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FROM AHMEDABAD BANGALORE BARODA BOMBAY CHANDIGARH COIMBATORE DELHI HYDERABAD KOCHI KOZHIKODE MADRAS MADURAI NAGPUR PUNE VIJAYAWADA VIZIANAGARAM

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Art to the rescue

'SHRADDHA Samarpan' is an offering by the artist community for the cause of the mentally afflicted, manifested through the medium they know best. A week-long exhibition of their paintings and sculptures will open at the Jehangir Art Gallery on October 18. The exhibition has been organised by the Shraddha Rehabilitation Foundation, an organisation which works for the mentally-ill destitutes.

This foundation has rescued countless mentally disturbed people from the streets and has looked after them, treated them and tried to rehabilitate them.

"The exhibition will culminate in an auction and sale of some of the works on October 21, the proceeds of which will go to Shraddha Rehabilitation Foundation," say the organisers.

Nearly 150 pieces of art have been received from prominent artists like Vivian Sundaram, T Vaikuntham, Prabhakar Barwe Yusuf Arakkal, C Jagdish, J Swaminathan, Nagji Patel and Rini Dhumal to name a few.

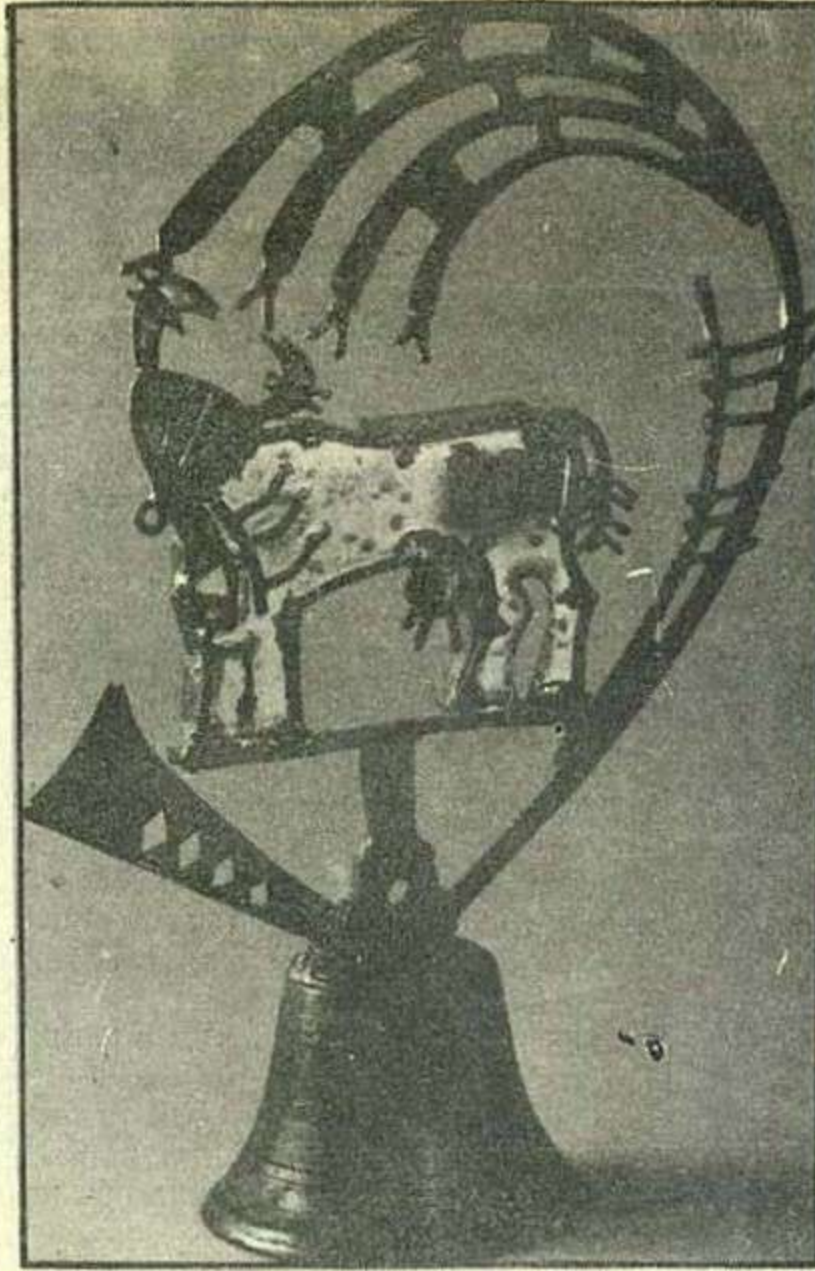
On show will also be paintings of Narayanan Akkitham, Krishna Reddy and Prafulla Mohanti flown in from Paris, New York and London respectively. Mohanty has named one of his his water-colour for the exhibition as 'Shhradha - source of light'.

