

Bold and beautiful

Women artists have achieved a level of self-confidence and boldly portray the structures of the social world they occupy

‘The dainty pink, the quiet subdued women is now empowered. The Pink is new Blue.’

To prove the point in vivid colours and different mediums, twenty women artists are showcasing their works at the Suruchi Art Gallery in Noida. Forty-nine pieces of art vie for attention as the old and the young capture the myriad moods of man, the nuances of life and the universe in all its glory.

It is a sincere attempt to understand women from their own perspective. A number of works are thus autobiographical self-inscriptions that register the everyday vulnerable aspects of the body; a space where the trauma of loss and the triumph of

achievement gets deeply wedged, says painter Shukla Sawant.

Describing her works each titled ‘First Flight’, which shows a pair of feet and a hand, two birds in flight and an aeroplane, Sawant says the metaphor of flight gives a sense of continual rejuvenation.

Sexagenarian Anupama Sud, who portrays nude figures, says new age women are fearless, bold and expressive. Sud, who forayed into painting after her tryst with print making, offers an interesting point of departure. Her works are a combination of lithographs and drawings. ‘The Birth of Art’ on the one hand shows the male form and on the other Venus,



the Goddess of productivity. Sud says her works are figurative and she tries to establish a relationship between inanimate and animate objects. She loves to etch and ‘play with the medium’.

Lalitha Lajmi hails from a family involved in the arts. Her brother the late Guru Dutt’s films have been a big influence on her works. A self-taught artist, she turns to the mercurial properties of water-colour to render softly-

coloured, evocative images of domestic spaces that dissolve seamlessly into the outer realm. This juxtaposition of the inside and the outside world presents a longing for a wider field of experience and exploration denied to women from the middle class, says Lajmi. Her works show the relationship between human elements, fruits, earthen pots and flowers as a part of nature and landscape.

Another artist who deals with domestic concerns is Kavita Nayyar. Her portrayal of her daughter is more than a simple exercise in formalism. It is the portrait of a cherished part of her life.

An independent figure asserts her freedom in the face of maternal concern. Swathed in fabric and rendered as a portrait of a sleeping child, the paintings express the “vulnerability women feel towards their children despite their achieving adulthood”.

A product of College of Art, Delhi Neena Luthra, who dabbles in glass, says glass electrifies my mind and soul and fires my passion and imagination. The translucency, lucidity and the luminosity of glass triggered my senses and emotions sending me on a challenging and unending journey of creative self-realisation.

Anjana Mehra’s mysterious landscapes and Surinder Kaur’s evocations of the land form independent offerings depicting colour harmony and compositional abstractions. This along with the work of Papri Bose, Kahini Atre Merchant and Kavita Deuskar presents us with one

Art



telling fact - women’s creative expression is multi-dimensional and multifaceted and impossible to encompass in one exposition alone.

Octogenarian Ira Chaudhuri, Jyotsana Bhatt, Kanchan Chander, Kristine Michael, Meena Deora, