

*Celebration of*

**LIFE**

PAINTINGS CELEBRATING THE  
LIVES OF PEOPLE LIVING WITH  
HIV/AIDS

*Celebration of*  
**LIFE**

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This book is created by a team at the UNDP Regional HIV&Development Programme, South and North East Asia, New Delhi under the supervision of Sonam Yangchen Rana. The text, based on interviews with the artists, was created by Afsana Cherian and edited by G. Pramod Kumar and Manisha Mishra.

Design: Gaurav Ahuja, Talisman Design

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UNDP is the UN's global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries, knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. HIV/AIDS is one of its top organisational priorities, integrating it into its broader efforts to support effective governance and poverty reduction. UNDP has been one of the most outspoken advocates for a multisectoral response to HIV/AIDS since the late 1980s.



**HIV/AIDS** is one of the biggest development crisis facing India today. At 4.58 million, the country has the world's second largest number of people living with HIV/AIDS and recording the fastest growing rates of new infections. What is required are responses from every sector of Indian society in India and elsewhere. All over the world, practitioners of arts have always responded to social issues with passion and verve. HIV has been no exception..

Engaging arts and media in creatively and positively communicating on HIV/AIDS has been a key strategy of UNDP in strengthening the response to HIV/AIDS. Arts and media is also a key constituency in UNDP's global "Leadership for Results Programme". Thanks to their profound ability in influencing public perceptions, artists can contribute immensely to strengthening the campaign against HIV/AIDS and the stigma and discrimination faced by people living with HIV/AIDS. The icons, metaphors and images artists can create, internalising the elements of the epidemic and the lives of people living with HIV/AIDS, can lead to the "tipping point" that many are waiting for to create an enabling environment for people living with HIV/AIDS.

In this regard, UNDP Regional HIV and Development Programme, South and North East Asia, in partnership with Sahara India Pariwar, a leading corporate group in India, The Village Gallery, New Delhi; and Indian Network for People Living with HIV/AIDS (INP+), organised an art camp at Amby Valley, near Mumbai in October as part of a national campaign. Twenty two leading artists of India and four persons living with HIV/AIDS participated in this camp which has resulted in 27 canvasses that depict the celebration of lives of people living with HIV/AIDS.

The paintings featured in this book are aimed at mobilising advocacy against stigma and discrimination and also for resource mobilisation. Substantial part of the proceed of the sale of the paintings will go to a fund to support people living with HIV/AIDS.

*Sonam Y. Rana*

*Sonam Yangchen Rana  
Senior Advisor and Regional Programme Coordinator  
UNDP Regional HIV & Development Programme  
South & North East Asia  
New Delhi*

# PREFACE

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Artists  
against  
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**HUMANITY** has a curious propensity not to accept finalities. The fact of death has not only resulted in number of theories of the after life, but it has also led to the passionate search for life saving drugs. In the recent past, the discovery of the AIDS virus has been met with a similar response.

At first, the response was one of fear. HIV-positive people were segregated and discriminated against. But that has begun to change with the knowledge that something as simple as a condom can ensure safer sex and that a number of life saving drugs are now here. There is also now a better understanding of the issues surrounding the epidemic. It is time to work on a number of projects. One of these is the struggle to ensure that anti-retroviral drugs are easily accessible to those in need. The second project is one to which all of us can and should contribute. We can create an enabling environment, free from stigma and discrimination for HIV-positive people. The camp for interaction between artists and HIV-positive people, organised by the UNDP, Sahara India Pariwar and The Village Gallery of Delhi, is part of this process. And it is creditable that over twenty artists responded to this call.

The event gave those living with HIV/AIDS a chance to liaison with creative people for whom a positive attitude to life and living life to the full is second nature. To the artists, it provided an opportunity of meeting people living with HIV/AIDS that helped them in expanding their capacity to cope with a condition that is still treated as being extraordinary, while it threatens to become more and more ordinary every day. One of the most remarkable achievements was the creation of collaborative works with people living with HIV/AIDS. This initiative represents one of the finest ways to combat stigma and discrimination. It is wonderful to see borders being crossed when we come to them, naturally and easily, as in this encounter between artists and people living with HIV/AIDS.

*Suneet Chopra*  
(Art critic, writer)

# INTRODUCTION

Hope  
Acrylic on canvas  
Rs 98,000, \$2200  
36"x 48"





**H**ope is what keeps things moving in life. It is the eternal flame that burns in the heart of each human being. It was the last thing, which came out of Pandora's Box, but the only thing that helps an individual survive all difficulties and problems in life. Hope is eternal. "Where there is a will, there is always a way."



**Achuthan Kudallur** was born in Kerala in 1945. A self-taught artist, Achuthan treats painting as a communion with colour. His important shows include Madras and Emotion, (1996), Homage to Arthur Rimbaud (India and France, 1992) and Arts Acre Invitees (1992). Achuthan has exhibited his work at Jehangir, Pundole Art Gallery and Sakshi Gallery. He has participated in many group shows including the Bharat Bhavan Biennale, the VII Indian Triennale, New Delhi and 3rd Asian Art Show, Fukuoko, Japan. Achuthan won the National Award and the Tamil Nadu Lalit Kala Academy Award, besides many other accolades and recognitions. The artist lives and works in Chennai.

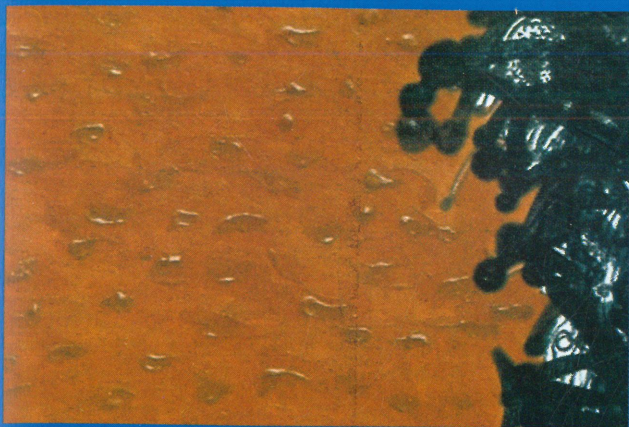
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Artists  
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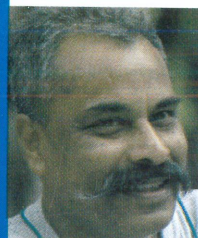
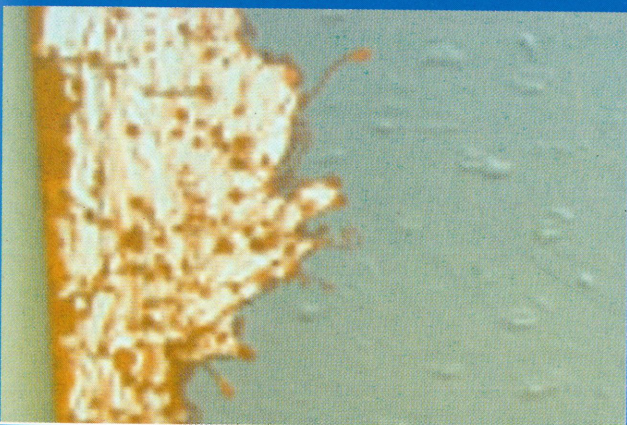




Day and Night  
Acrylic on canvas  
Rs 75,000, \$1650  
24"x 36"

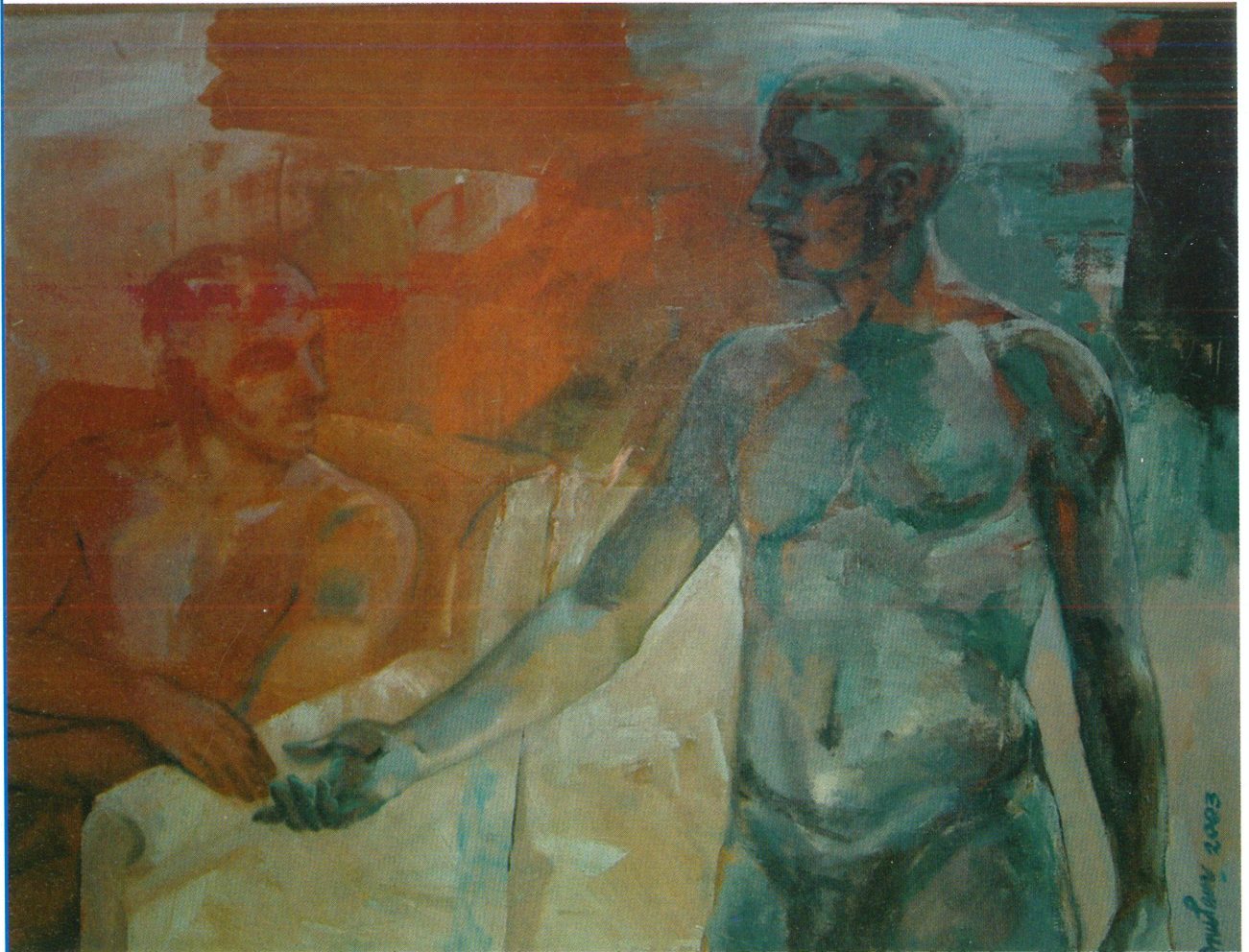


**M**y painting symbolises darkness and light. To reach light, often we need to go through the shadows of darkness. Same with silence and sound too. All these signify the negative and positive aspects of life. I am trying to explore these extremes between which there is a beautiful balance. As I often say, "to see the rainbow, there has to be rain."



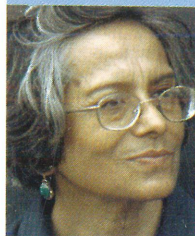
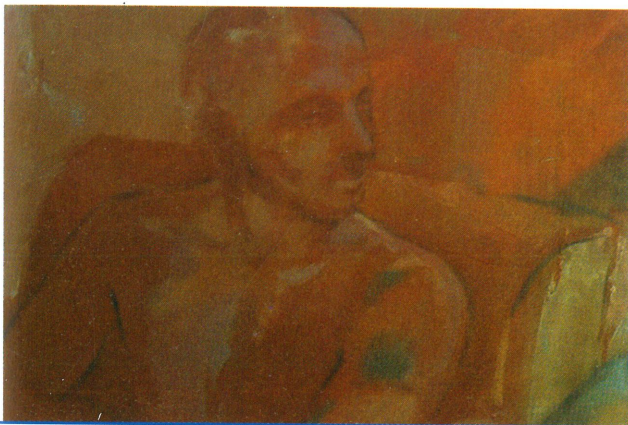
**Amitava**, Artist and designer, was born in Delhi in 1947. He studied drawing and painting at the Delhi College of Arts, New Delhi. Amitava held his first solo show in 1969. Galleries and sponsors in India and various parts of the world have held exhibitions of his works.

Amitava's work is in the permanent collection of the Society of Contemporary Art, New Delhi, Bharat Bhavan, Bhopal, Punjab Museum, Chandigarh, Lalit Kala Academy, National Art Gallery, New Delhi and private collections. The India Pavilion at the Cannes Film Festival, 2002 was designed by him.



Reaching Out.  
Acrylic on canvas  
Rs 98,000, \$2150  
36"x 48"

The interaction with people living with HIV/AIDS at the camp changed my chain of thoughts. Their attitude towards life was overwhelming and made a profound impact on my psyche. It's their positive attitude towards life that struck me and choked my imagination: Despite all odds, how they manage to reach out to help others and give a new meaning to life. It stems from the realisation that being positive towards life is inevitable -- so my painting signifies joy and positive lives. True happiness lies in finding that determination. With this attitude firmly established, you will be able to lead a life of fulfilment, brilliant with the glory of your own transformation. The joy and love, shown by a person embracing the other, is the actual proof of his change and the revitalisation of his life. It will never fail to spark love for mankind.



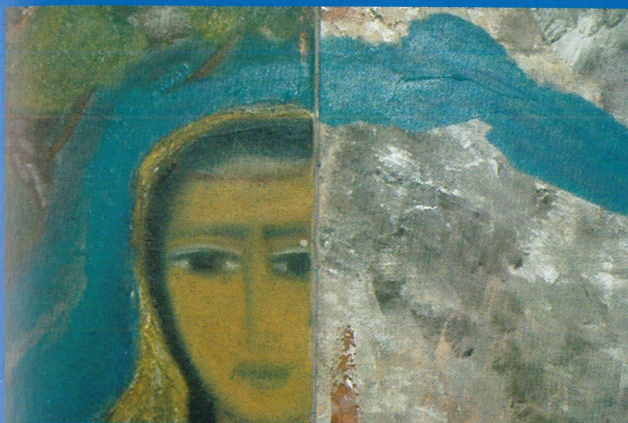
**Anupam Sud** was born in Punjab in 1944. She studied at the College of Art in New Delhi and specialised in printmaking. Sud works mainly with intaglio prints, combining her grasp of different intaglio processes with lithography and screen-printing. Recently, she has been painting in oil, acrylic and water colours. Apart from over a dozen solo shows all over the world, she has participated in a great many group exhibitions in cities in the US, UK, Italy, Korea, Switzerland and other countries. She has won numerous national and international awards for her excellence in printmaking. She has also conducted workshops in Canada. The distinctive feature of her work seems to be the empathy she shares with her subjects caught in the common human predicament. Feminist issues find a place on her canvas, but the overall treatment is subtle and restrained, even though pointed.

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Strength  
Acrylic on canvas  
Rs 50,000, \$1100  
48"x 72"



A woman is trying to protect her own strength, her environment and a hand is reaching out to help her. She is trying to stand on her own feet, to reach the core of strength which denotes calmness and sincerity. My personal endeavour is to celebrate the strength that all women have in them. It's the tribute to that inner strength. This strength not only sustains others but spreads the message of love.



**Bulbul Sharma** was born in Delhi in 1952. She completed her B.A. (Hons) in Russian from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi in 1972. In 1984, she started working with the Graphic Department of Lalit Kala Studios, New Delhi. She has held seven solo exhibitions since 1987 and participated in major group shows in Delhi, Calcutta, Bhopal and Mumbai. She has conducted a series of mono-printing workshops in collaboration with The Village Gallery. She has also organised painting and nature workshops with NGOs working with underprivileged children. She has published two works - 'The Perfect Woman' and 'My Sainted Aunts' - and has written and illustrated a book on Ramayana for children. Bulbul Sharma lives and works in Delhi.

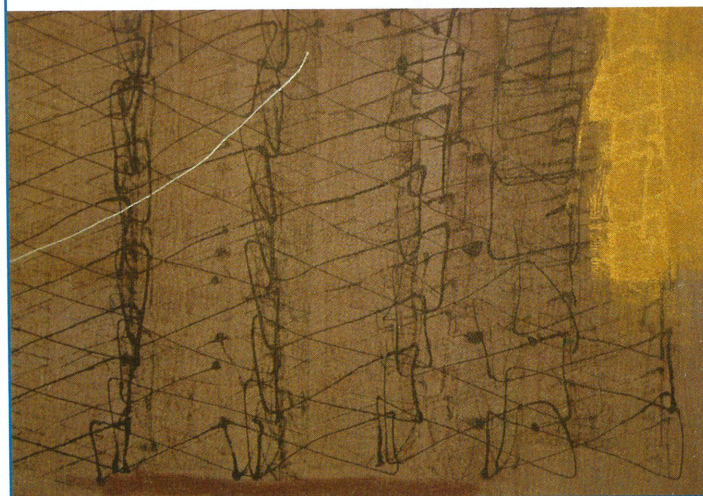
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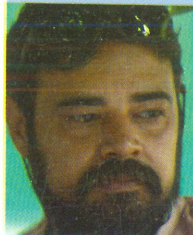
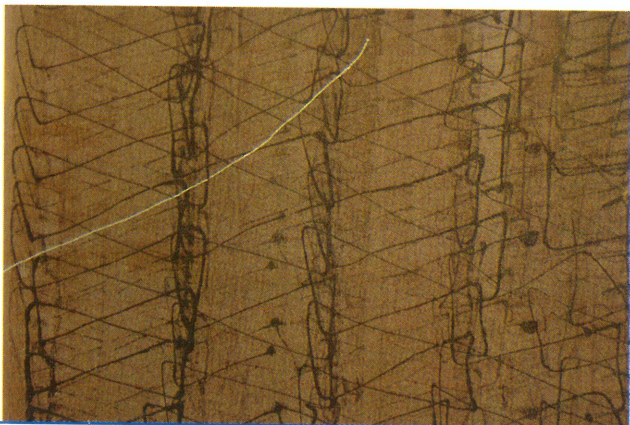
Anti- Body 2  
Mixed media on paper  
Rs 45,000, \$950  
22"x 30"

Anti-body 1  
Mixed media  
Rs 55,000, \$1250  
24"x 36"





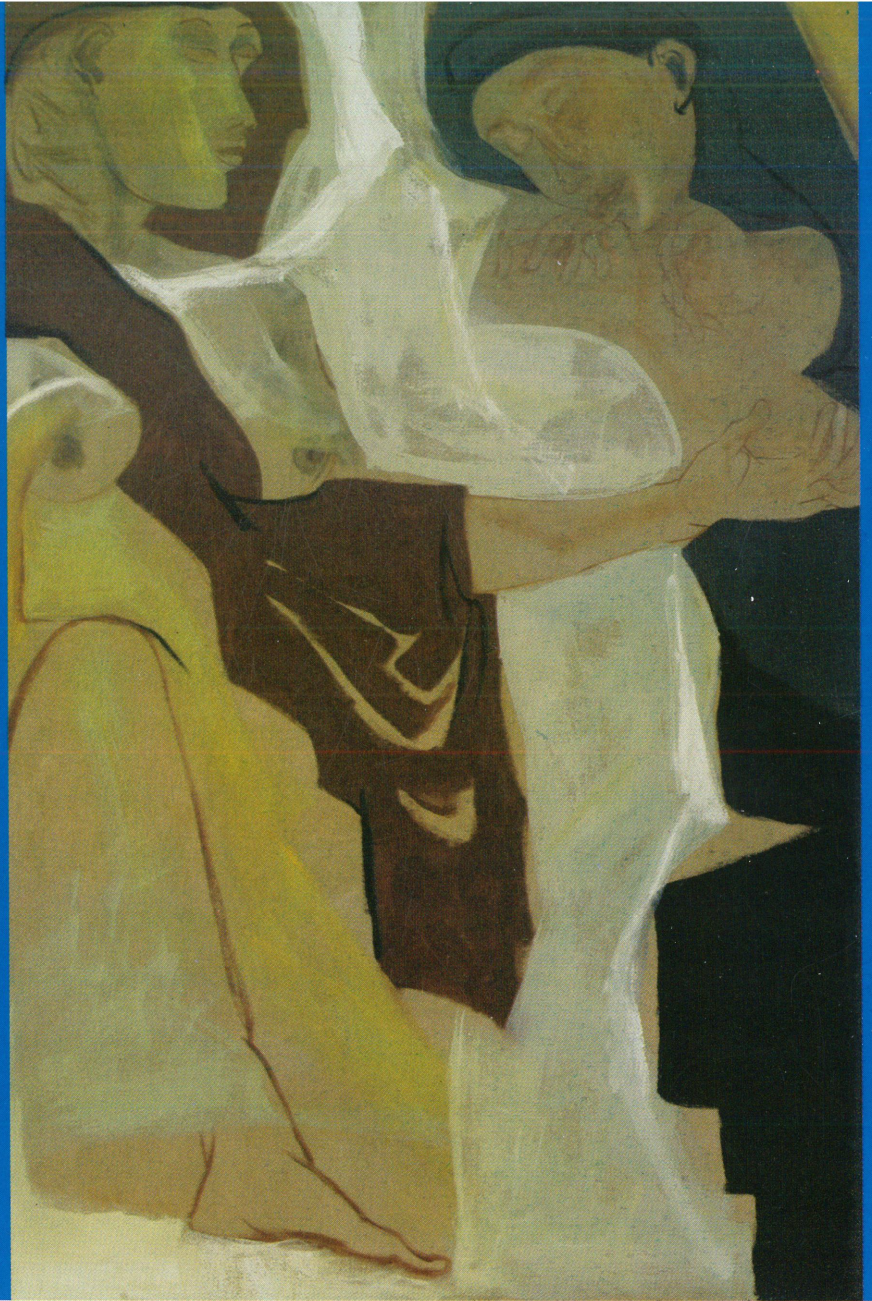
**M**y painting is an abstract depiction of a virus entering a body and the immune system generating antibodies to fight and neutralise the antigen.

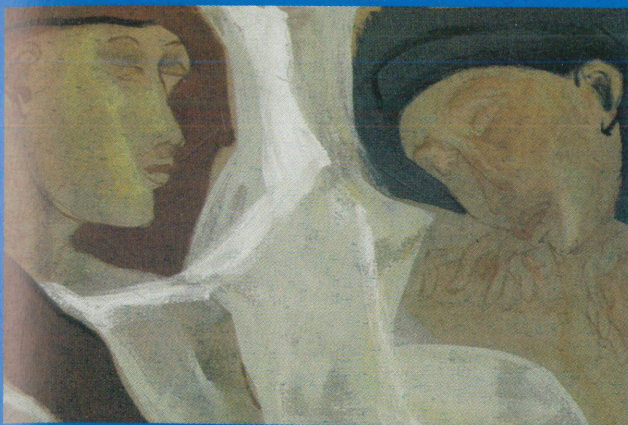


**Harsha Vardhana** was born into a family of artists in 1958. A post graduate in Bio-Sciences, he quit the industry in 1993 to be a full time painter and since 1996 has had several exhibitions of his works, including the ones at Lakeeren Gallery (1996), Bharat Bhavan Biennale, Bhopal (1996), CIMA Art Gallery, Kolkata (1998), and Dhoomimal Gallery, Delhi (2000). He currently lives and works in Delhi.

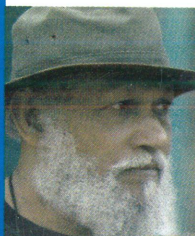


An Extended Hand  
Oil on canvas 2003  
Rs 4,30,000, \$9400  
36"x 48"





An artist's expression is a token gesture for the cause of HIV/AIDS. Extending a human hand gives people living with HIV/AIDS emotional support and helps fight discrimination. It is an intense gesture.



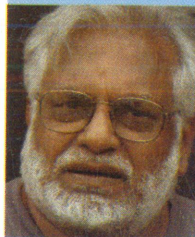
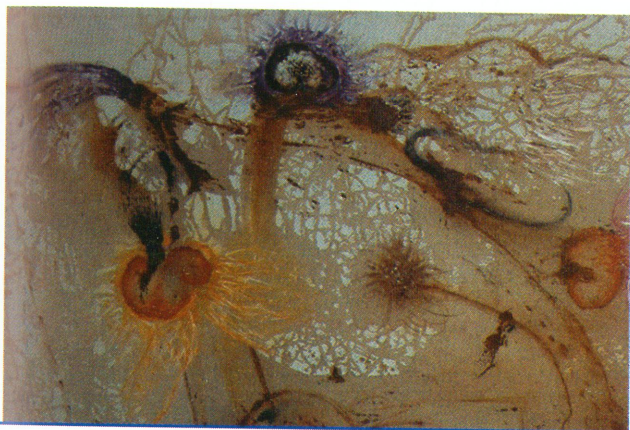
**Jatin Das** was born in Orissa, in 1941. One of the most prolific figurative painters, he is also a graphic artist, sculptor, muralist and poet. He studied painting at the Sir J.J. School of Art in Mumbai from 1957 to 1962. A tirelessly innovative explorer of dynamic human figures in terms of linear structure and breezy brushwork, Jatin Das focuses mainly on man-woman relationships in varying moments of crises, contacts, revelation, and emotional tension. There is monumentality in his treatment of human forms, which is retained even when the forms are energised by way of rhythmic discontinuities of colour-planes and rushing lines. A sensitive colourist, who refuses to treat his imagery in 3-D volumes, he infuses his palette with emotional nuances. In 1964, Jatin Das executed murals for Birla Kreedha Kendra, Mumbai, in egg-tempera. In 1995, he completed his biggest sculpture in steel, a 30-foot open-air piece, for the Bhilai Steel Plant. He has held numerous exhibitions in India and abroad. He lives and works in Delhi.



Journey of a Flower- 1 & 2  
Acrylic on canvas  
Rs 1,80,000 each, \$4100  
36"x 48"



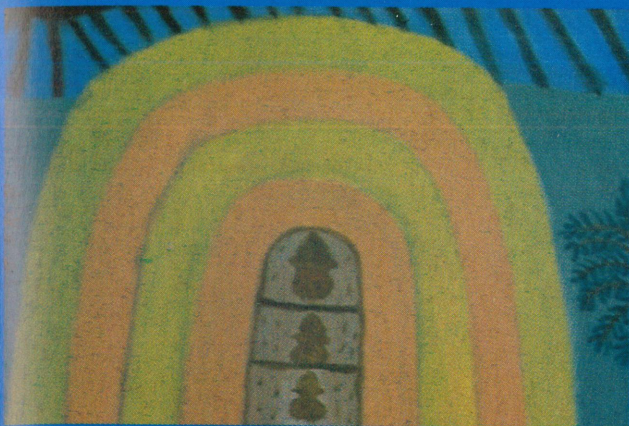
**M**y painting is a series of potted flowers. I see flowers not as decorative but as a form of expression. The journey of a flower is very interesting. Sometimes it looks close to god and sometimes to a child with a lot of innocence. It is meant to help one understand the journey to perfection. Life is indestructible - it can be changed in form, but not in essence.



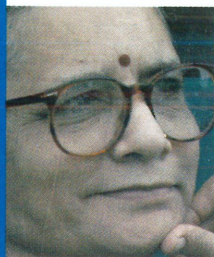
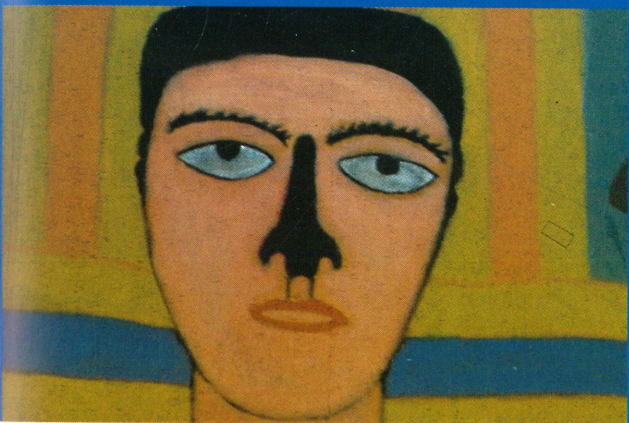
**Manu Parekh**, Born in Gujarat, studied at the Sir J.J. School of Art, Mumbai. He has been exhibiting since 1967. He has participated in the III and IV Triennales, New Delhi (1975, 1978), an exhibition at the Hirschhorn Museum, Washington D.C. (1982), and the Royal Academy (1982). Exhibitions on 30 years of his work were held in 1992 in Kolkata, New Delhi and Mumbai. Parekh's works grace the collections of the National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi, the Birla Academy of Art and Culture, Kolkata, and various other significant public collections in India. He was awarded the Padma Shree by the Government of India in 1991. He has also been the recipient of the Lalit Kala Akademi's National Award in 1982. Manu Parekh lives and works in Delhi.



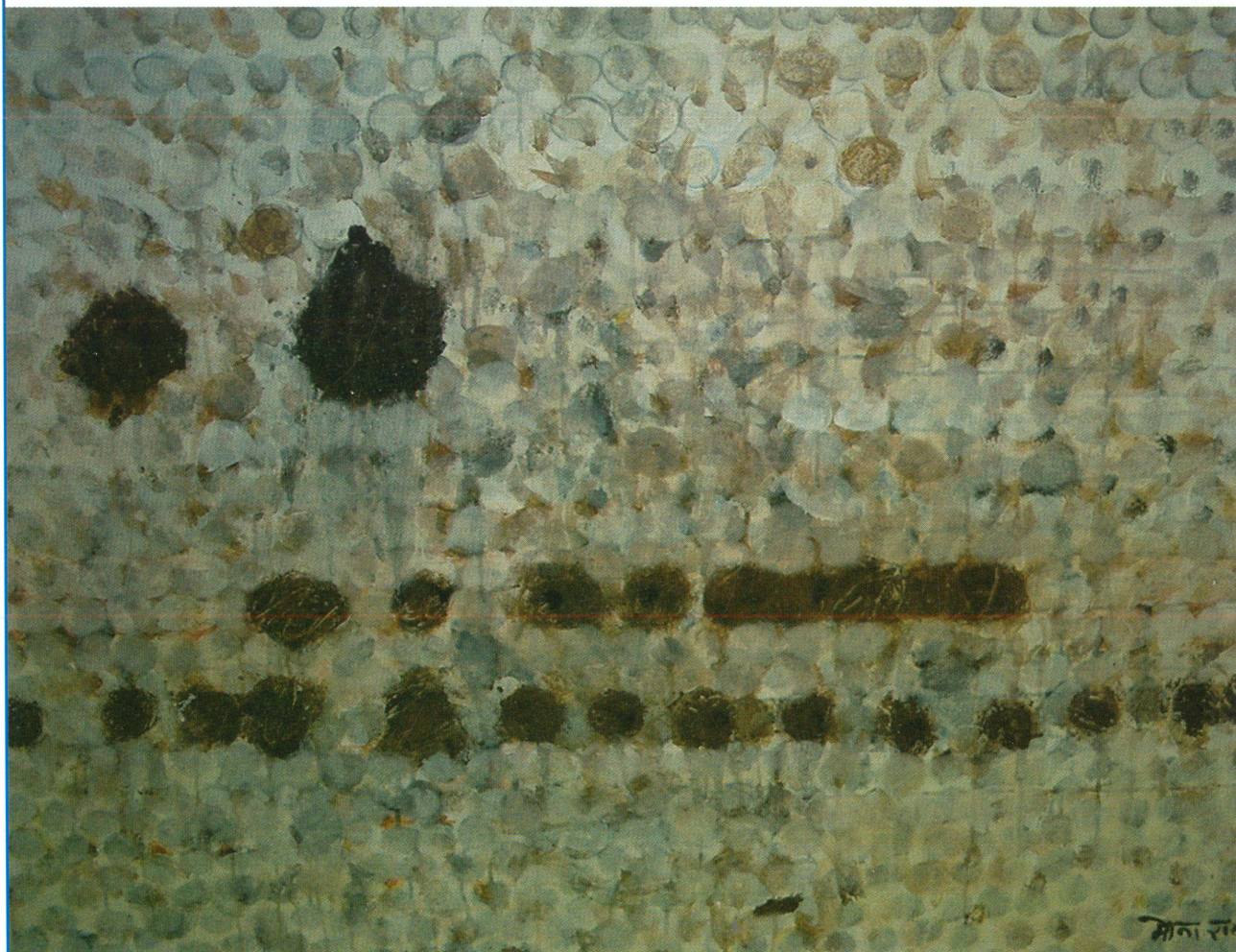
Reunion  
Acrylic on canvas  
Rs 95,000, \$2100  
24"x 36"



**M**y paintings signify enlightenment - reaching out to the universe and mixing the positive energies of the protective forces of the sun and the moon. The two figures depict the reunion of two souls. This generates immense amount of constructive energy. This completes the cycle of the reunion of the enlightened souls with the energies of the universe.



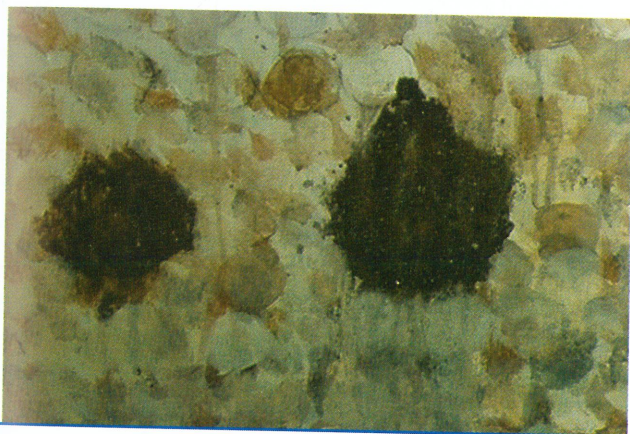
**Madhvi Parekh** was born in Gujarat. A self-taught painter, Madhvi started painting in 1964. Her first solo show was held in 1972 in Calcutta, followed by exhibitions in leading cities of India. She was invited for the III Triennale in New Delhi in 1975. She has also participated in the Art Mosaic (1989), Tribute to Nelson Mandela (1990) and Christie's auction (1995). Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, made a documentary film in 1992 on Madhvi and her husband, Manu Parekh. She was the winner of the Lalit Kala Akademi's National Award in 1979. Madhvi Parekh lives and works in Delhi.



Earth  
Mixed mediu on canvas  
Rs 1,25,000, \$1700  
36"x 48"

**M**y work is abstract. It's very surface oriented, and surface itself has become a panel work. I was inspired by the forms in front of me, like nature. The colours of brown and white represent my feeling of anger, love and violence. I have nothing but hope for this world.

Earth is our root. Our lives begin and end with earth. Whatever we do in our lives, whomsoever we are, we all have to ultimately surrender to the same earth. Then why do we stigmatise and discriminate? We need to look at the earth in terms of the universe, not the universe in terms of the earth. Similarly we should view our immediate situation in terms of our fundamental purpose in life, and not the other way round. The actual purpose of earthly existence is growth, not pleasure. We are pilgrims from eternity on a temporary journey into life on earth.



**Mona Rai's** looming, square works epitomise her artistic attitude. Textures fascinate Rai and she depends basically on square sizes in small formats, sometimes going on to large rectangular canvases. Two metaphors, associated with time and light, are the two constant motifs in her works. During her long and distinguished career, she has had many solo and group shows. Her recent group shows include, 'Paper Pulp' at Gallery Espace, New Delhi 2000, Workshop of Women Artists at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, 2000, 'The Sheen of Metal,' Palette Art Gallery, Delhi, 2002, and 'Performative Textures' by Apparao Galleries, at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, 2003. Her works have also been exhibited internationally and have featured in several prestigious collections, such as the National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi, Lalit Kala Akademi, Air India, Bharat Bhavan, Bhopal, Punjab University Museum, Chandigarh, and other private collections in India and abroad.





Convergence  
Oil on canvas:  
Rs 85,000, \$1900  
36"x 48"

In our socio-cultural milieu, the well is a metaphor that signifies many things. Situated at the centre of human life in any Indian village setting, the well assumes the centre-stage, when communities get together. In simple terms, a lot of things happen around a well.

My painting seeks to depict the centrality of the well as a metaphor in the intricate social situation in India. A well is also a place, where people converge. However deep is the problem of HIV/AIDS in India, there will be hands reaching out and people getting together. The overall yellow tone in the painting represents sunshine and celebration of life.

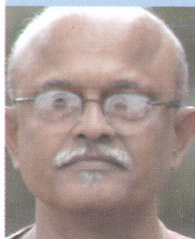


**Rekha Rao** was born in Mumbai in 1947. She is the daughter of the renowned artist, K.K. Hebbar. Rekha Rao held her first solo exhibition in Mumbai in 1969. This was followed by several exhibitions, both in India and abroad. Rekha Rao's oil and acrylic mixed works like 'Salt pan - Bassein,' combine abstraction with geometric forms and lightly sketched human and animal forms. In 1976 and 1977, she received the Hyderabad Art Society's Award. Her works adorn the permanent collections of the National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi, Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi, and Singapore National Museum. She has also participated in the IV Triennale of India (1978) and the Asian Biennale, Dhaka (1986). She received the Critics Award in 1971, the Lalit Kala Akademi Award in 1977 and the Maharashtra State Award in 1978. The artist currently lives and works in Bangalore.



An integration of determined self  
Acrylic on canvas  
Rs 1,85,000, \$4050  
36"x 48"

To me, the stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS is a form of pain and my painting depicts it. PAIN makes a Painting. Everything beautiful comes out of pain. I am trying to share the pain of the people visually. Red stands for blood, which always remains pure, and one has to believe in purity. Purity can overcome any pain, and will never change its colour.



**Prabhakar.M.Kolte**, Born in 1946, received his diploma from the Sir J.J. School of Art in 1968. Apart from several solo shows, Kolte has participated in a number of group exhibitions. Kolte has also exhibited at the 'Six Indian Painters' show, curated by Geeta Kapur at Toto grad, Yugoslavia, Ankara and Istanbul in 1985; 'Three Artists' in Hong Kong, in 1995; and Galerie Foundation for Indian Artists, Amsterdam, in 1996. Kolte's abstract layering with paint, echoes cityscapes, wherein the signs and textures reveal his modernist consciousness. Juxtaposed bands of colour create bold ascensions and recessions. Kolte lives and works in Mumbai.

Blue Window and Seven Seeds for  
Posterity  
Painted wood, leather and  
photograph  
Rs 90,000, \$2100  
72"x 24"



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Artists  
against  
HIV/AIDS

Growth  
Gold glided wood  
Rs 70,000, \$1650

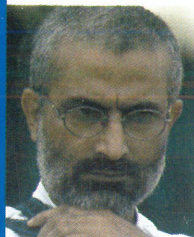


## Growth

**B**udding, growth and flowering - a seed sprouts, grows and blooms. My sculpture depicts hope. Hope is generated out of a soul having various dimensions and capabilities.

## Blue Window and Seven Seeds for Posterity

**T**his is a window to the future. There are seven seeds preserved for posterity which signifies our commitment to our future generations. I have used seven because it is an auspicious number. Blue, in the sculpture, stands for limitlessness, infinity and hope.

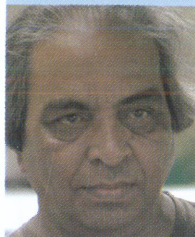


**Rajinder Kumar Tiku** was born in 1953 in Kashmir. A student of science and law from Kashmir University, Tiku did a five year course in sculpture from the Institute of Music and Fine Arts, Srinagar, Kashmir. He has held solo shows at Art Heritage in New Delhi in 1990, 1992 and 1995. He has participated in many national and international group exhibitions since 1973, including Bharat Bhavan Biennale of contemporary Indian Art, 1990 and 1994; and Seventh and Eighth International Triennales, New Delhi, 1991 and 1994). He has been awarded the International Triennale Award for Sculpture (1994). He teaches sculpture at Institute of Fine Arts, Jammu.

Untitled  
Oil on canvas  
Rs 80,000, \$1750  
24"x 36"




The red split in the painting, and the break between two heads, denote two sides of a problem, positive and the negative, although the image remains one. Like a coin has two sides to it, both inseparable, so does the portrait. The negatives and positives in life complete the picture. No solution is complete without working on the whole picture. And no picture is complete without all of these elements, if there was no night, there would be no day.



**Shamshad Husain**, Born in 1946, spent most of his childhood in Mumbai. He started painting at the age of nine. Shamshad studied at the College of Fine Arts in Baroda. He later went to the Royal College of Art, London. He held his first solo show in 1968 and in 1983 he won the Lalit Kala Akademi's National Award. According to Shamsad, the deterioration of environment can be seen in the colours he uses. His success has propelled him to the forefront of modern Indian art and he has held exhibitions in different parts of the world including the Biennales of Tokyo, Dhaka, Ankara and Bhopal. Shamshad lives and works in Delhi.







*“To feel the  
change, we should  
open the door of  
life and let the  
compassion and  
the brightness  
enter our lives”*



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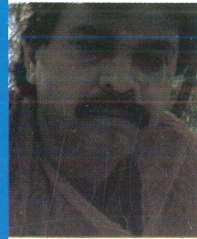
Artists  
against  
HIV/AIDS



Naturescape 1&2  
Oil on canvas  
Rs 75,000 each, \$1650  
36"x 48"



Nature is evergreen, so is human life. All live forms die to form seeds for new life to be born. We should bask in the beauty and glory of life itself, as it is evergreen. The ups and downs and the challenges that one faces in life are like the four seasons of nature. The landscapes depict the ongoing, evergreen and positive aspects which each one of us needs to focus on in our lives.



**Subrata Kundu** was born in 1962 in Kolkata. He graduated from Kolkata Art College and completed his masters from Delhi College of Arts in 1989. He is a painter and a muralist. He has held 18 solo exhibitions and since 1981 has participated in several group exhibitions at the state, national and international levels. Some of his works include mural paintings made for Dak Bhavan, Le Meridian Hotel, Qatar Embassy and Power Grid Corporation of India, Gurgaon.

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Artists  
against  
HIV/AIDS



Solidarity 1  
Oil on Canvas  
Rs 50,000, \$1100  
36"x 48"

**M**y painting is totally inspired by the hills, fort and the environment of Amby Valley, where we have converged for the camp. The structure in the painting denotes a pillar of strength - a solid foundation that can take anything upon itself. Solidarity is its significance - solid commitment, solid strength and solid inspiration. To start with, I used a lot of black that meant sadness, but as I painted, I have contrasted with a lot of white, the colour of peace and purity. Juggling of colours on my canvas denotes how my mind changed from one perception to another. Those emotions have created a firm commitment in me to lead the change.



**Nupur Kundu** was born in 1975 in New Delhi. A graduate from Delhi College of Arts, New Delhi, Nupur has participated in several exhibitions, both in India and abroad. She has participated in several group exhibitions since 1994. She has so far held two solo exhibitions. Her oil and canvas based work is abstract in nature.

Harsha Vardhana:  
Collaborative work  
with Elango  
Mixed medium  
Rs 65,000, \$1500  
Size: 36"x 48"



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Artists  
against  
HIV/AIDS

Leena and I drew this together. It symbolises the meta-forces of a microphone. Speak out, so that others hear about HIV/AIDS. Speak out so that others may act to help overcome the pain and loneliness. Speak out to remove the shadows of ignorance and bring in knowledge to help others.

Umesh Varma:  
Interactive with Leena  
Acrylic on canvas  
Rs 60,000, \$1350  
Size: 24"x 36"



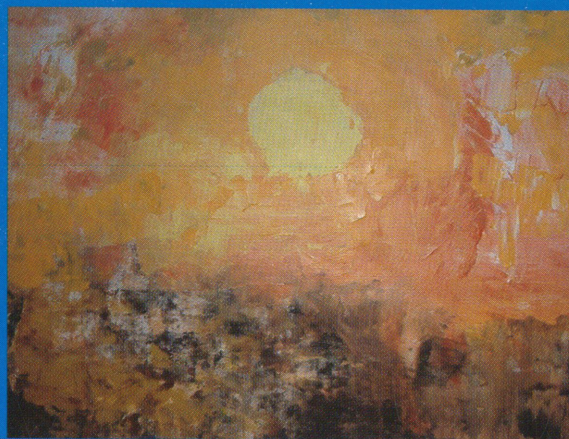


Bulbul with Rajalakshmi  
Tree of Life  
Acrylic on canvas  
Rs 30,000, \$700  
36"x 48"

This is an interactive work of Rajalakshmi and mine. Tree of life is what we are looking at. In autumn, the tree has nothing - all the old leaves are either shed or have changed their colour. Then comes spring where the same tree is rejuvenated and is ornate with bright flowers and fruits. It is the story of life - trauma and happiness go hand in hand.

The only way we can touch our latent gift is by seeking within ourselves the perfect truth and it is in this that we will find glory and harmony. The colours depicted in the painting are the colours of fire that burn through darkness to bring light, just as knowledge penetrates through ignorance and enables us to reach the inherent joy and strength which we all have within us.

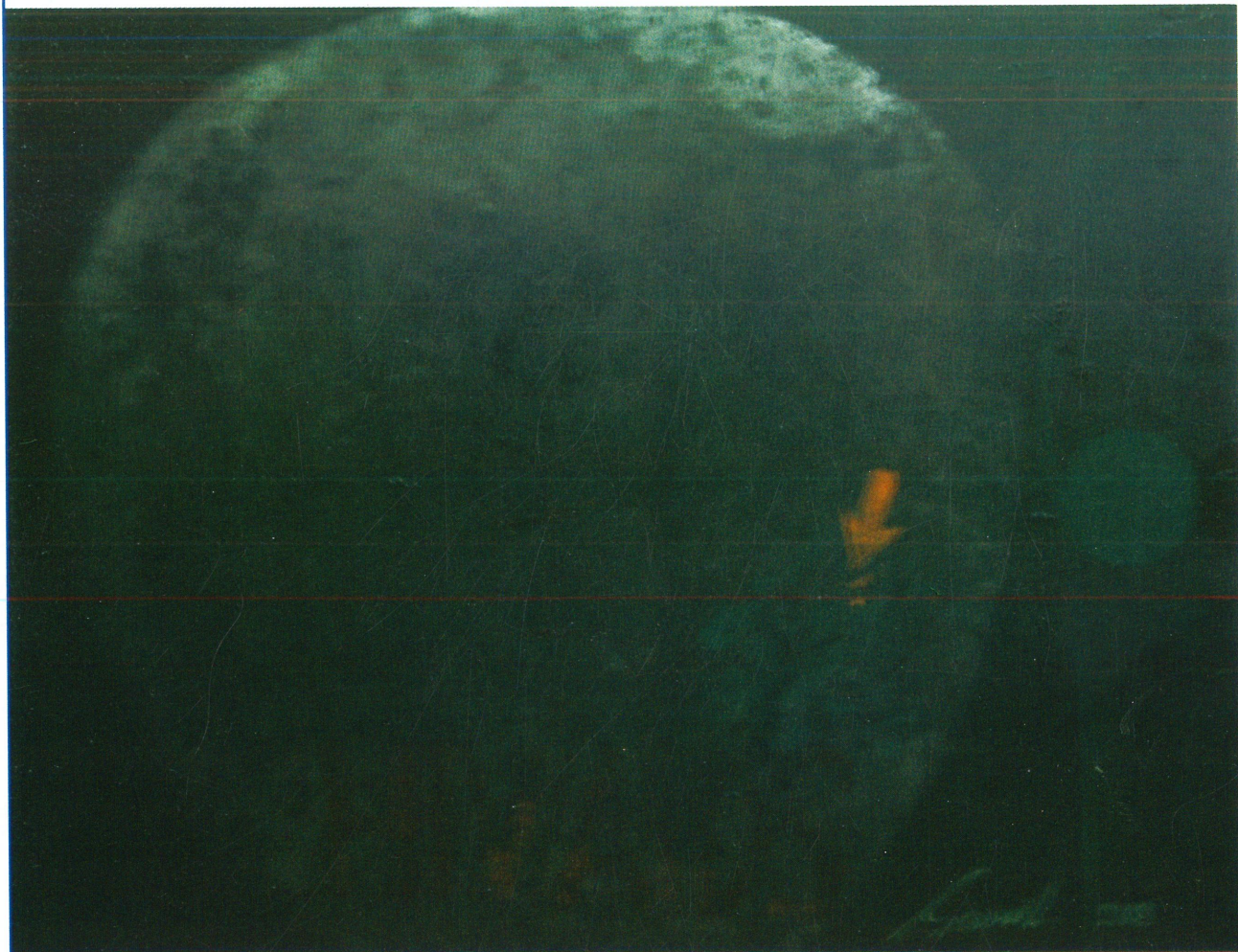
Nupur Kundu and Leena:  
Glory  
Oil and acrylic on canvas  
Rs 60,000, \$1350  
36"x 48"



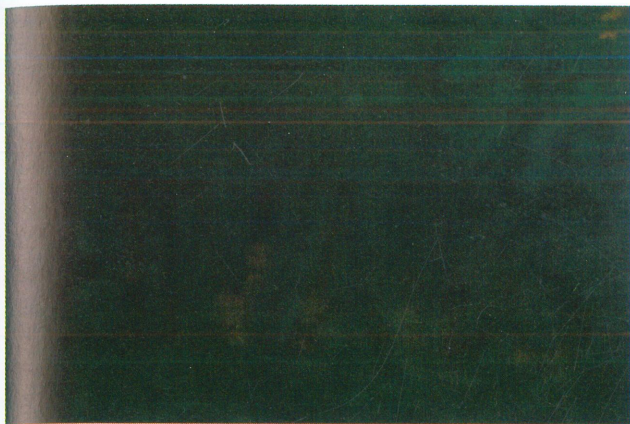


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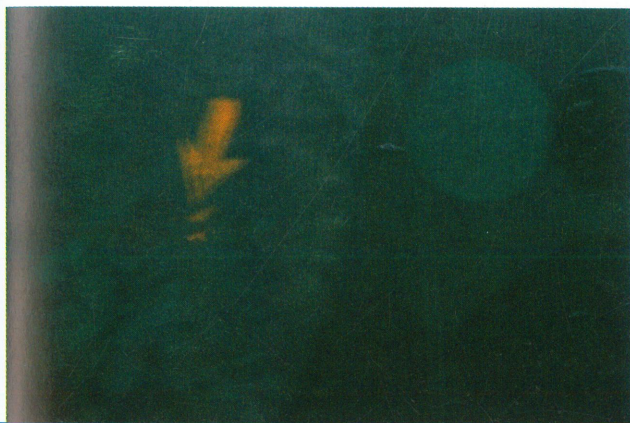
Artists  
against  
HIV/AIDS



Head Head  
Acrylic on canvas  
Rs 3,00,000, \$6750  
36"x 48"



**M**y painting depicts the abstract form of a skull. HIV/AIDS can not be cured, but it can be contained using our intelligence. Watch out and prevent it yourself - it's all there in the brain.

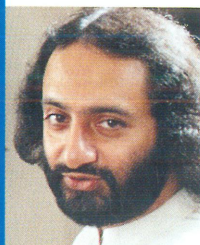
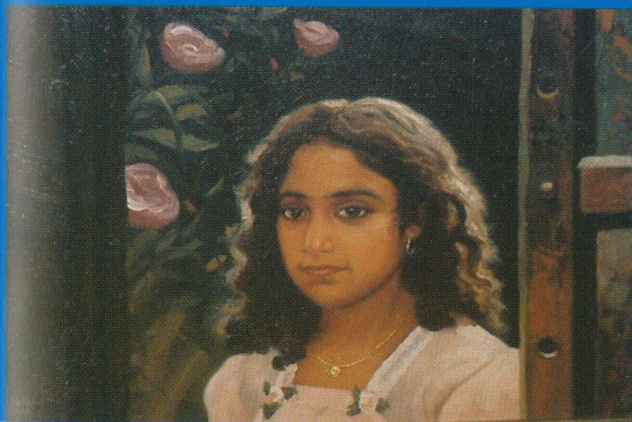


**Sunil Das** was born in Calcutta in 1939. He studied at the Government College of Arts and Crafts, Calcutta and in 1960, he won a French Government scholarship to the Ecole National des Beaux Arts, Paris. Apart from 50 solo shows, Das has participated in several exhibitions in India and abroad. His work has been included in the Biennales of Paris, Dacca and Tokyo. He has served as Commissioner to the Sao Paulo Biennale and was a member of the jury of the Pfix des Etrangeres, Paris. In his career as a painter, he has tried to reproduce the images in his mind so as to liberate people from the bond of familiarity. His subjects are based on Indian folk motives and religious symbols. Das lays emphasis on the inner meaning, suggested by the visual imagery of paintings because he believes that a painting is not just a picture, but a manifestation of the self-expression of the artist. He lives and works in Calcutta.



Life without Light  
Oil on canvas  
Rs 4,25,000, \$9400  
60"x 48"

**G**od has created a wonderful world for us. But unfortunately some lives are like exhausted old lamps. Let us join our hands to put on the light of hope in them. In this painting, I have shown a vision of life, asking us to embrace the fulfillment of oneself. Open the door of your life, a wonderful world, there are mountains, sun and all that we require to show us brightness, but inside the house there is a lightless old lamp. To feel the change, we should open the door, and let the compassion and the brightness enter our lives.



**Sanjay Bhattacharya** was born in Kolkata in 1958. He received his Diploma in Art from the Government College of Arts and Crafts, Kolkata. He has exhibited in Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata, and at the National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi. He has held various solo shows in New York, London and participated in various group shows all over the world. The artist lives and works in Delhi.

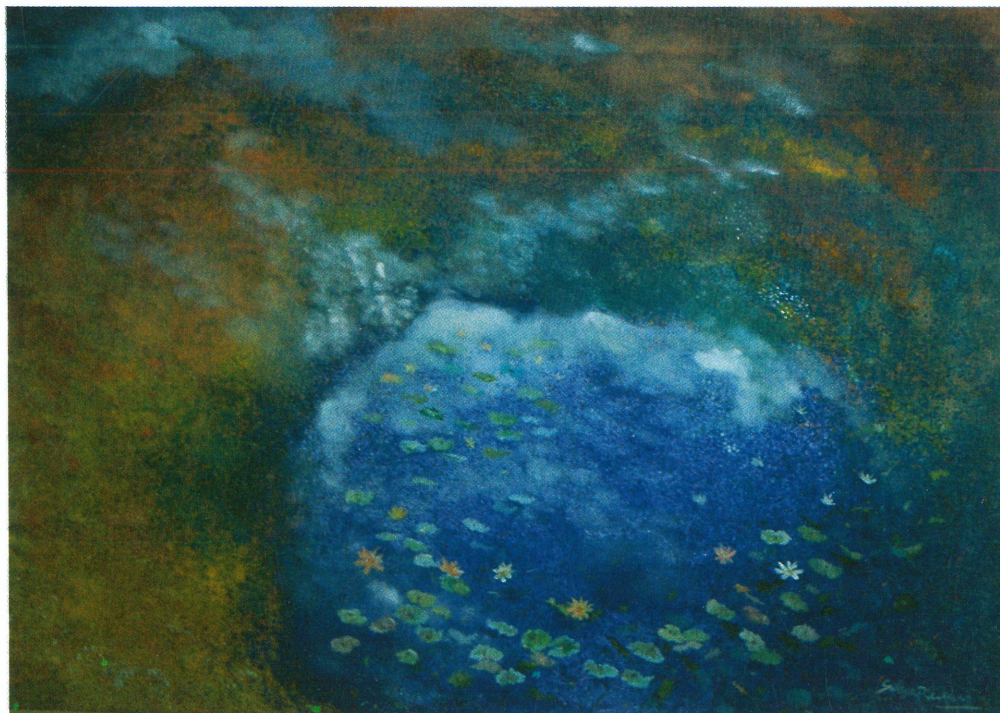
The Dream of Nature 2003- 2  
Acrylic and oil on canvas  
Rs 80,000, \$1750  
40"x 40"



44

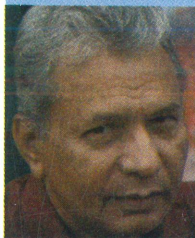
Artists  
against  
HIV/AIDS

The Dream of Nature 2003  
Acrylic and oil on canvas  
Rs 95,000, \$2100  
36"x 48"



All good things in life emerge from the mother soul or mother earth and that looks after the growth. The external forces of the sun, moon, air and water are the ingredients for their nourishment. Let the true life of expression emerge from suffering and worldly things. Let's celebrate joy and celebrate life.

It is in a muddy swamp that beautiful lotus blossom. No matter how muddy or dirty the pond is, the lotus can bloom beautifully. In order to attain one's evolution, one has to stay in the pond and struggle to grow right in that mud. In other words without all kinds of difficulties and problems in life, you can't really develop as a human being.

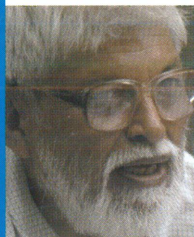


**Surya Prakash** is a national award winning artist from Hyderabad. He has been at the forefront of the art movement in this region and has organised several camps and workshops. There is something romantic and poetic about the manner in which he chooses his colours, their combination and application. His series of paintings known as 'Pools of Life' were initially in a circular format. Surya Prakash's imageries are governed by his perception of nature. The rather realistic depiction of leaves and petals, though not in terms of colours, are somewhat abstract in conception. This is also true of his earlier series of works, 'The Flight' and 'Reflections.' Recently, Surya Prakash has tried his hand at etching. The artist has succeeded in achieving a good tonal quality through finely etched lines.

Cosmos Celebration  
Acrylic on canvas  
Rs 90,000, \$2100  
36"x 48"



According to astrology, square relates to various planets. This painting denotes the nine planets. Of them, earth to me means man and man means mind. One should become the master of one's mind rather than letting the mind master one. Far from being the master of our minds, we often find ourselves being controlled by our earthly desires. Most people look at things from their point of world in which they live, like we gaze at the sun. But we have entered an age in which we need to observe our planets from the standpoint of the sun.



**Umesh Varma** was born in 1935 in U.P. He graduated in science from the Allahabad University in 1957 and went on to do a diploma in Fine Arts from Delhi Polytechnic. Later, Umesh did post-graduate research training in Japan on four techniques of Japanese pottery. Since 1964, he has participated in more than 70 group shows. His recent works include seven wall size paintings for Rites Corporation's corporate office in Gurgaon. His medium is acrylic on canvas, and he employs many kinds of graphic techniques.

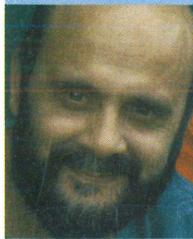


Forbidden Apple  
Acrylic on canvas  
Rs 75,000, \$1650  
36"x 48"



**M**y Painting was directly inspired by Shashi, a person living with HIV/AIDS, with whom I have interacted at the camp. His positive approach towards life was a powerful revelation for me. The different hand gestures in the painting together can form a firm hand denoting positive attitude. That is precisely my inspiration.

There are dark clouds in the painting, but there is also a ray of sun. Hope is hidden between the clouds. I am trying to communicate with people living with HIV/AIDS - you must prove to the world that you have attained a higher state of life than before. One day you will be able to look back and say, that was truly an excruciating experience, but it is that hardship that has made me what I am today.



**Veer Munshi** was born in Srinagar in 1955. He studied painting in M.S. University Baroda. He has had solo shows in a number of places like Geneva, Delhi, Bombay and Australia and has also participated in many major shows at the national and international levels. His medium of painting is oil on canvass. He is a figurative painter, and works on socio-political themes. He was awarded the National Academy Award by the Lalit Kala Akademi in 2002. He lives in Delhi.

Growth  
Acrylic on canvas  
Rs 60,000, \$1400  
36"x 48"



**M**y painting signifies care. Potted plants need nourishment to bloom and grow, so is the case with humans. They need sunshine, air and water. Even if you are living with HIV/AIDS, sunshine, air and water will reach out to you all, like it does to everyone. Life is a circle and the universe protects us all. We are all under one sky and all of us are entitled to have the care that nature provides. My message to people living with HIV/AIDS is this - your distress will be transformed into a springboard for your evolution. Don't be discouraged by difficulties and travails, instead convert them into causes for your growth.

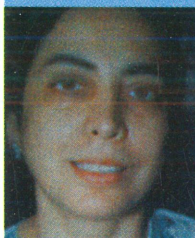


**Yuriko Lochan** was born in 1962 in Japan and completed her BFA and MFA in Oil Painting from the Kyoto City University of Arts. During her course of study, between 1981 and 1987, she was involved with several groups of experimental artists and tried her hand at several creative art forms, including modern theatre, installation work and experimental performances. She has participated in several art camps and group shows, and has recently held a couple of solo showings of her works as well - one of these shows titled 'Musafir,' meaning nomad or traveller, and another, in Mumbai called 'Pancha Tattva,' meaning the five senses. Both of these are reflective of Indian poetry and philosophy. She has painted both figurative and symbolic works, but her form, line and colour speak of her journey towards self-discovery. Her non-representational expressions of nature like, 'Jeevan,' 'Yamuna' and 'Celestial Tree' are more free flowing and harmonious. In a sense, they reveal a spiritual awakening of the artist, and the beginning of a search for the ultimate - one's relationship with the universe.

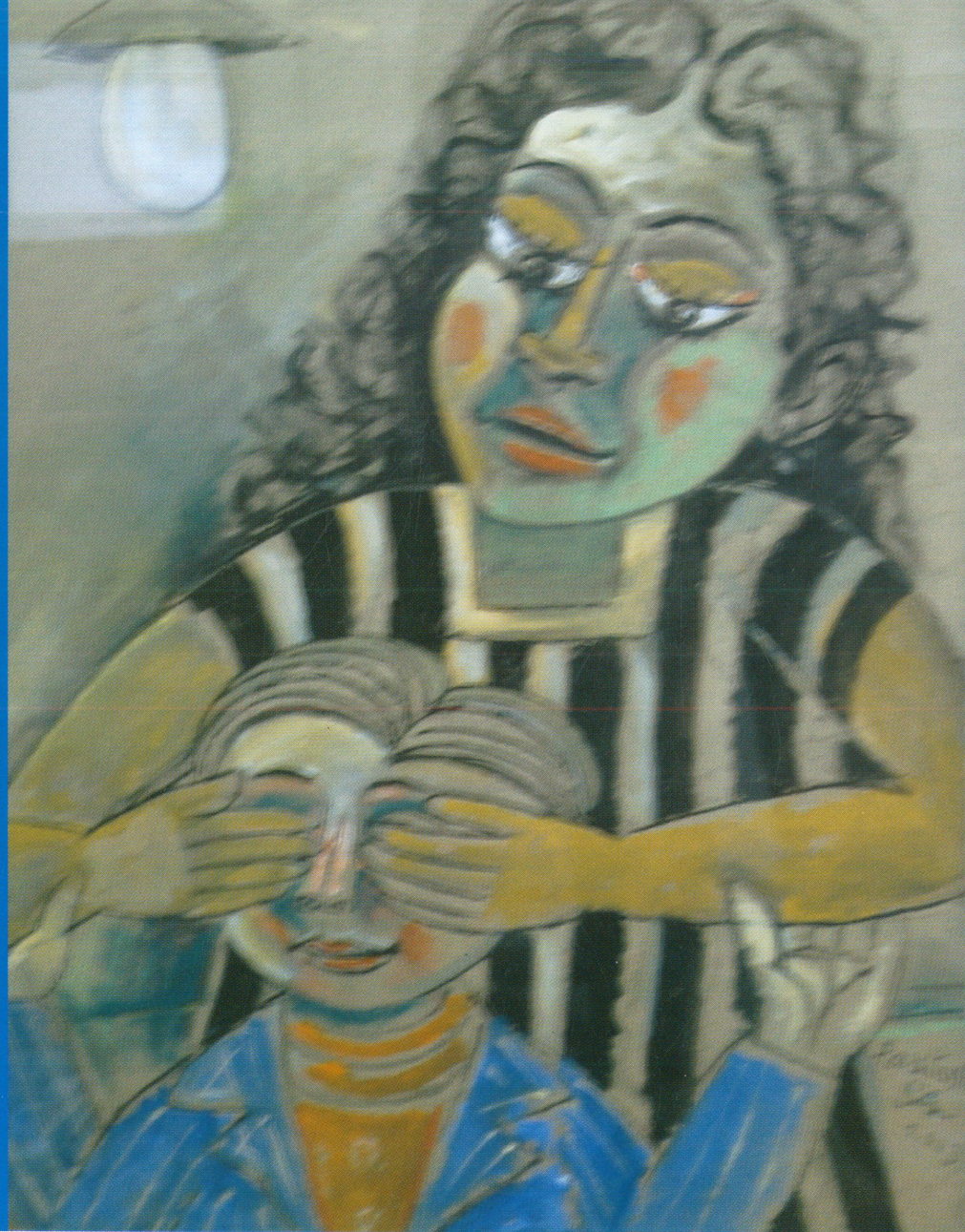
Awakening  
Oil on canvas  
Rs 1,10,000, \$2500  
36"x 48"