The genesis of the exhibition is interesting. Hemant Thakre, a lecturer of JJ School of Arts, was picked up by Shraddha Rehabilitation Foundation from the streets where he was roaming aimlessly after losing his mental balance. Bharat and Smitha Vatwani, psychiatrists, took him under their wings. Once cured, he got back his job at the Art School.

It was Hemant's idea to organise an art auction to collect funds for the expansion work of the Shraddha Foundation. The artist community responded - as they always do and over 130 Indian painters and sculptors from India and abroad pledged their works for the cause.

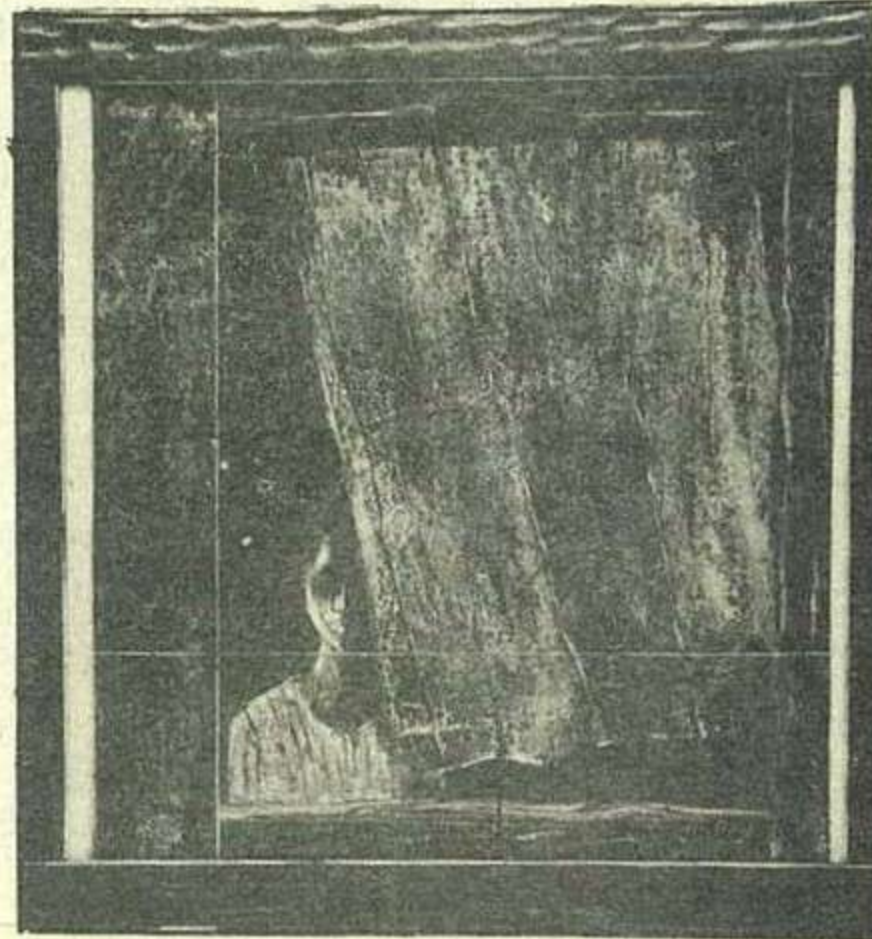
Of special mention at the exhibition are 'Open window' by Yusuf Arakkal, 'Telangana Woman' by Vaikuntham, 'Aging couple', a ceramic sculpture 'Devi' by Himmat Shah and another ceramic and copper piece by Nandgopal.

The exhibition will be inaugurated by Sunil Dutt. Prominent industrialists and business houses, bureaucrats and a number of film industry personalities are expected to visit the exhibition and bid at the auction.



■ Ceramic and copper by Nandgopal

■ 'Open Window' by Yusuf Arakkal



The Foundation proposes to open a bigger rehabilitation centre with occupation facilities at Dahisar so that more mentally afflicted destitutes can be given free medicare, counselling, shelter and a sense of purpose in life.

Mini Pant-Zachariah