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Painter Perfect



Exhibition
at Chandigarh
from 8th April

Pratiksha

the Painter
of Magnificence
& Class

Her 31 selected paintings shall be on display between April 8, and April 14, 2013, at Punjab Kala Bhavan, Chandigarh.

“Life in nothing but a journey to understand and explore the being. There should be a proper balance between inner richness and outer richness. We shall never run for just one goal,” says Pratiksha Apurv.

Sometime in October 2004, Pratiksha Apurv, niece of spiritual master Osho and a famous fashion designer of Delhi tried to use a combination of canvas and brush instead of scissors and fabric. This was one of those moments in life where you want to amuse yourself and feel good while doing something totally disconnected to the routine work. However, she did not realize the potential of playful moments which literally paved the way for a new path of creativity and pulled her out of the world of glamour. Absorbed in meditative



Pratiksha Apurv

energy, she quit fashion designing within few years and began her journey of meditative painting.

In 2007, she launched her first solo exhibition of paintings in

New Delhi, and surprised everybody who all along knew her as fashion designer. After six years and 9 solo exhibitions across the country, she will be showcasing her 10th solo show in Chandigarh in April, which will include 31 selected paintings from the collection - “**Spiritual Odyssey**” and “**Reflections.**”

Born in Gadarwara, Madhya Pradesh, Pratiksha initiated herself in Sannyas at the tender age of 11 and started living with her family in her uncle's Ashram in Pune, Maharashtra. In her earlier avatar

INNER JOURNEY-Oil on canvas2006,40x30



PRAYER-Oil on canvas2006,60x36



as fashion designer Pratiksha launched Oshonik brand 1987 with a client list consisting of India's who-is-who. Pratiksha has designed for Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Vinod Khanna, Amjad Ali Khan, Hansraj Hans, Kapil dev, Zakir Hussain and other prominent personalities. The moment of transition which happened in 2007 facilitated her entry into the world of art, to give expression to her inner growth. Art critics have noticed that she created her own place in the Indian art with her classical and spiritual touch within a short span of time.

“Life in nothing but a journey to understand and explore the being. There should be a proper balance between inner richness and outer richness. We shall never run for just one goal,” she says.

Her first grand solo show titled Spiritual Odyssey was launched by none other than former Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee, who was not only influenced by her painting but also admired the new form of 'Meditative Art' Pratiksha introduced in the Indian contemporary art.

For Vajpayee, who knew Pratiksha personally, the paintings were real spiritual experience. While inaugurating her show, Vajpayee on record applauded her work, saying the collections are 'thought provoking.'

“Pratiksha, I would like to bow to you. I was not aware of your talent and did not know of the quantum of work that you have created. Your creations are thought provoking. Please continue your search (Sadhna),” Vajpayee said.

Her paintings are dedicated to the eternal journey in solitude and its reflection on every aspect of our

lives. Vibrant colours and introspective frames stem from her moments of inner joy and bliss and are her way of sharing those precious moments with fellow beings.

In the span of last 6 years, her collections of paintings – “Spiritual Odyssey” and “Reflection” attempted to revive the meditative art with advance visualization, spiritual perspective and treatment of characters. Each of the work is a product of well thought process which emanates from her space in deep meditation.

“This has been a long journey but honestly I never realized it. May be because there was no

conscious effort to paint, it naturally happens. Existence provided us a chance to use variety of medium to express ourselves, our inner journey and our being. Colors for me are the tool of my communication with the divine,” Pratiksha said.

With her absolutely exceptional upbringing, Pratiksha discovered herself in the moments of meditation and that is truly reflected in her paintings.

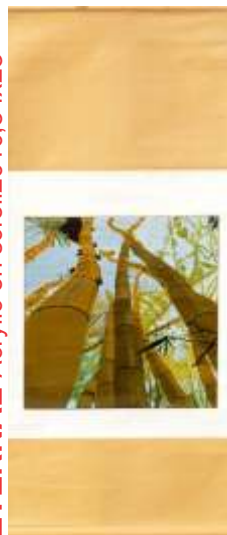
“Osho is in my blood, genes and my being. That is the truth. There is no doubt it helps me understand and to approach the subject of meditative art with a different perspective,” she added.



ALONENESS -Oil on canvas2005,18x24



Cosmic Birth-oil on canvas2006,48x24



ETERNAL Acrylic on scroll2010,54x23



Possibility-Oil on canvas2005,24x24

Although, she has launched two series of her works so far, it never confined the space of her paintings in literal terms. She gave freedom and uniqueness to each of her paintings. While selecting the technical requirement, she used among other things portraits or symbols to convey the meaning of transformation through meditation. In some of her work she used antique style of sketches and in another played with light and shade while few selected works has strong overtones of Tibetan influences. Her paintings are full of religious imagery, spiritual icons, cryptic signage and abstract symbols. To draw her identity, just as what she is, in a purely pictorial aspect, both the collections are best example and testimony of achievement of her craft. She describes her work is an ongoing rendering of her spiritual Odyssey, a journey she has immersed herself in.

“I never went to any art college or pursued training to paint. I just started without even understanding technical aspects of paintings and various nuances of art world. It was a natural learning process and I really enjoyed every bit of it”, Pratiksha said.

In fact art critics and writers while commenting on her work say that her paintings occupy a position that corresponds with the energy and existence of human being. There is an invisible connection among all of her paintings, giving us an idea of a mediator's journey, they say.

On many occasions, during media interaction they expressed shock and surprise upon learning that she never had a formal

technical training. Adding that she took the canvas beyond any superficial modeling of colors, giving a lucid channel to lighting and shadow effect with a clear touch of saturation, which is highly technical.

A professor in Delhi once commented that there is a certain amount of technical education required, when you want to create a light source and to play with shadow and colours. However, Pratiksha managed to control that

Her paintings are dedicated to the eternal journey in solitude and its reflection on every aspect of our lives.

RECEPTIVITY, Acrylic & Oil on canvas, 2012, 36x36



through her precise touch of brush and different observation of tone and color which generally people learn in a classroom.

Her second solo show of Spiritual Odyssey was launched by Nita Ambani in Mumbai in September 2007. Ms. Ambani who is also President of Dhuru Bhai Ambani foundation said Pratiksha's paintings have spiritual fragrance and she seems to be surrounded by spirituality.

Over the period of time she

tried to experiment with various subjects like painting "Upanishad" collection. The Upanishad series was launched in March, 2008 by Sh Brajesh Mishra, former national security advisor at Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi. She has tried to add meditative energy into Sanskrit Shlokas from ancient books without affecting their chanting qualities.

She also painted shloka's from one of the most popular Upanishad's Kaivalya Upanishad to reach out to the masses with the message of 'Brahma and I' and how liberation is possible with just witnessing.

“I prefer to paint without any planning. When I was painting Upanishad, it came to my mind that ancient sages always wanted to show us the real path but in the modern world due to certain barriers like language etc many people may not be able to get an opportunity to read it. So I decided to put the Upanishad on canvas in colors,” Pratiksha said.

Her paintings were selected for India's most prominent National Award organized by Lalit Kala Akademi - under Union Ministry of Culture, New Delhi for three consecutive- 52nd, 53rd and 54th National Exhibition.

The collection planned to be exhibited in Chandigarh, includes a painting titled 'Receptivity' which was selected for 54th National Award organized by Ministry of Culture in Agartala in December last year. Pratiksha says, our mind and heart is so full with thoughts, it is becoming impossible to be receptive unless you drop those

bags of thoughts and her painting just want to convey the message.

"State of no mind is needed in today's cut throat competition and stressful life. We carrying so much baggage, it is becoming impossible to be peaceful. When one is empty of all his or her thoughts and it become just like 'Tabul-Rasa' – that situation is receptivity. It is the only door available for you to welcome the divine. Stop this race just drop the baggage of mind," Pratiksha said adding that she has selected another masterpiece 'The Ultimate Consciousness' for Chandigarh exhibition which will explain the energy centre and ultimate consciousness.

"Energy is witnessed through 'OM' painted in small dots. If you can witness your vital energy you can transcend it to the 7th energy centre and that ultimately merges into cosmic super consciousness. That is ultimate bliss which just requires witnessing in meditative space." Pratiksha suggested.

Each painting in her collection has a relationship between the creator and canvas. It is not merely technical play with light, shadow and colors. There is much more to it. It has a vision of a master with message for the people. A painting in her collection "Totality" is another example of her effort to reach out to masses with the message of doing everything with totality without any aim or goal.

"Whatever you do, pour your heart in it. This should become your way of life." Pratiksha said.

She is also the first Indian artist who extensively worked on the optical illusion series which is highly difficult to paint. In her series of

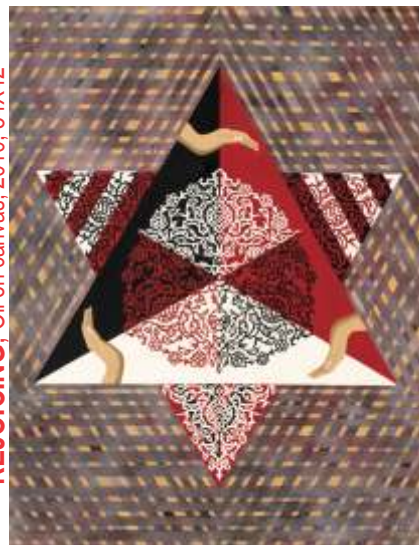
THE ULTIMATE CONSCIOUSNESS



is, 2012, 60' diameter

paintings based on Illusions in our life, she has used silhouettes and created an illusion pattern where the background and the subject form a unique style depicting not just illusion in our life but also extending a healing touch to our soul.

In March 2010, her reflection series of painting was launched in L&P Hutheesing Visual art centre, Ahmadabad by Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi. He said, Pratiksha's paintings are confluence of knowledge, sanskar, meditation and art.



REJOICING, Oil on canvas, 2010, 54X42

Considering her work as a fresh wave on contemporary Indian Art, an eminent Professor of M.S. University Baroda, Prof Shailendra Kushwaha is conducting research on variety of her works. Apart from the research paper, the thesis will be published in a book form.

Prof Kushwaha says, Pratiksha has mastered the structure, drawing and flow of lights.

"Her paintings depict the moments of seeker in colors. She has balanced the variety of paintings with beautiful

treatment of light and shadow accompanied by correct modulation of tone and color. It is indeed a wonderful combination of meditative energy and colors," Prof Kushwaha added.

One of her paintings titled 'Whirling' was selected and printed on the cover page of the book 'Introducing new age Islam' in 2010, which was released during the UN Human rights meeting in Geneva.

"For me the moments of meditation and love are purely creative. Canvas is just an extension of my meditative energy. I also feel it is important to be in harmony with both the inner and the outer world. The material and the spiritual can be bridged through meditation," Pratiksha added.

The 31 selected paintings by Pratiksha shall be on display between April 8, and April 14, 2013, at Punjab Kala Bhavan, Chandigarh. You are cordially invited to join during the seven days devoted to the celebration of inner journey in its varied expressions and form. ●●

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