

# THE METROPOLIS

O N S A T U R D A Y

BOMBAY, WEEKEND OCTOBER 16-17 1993

28 PAGES WITH PERSPECTIVES RS. 2

## THE METROPOLIS RECOMMENDS

### MAIN EVENTS



#### PAINTING

**Shraddha Samarpan**, an exhibition of contemporary Indian paintings and sculptures is a coming together of 139 eminent artists from India and abroad for a worthy cause — the mentally ill destitutes

JEHANGIR ART GALLERY & ARTISTS' CENTRE, OCT 18-25, 11 AM-7 PM

## The colours of sanity

The mentally ill are, generally, rejected by society. But the art world is making a special effort to help. **Dnyaneshwar Nadkarni** reports on a new exhibition in town

“Our Foundation has specifically selected one section of the mentally ill,” says Dr Bharat Vatwani, psychiatrist and founder of the Shraddha Rehabilitation Foundation, Borivali. “We have been trying hard to treat those who are destitute and are found wandering aimlessly on the streets. We make every effort to rehabilitate these people.”

The Foundation is now involved in a unique undertaking — an exhibition of paintings and sculptures by 139 well-known Indian artists from all over the country and abroad. Called ‘Shraddha Samarpan’, the show will open at the Jehangir Art Gallery and the Artists’ Centre on October 18. “All the artists gave a ready response to our appeal for donating one canvas or sculpture for the show,” says Dr Smita Vatwani, also a psychiatrist with the Foundation.

“We have been able to organize 16 centres for collecting these works of art in the country and also tap the resources of Indian artists based in Paris,

From Paris come the canvases of Akkitham Narayanan, Sakti Burman (who grossed the mind-boggling highest price of Rs 5 lakhs at the recent Helpage auction), Chittrovanu Mazumdar, son of the legendary Nirode Mazumdar of the Calcutta Group of 1943, the equally legendary Syed Haider Raza and the firebrand, peripatetic, V Vishwanathan, painter and film-maker.

How the organizers reached these distant benefactors is a mystery one would rather not unravel. Suffice it to say that the most representative work of these *emigre* geniuses will be in Shraddha Samarpan. The eminent artists’ *samarpan* would obviously not have been accomplished without some *shraddha!*

“We have been in touch with the art world in one way or another,” says Dr Bharat Vatwani. “So this is a cause dear to our hearts. There couldn’t have been better rapport between us and all these generous-hearted artists.”

It is impossible when assessing this kind of venture to men-

phicist Krishna Reddy, represented by one of his inimitable prints. Reddy has not been to India for a long time. One remembers the child figure in some of his prints and the divine aura of light (the child derives from Reddy’s own daughter when she was younger). It is a kind of imagery which immediately relates to the objects of the Foundation.

Nearer home there are expressive heads by the husband-and-wife team of Altaf and Navjot. There is a very impressive painting by Rini Dhupal showing two figures. Rekha Rodwitiya contributes a typically muscular work. T Vaikuntham sends his colourful, folk art-oriented works.

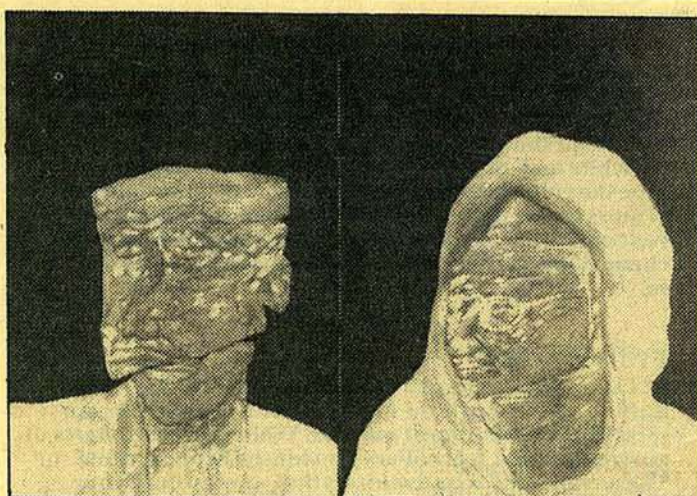
How widely the net of the organizers has been thrown is proved by the inclusion of Delhi artists — ranging from Sankho Chaudhary and Krishen Khanna to Ramkumar, Anjolie Ela Menon and Vivan Sundaram. Add many more distinguished names to these and you will be convinced about the strength of the capital’s contingent.

Cholamandal sends Bhagwan Chavan, C Douglas (who did so well at the Helpage auction) and the sculptor Nandagopal. The Calcuttans include Ganesh Pyne and Paritosh Sen, among others equally well-known. Even Santiniketan sends K G Subramanyam and four colleagues. Laxma Goud leads a sizable team from Hyderabad, while Bangalore promotes G S Shenoy, S G Vasudev and six other noted artists.

Baroda naturally has a strong contingent, including Bhupen Khakkar, Gulam Shaikh and (a curiosity) Ranjitsingh Gaekwad. This princeling is known as a connoisseur and a vocalist but this is the first time he is featuring as an artist in Bombay’s gallery world. And there are painters and sculptors from Ahmedabad, Udaipur, Gwalior, Bhopal, Udipi, Vishakhapatnam and Pune.

“We have been round the whole country approaching these artists personally,” says Bharat Vatwani. “One of our immediate projects is to build an extension to the Foundation’s present facilities in Dahisar. The funds raised by this show will go towards making that a reality.”

It is a tribute to our artists that they can rise to the occasion, thinking of the needs of the mentally ill and destitute.



Heads by Altaf

Munich, Toronto, New York and London,” says Dr Ghanashyam Bhimani, founder-psychiatrist of the organisation.

tion all the contributors to the fund-raising venture. Especially pleasant surprises include the internationally famous gra-