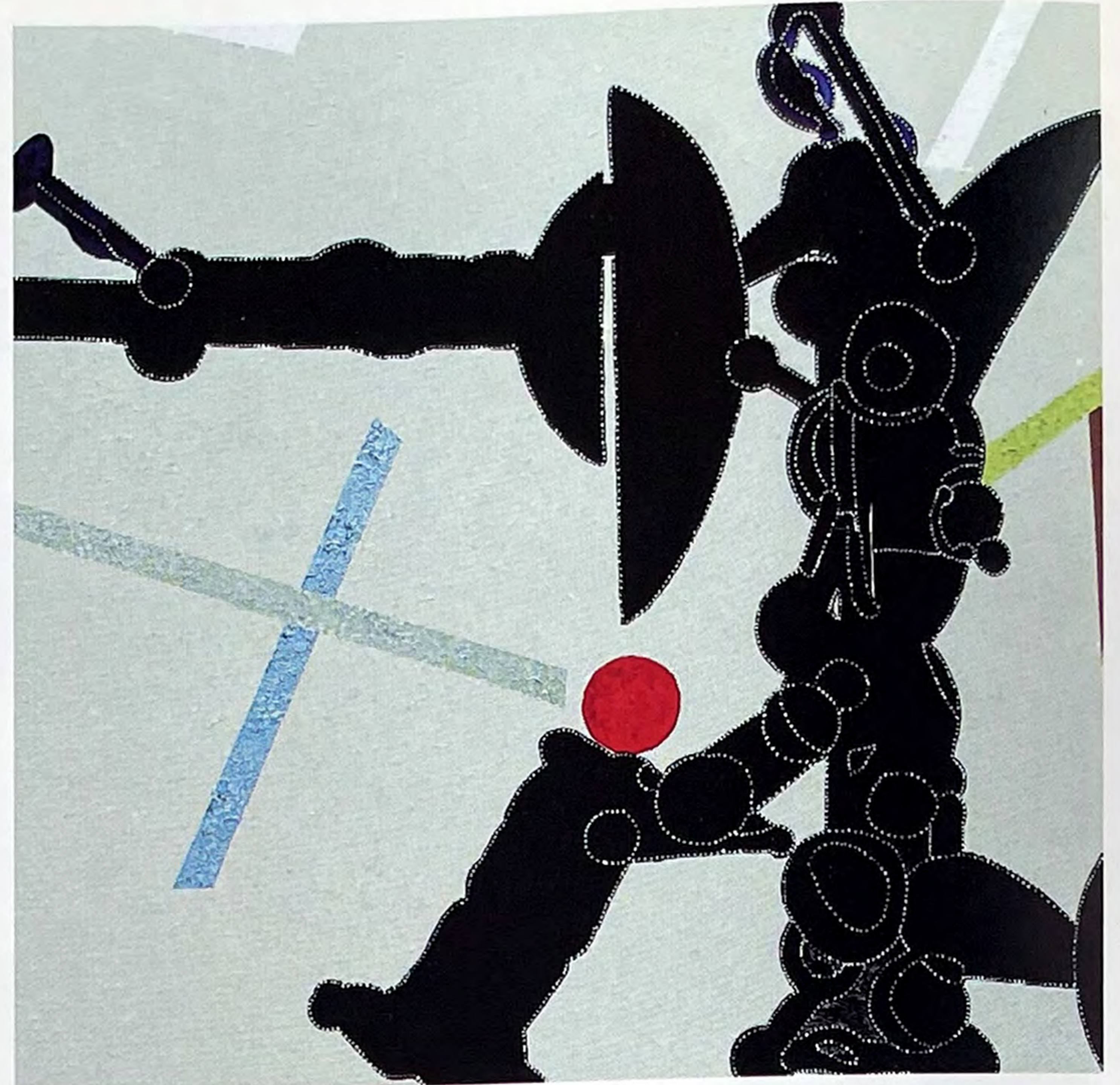
Miss Mukherjee



Amit Ahuja



Ravindra Salve, Acrylic on Canvas, 48"x48"



Amitabha Das, Acrylic on Canvas, 48"x48"

synthetic culture in the art world.

In the camp, Tapan Dash painted religious theme that evokes deity spirituality on frame. He uses oil colors and gold foil to wax eloquent mysticism and holiness with every dollop of hue bringing humbleness towards religions. On the other hand, Ram Viranjan portrays his fondness

about feminism, their exquisiteness and elegance. He also draws few flowers, wings and delicate animals.

First glimpse of Shovin Bhattacharjee's canvas makes it clear that he is immensely influenced by ahimsa pujari Mahatma Gandhi. He, in fact, paints his picture and tries to search the solace, ideals and

paths of the benevolent dictator in this running, ambitious and fast-food surviving generation. His frame is a tribute to the non-violent man.

H R Das calls his canvases a theatre where his bulls play the characters of zestful and playful actors. He paints a solid colour background from which his main subjects emerge in different



Artists at National Level Art Camp, Konark, Odisha



Mr. R.P. Gupta Chairman
The Statesman lighting the lamp



Vandana Bhargava (3rd from Left) with friends -
Relishing 'The Art of Silence'

sizes, bejeweled, forceful and vibrant evoking vigour, force and power yet in a beautiful and charismatic attitude.

Sachindra Nath Jha also depicts devotion towards spiritualism. He uses acrylic palette to showcase god's true companion surrounded by plethora of flowers while Vivek Sharma captures scenic beauty. He brushes Manali view snow-capped mountains in higher reaches. The mountains seem

more realistic and are engulfed with white smoke of the real hill destination. Layers of greenery with a woodhouse work as an icing on the cake.

About the camp, Mr Shovin Bhattacharjee says, "Manali camp was designed for artistic exploration, experimentation, growth and fun for us of a variety of levels of ability and interest. There was something magical about a Manali camp experience because of

geographical location and scenic beauty of the place."

Showcasing these works of art produced in the two camps at her gallery, Galleria VSB in Square One Mall, Saket, Vandana proudly says, "The collection at my gallery reflects depth, colour, vibrancy, texturing and most significantly, positive energy. Every work is titled and conveys a subtle message. Each work of art is a treasure worth possessing and passing from one generation to the next".

Her gallery was deservedly awarded the 'Most Elegant Art Gallery of South Delhi' by the Big Brands. A visit to her Gallery is a must for every connoisseur of art; surely it will soothe your senses! ■



The Artists Group at Galleria VSB, Squre One Mall, Saket
on the opening of 'The Art of Silence'



Sonam Agrawal is a journalist, writer and art critic. She has been writing articles on art for past many years.

Exclusive Collection of Paintings by

KASHINATH JENA



Untitled, Acrylic on Canvas, 36"x57", 2008

Galleria
VSB

(Curated by Vandana Bhargava)

Square One Mall

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