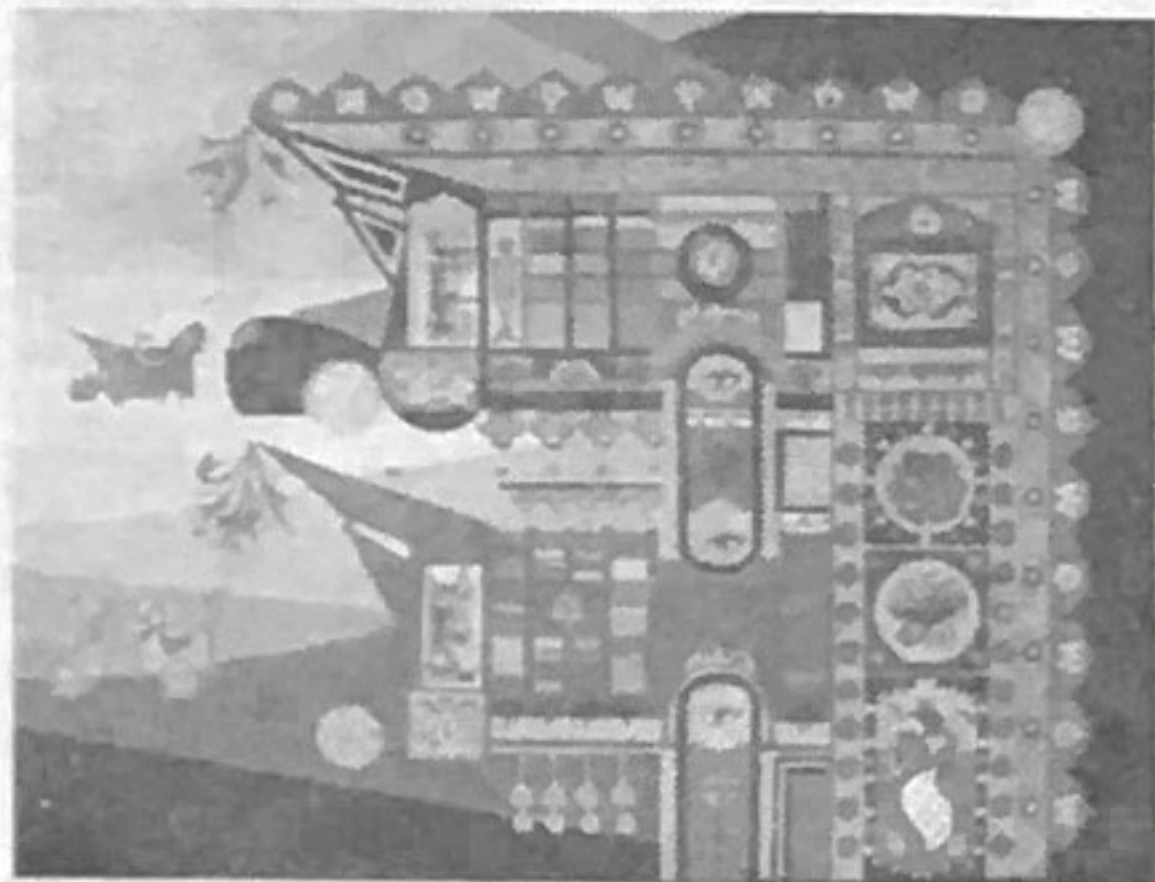


MYRIAD SHADES OF LIFE



(Clockwise from above) Aditi Saigal's *Temples Within*; Landscape by Parameswar Samal; Shashi Kumar Paul's *Life Within*; curator Sunaina Anand



'Watch Out' brings together 28 artists from different parts of India to represent life in its various forms

PRADHUMAN

THE ASIAN AGE

Life and its aims, spirituality, love, urbanisation and nature are some of the themes carried through the works of 28 young artists in a show called "Watch out". Opened at the Art Alive Gallery in Gurgaon on Friday, the show offers some awe-inspiring, wide-ranging and vivid art works.

Taking inspiration from the Indian trucks and their drivers Aditi Saigal has a series of trucks as metaphor to life and journeys. "I was moved by the truck driver's work ethic, his dedication to his truck and the way he decorated it with love and passion. Also, the way his truck is sacred for him, the same way we value our lives," she explains about her painting *Temples Within*. Another



series called *Trucks at Night* represent the forms our life's journeys take. "They represent the journeys and their results, like *Dhan* and *Gyan*. People dedicate their lives to accumulation of wealth or knowledge; or some just want to be happy. So I show that in *Thumka* and *Jugni*," she adds.

The artists come from all parts of the country and have been included after being thoroughly researched upon, informs curator Sunaina Anand. "We have artists from the smaller towns whose works are about the urbanisation, and how the malls and city culture appears to them. Like Suraj Kumar Kashi has shown, in a surrealist way, the modern mall culture in his work; and Subhash Pujari has

done a series called the *Concrete Jungle*," she says talking.

Parameswar Samal from Orrisa brings to view, through his paintings, the rapid urbanisation in the country. He shows a dense city with skyscrapers and an egg hatching on the horizon signalling the hatching of city in the rural parts of the country. This painting by Samal is minutely detailed and took about four months to complete. The show also features sculptures by Shashi Kumar Paul among other artists. His bronze pieces *Life Within* and *Kissing Horizon* are both beautiful and inspiring.

Meghansh Thapa dedicated his charcoal on canvas paintings to the omnipotence of god and spirituality. "I have chosen charcoal because of its

quality to absorb light. I think it matches my personality and it's also a way of returning to the basics because it's natural. I show spirituality, omnipotence and the connections to God in my work. The connection to God is really important for me because that is what keeps us from getting lost in this materialistic world," he says. His only coloured painting in the show is also quite attractive because of its texture and hard colouring.

"These are the artists who have shown their works at smaller levels and have done well there. So we try to help give them a bigger platform and improve their visibility," says Anand. This show is the second in a series of emerging artists shows done by the Art Alive Gallery.



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-SUNAINA ANAND