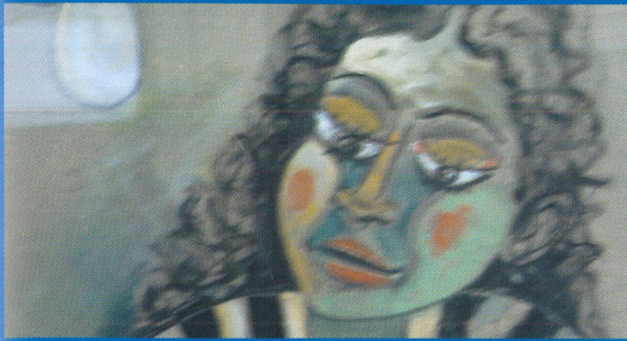
We sleep through a lot in life, out of a state of half consciousness, forgetfulness, or non-awareness. Mostly it is "safe" to be asleep, for too much awareness may bring its necessary burden of consciousness. But awareness can also mean awakening to the pain of others, to truths hidden by false prejudices or notions. In other words, it is an opening, a flowering of the heart that makes us truly compassionate and human.



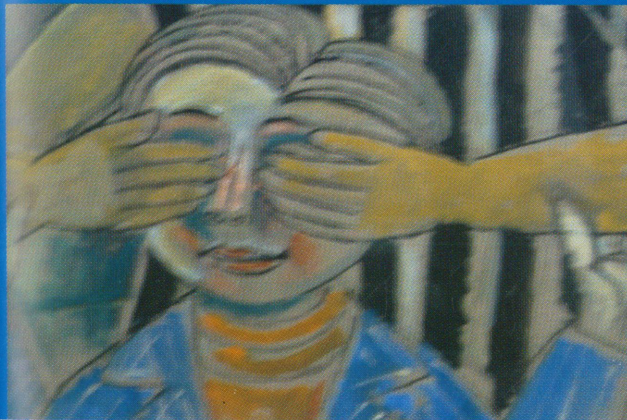
**Arpana Caur**, A self-taught artist, was born in Delhi in 1954. A student of literature, she graduated in 1975. Identity was a major preoccupation with her, both as a woman and as an artist, in the seventies. A few years later with the intention of engaging herself in aesthetic preoccupations, such as composition and the visual tension within the painting, she started looking at the architecture in Pahari miniatures. This influence can be seen in her work which is more in character with the Indian sculptural tradition. A landmark in Arpana's career as an artist was the execution of a huge work commissioned by the Hiroshima Museum in 1995 to mark the 50th anniversary of the nuclear holocaust. She is also the first contemporary Indian painter, who co-signed with a tribal artist, to produce collaborative works that show a unique blend of tribal and contemporary motifs. Arpana uses a few distinctive metaphors in her works, namely the scissors and the extended hand. The former is a metaphor of time, capable of snipping man's fate and thread of life, which is in a state of perpetual suspension. The latter symbolises the strength and power of women.



The Guessing Game  
Acrylic on paper  
Rs 55,000, \$1250



Life is a guessing game, where we often fail to comprehend love as an integral part of life. My painting shows a sister playing a guessing game with her brother. The scene depicts the love between a sister and brother and the centrality of love in life. With every role of dice the guessing game of life continues. The uncertainties in life should not deter us from understanding love, which is the answer to it. This love is the board of life on which the game is played.



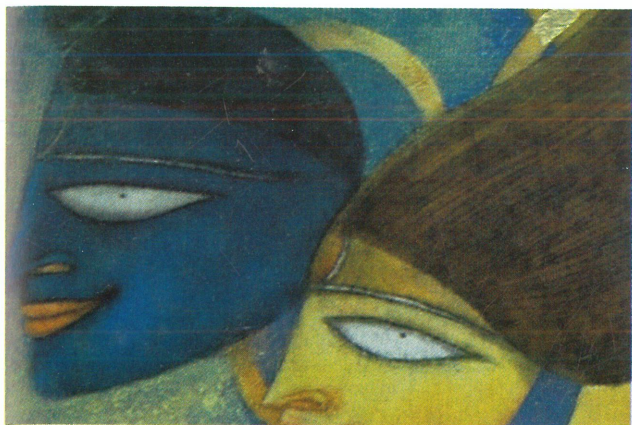
**Paritosh Sen** was born in Dhaka, now in Bangladesh, in 1918. Having completed his schooling, Sen ran away from home to join the Madras Art School, headed by Devi Prosad Roy Chowdhury. His fellow-students included K.C.S. Paniker, Pradosh

Dasgupta and Gopal Ghosh. In 1943, along with his friends, he formed the Calcutta group. In 1949, Sen left for Europe. In Paris, he studied at Andre Lhote's School, Academie Grand Chaumier, Ecole des Beaux Arts and Ecole des Louvre. A meeting with Picasso left a deep impression on his mind and in 1954, he returned to Calcutta. To earn a living, he joined the Netarhat School in Palamau, near Ranchi, as an art teacher. After a short stint there, Sen returned to Calcutta and joined the School of Printing Technology as professor of design and layout. In 1981, Sen was artist-in-residence at the Maryland Institute of Art, Baltimore and in 1985, he was invited by the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad to be an artist-in-residence. He has held many solo shows in Brussels, London, Mumbai and Kolkata. His works have been exhibited at the Commonwealth Art Festival, London (1965, 1986), The Asahi Shimbun Exhibition of Art, Tokyo (1965), Four Indian Painters, Pittsburgh (1972) and Stockholm (1974). He has represented India at the Biennales of Sao Paulo (1965) and Havana (1986). In 1989, he was awarded the 'Abanindranath Puraskar,' by the Government of West Bengal and in 1991, was conferred the degree, Doctor of Literature by University of Burdwan. Paritosh Sen lives and works in Calcutta.

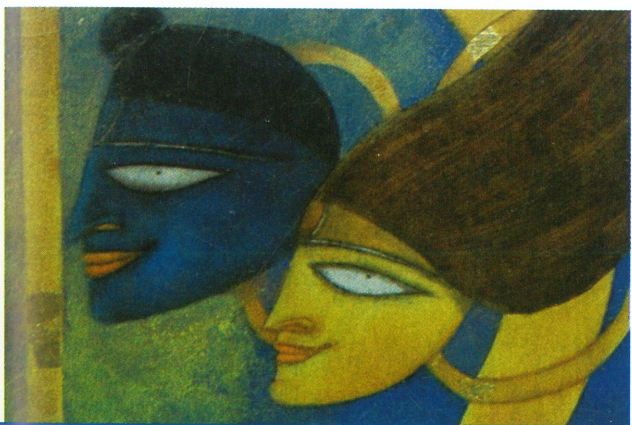




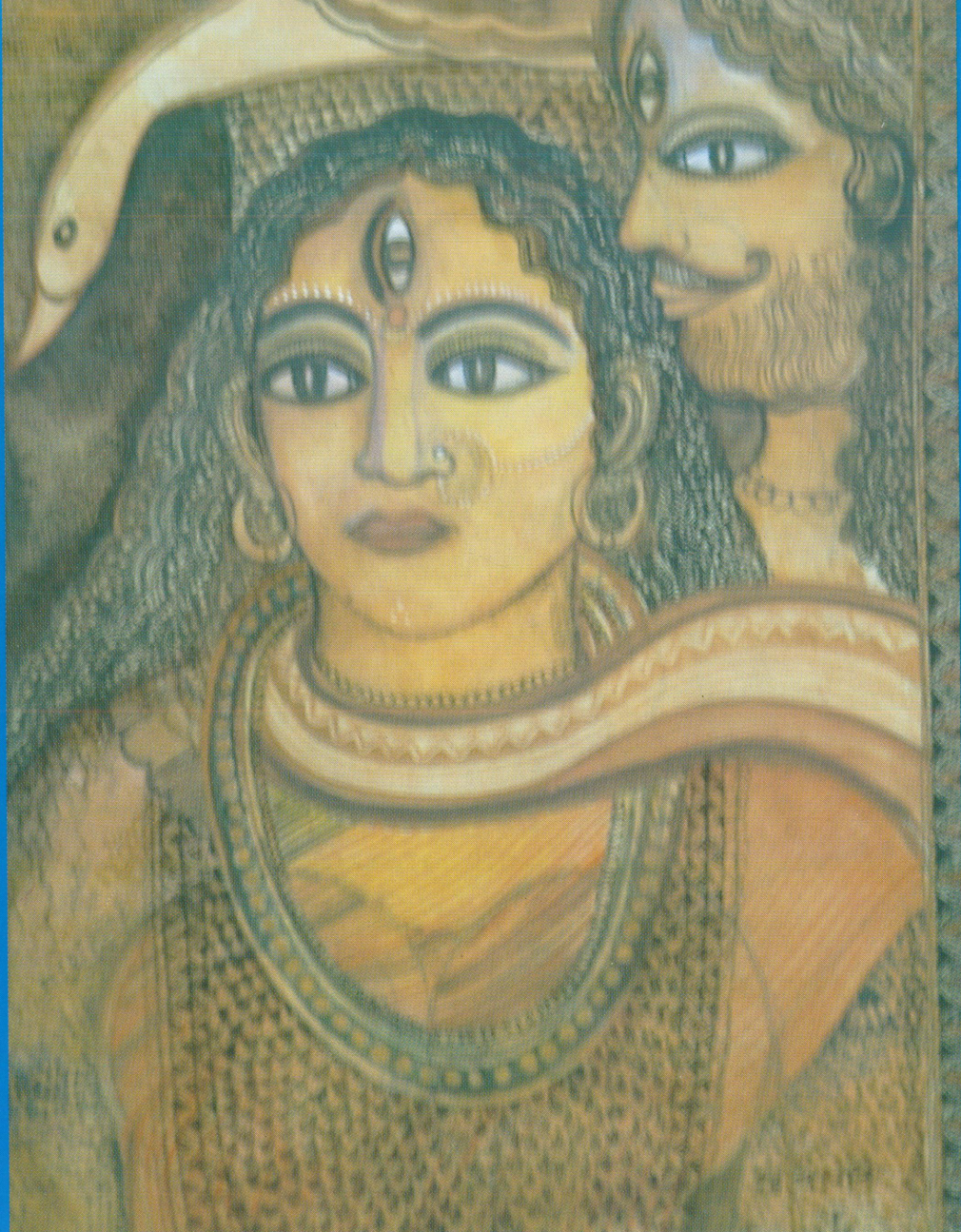
Golden Flute  
Acrylic, charcoal and  
oil on canvas  
Rs 65,000, \$1500  
25"x 25"



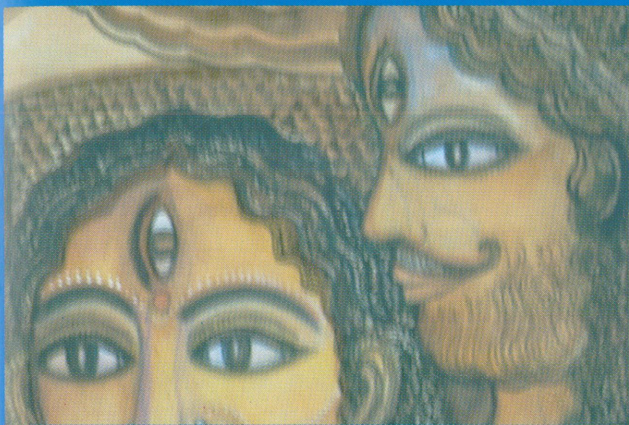
Rhythm is an integral part of life. The sweet, sanguine notes of Krishna's golden flute show us the way to the beauty of life. If we live our lives on these positive notes, we will move towards a better tomorrow in the rhythm of life - a tomorrow that brings hope, kindness and benevolence to all mankind.



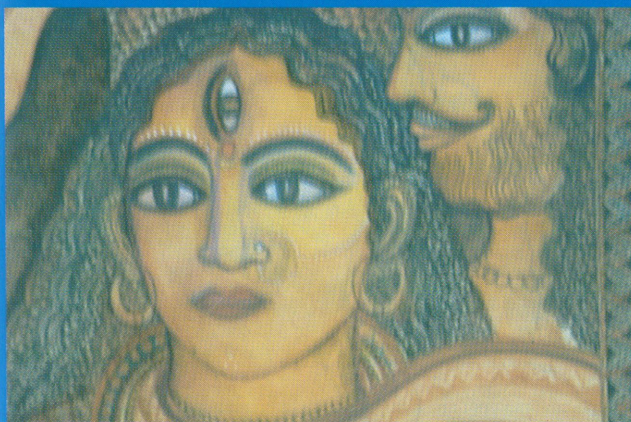
**Shuvaprasanna** was born in 1947. He studied at the Indian College of Art, Rabindra Bharti University, Calcutta. He has held several one person exhibitions since 1972 in India, Bangladesh, Singapore, Switzerland and Germany. Major group exhibitions include 'Indian Drawings Today,' Bombay (1987), '300 years of Calcutta,' Calcutta (1990), and 'To encounter others,' Kassel, Germany. He was invited for the III Asian Art Biennale, Bangladesh (1985), II International Biennale, Cuba (1986), Turkey (1990) and the VI International Triennale, New Delhi (1991). He has also published 'Artists,' a collection of woodcut prints (1977) and 'Between the Earth and the Sky' (1993). He was awarded by the Lalit Kala Academy, West Bengal in 1978. Shuvaprasanna lives and works in Calcutta.



Togetherness  
Water on board  
Rs 40,000, \$900

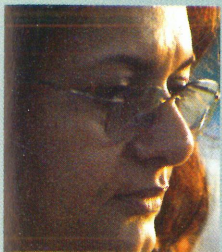


The togetherness of Shiva Parvati, a compelling union, emanates positive energy and beckons us to end negativity. The unified whole leaves space for individuals to grow. Each one of us has to make an effort in life to help another human being in whatever way it is possible - to bring love, harmony and happiness.



**Jayasri Burman** was born in Kolkata in 1960. She obtained her degrees from Kala Bhavan, Santiniketan (1977-79), College of Visual Art, Kolkata (1979-80) and had guidance under Monsieur Ceizerzi in France. She has showcased her works in solo exhibitions at Chitrakoot Gallery, Kolkata (1985, 1990, 1992, and 1996), Pundole Gallery, Mumbai (1989, 1992) and Gallerie Ganesha, New Delhi (1997, 1999) among others. She has participated in a three person exhibition in Paris, and took part in the International Triennale Intergraphic in Germany (1987). Her works are showcased in the collections of the National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi, Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi and several private collections in India and abroad. She works with water colours and lives in Delhi.





**BLANK** canvasses came to life under the colourful strokes of the masters on day one of the art camp in the lush green environs of the Sahara Lake City, Amby Valley. Twenty one eminent artists of the country came together, in an act of unprecedented solidarity, and painted a canvas each to support the UNDP worldwide movement on HIV/AIDS. The camp was aimed at generating positive images for people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA).

Four collaborative works emerged as tangible evidence of support for this cause.

Harsha Vardhana applied the first strokes on the canvas and Elango followed. With every brush stroke, he gained confidence as Harsha led the way. Standing next to their painting, Elango beamed with pride. "In future this is the way we want to promote social acceptance. Joint efforts will take us a long way to remove stigma. It is a solution for changing people's minds. 65 percent of PLWHA are facing psychological and social problems - stigma, rejection by the family and society - which lead to medical problems."

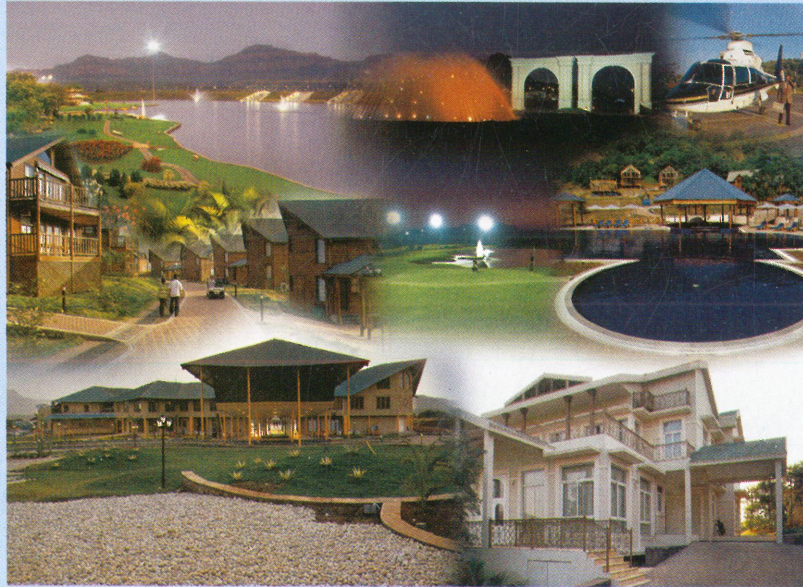
Achuthan Kudallur initiated Rajalakshmi to paint on canvas, who was confronting colour and canvas for the first time. He led her gently step by step, first by getting her to express her idea. She wanted to depict a poor mother protecting her children. Achuthan helped to "liberate her from her inhibitions. Once initiated into the nature of the medium she picked up quickly. She proved it by managing the space well."

Seeing her excitement at completing her first painting, Bulbul Sharma encouraged her to paint another canvas. Together, as they painted, Bulbul found Rajalakshmi talking to her about her life, her optimism, her eagerness to reach out to make the lives of other PLWHA easier. "It was heartrending to see how she coped. That is why I wanted to paint both of us on top of the tree, celebrating life."

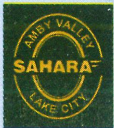
Leena, who works as a nurse in a Pune hospital, chose vermilion and yellow. She wanted to paint a vibrant sunrise. Nupur Kundu supported Leena in her endeavour. "I wanted to follow her. I only told her about handling the spatula and the knives, while the expression was Leena's." Leena now wants to continue painting and learn more about using the art. She enjoyed the freedom for spontaneous expression that this experience provided and was happy with the result - her first painting.

For the three days we sat, talked and ate together with Leena, Elango, Shashi and Raji. "To see these four collaborative works is gratifying. This collaboration will take us a long way in removing stigma," said an enthusiastic Elango. We left Amby Valley with a renewed commitment to support the HIV/AIDS movement.

*Dolly Narang, The Village Gallery, New Delhi*



Amby Valley, Sahara Lake City, on the pristine Sahayadri hill range provided the perfect setting for the artists to observe, reflect and recreate the celebration of lives of people living with HIV/AIDS in acrylic and oil. Inspiring sunrise and sunset points, lush green forests and a luxuriously landscaped location replete with lakes, waterways and an 18-hole golf course stood still as the brush strokes of artists brought life to the canvasses.





The artists' camp, 'Celebration of Life,' launched at Amby Valley, Sahara Lake City, under the aegis of UNDP, was a path-breaking initiative to create positive images about people living with HIV/AIDS. The initiative was aimed at roping in the arts and media sector into the movement to fight stigma and discrimination faced by HIV-positive people and creating an enabling environment for people living with HIV/AIDS.

We, at Sahara India Pariwar have always been committed to human causes. In line with this, Sahara India Pariwar was proud to join hands with UNDP's Regional HIV and Development Programme, South and North East Asia for launching a campaign to fight the stigma and discrimination faced by the people living with HIV/AIDS in the country, and is forever committed to the cause of infusing a renewed sense of hope and enthusiasm amongst them.

I, on behalf of Sahara India Pariwar, extend my heartiest best wishes for the success of this campaign and I am sure that this mission will be a moral victory for humanity and bring about an overall shift in public disposition towards people living with HIV/AIDS. Sahara India Pariwar will always be emotionally associated with you all in removing the stigma attached with HIV/AIDS from the realm of the human society, forever.

With Warm Regards,

Subrata Roy Sahara  
Managing Worker & Chairman  
Sahara India Pariwar



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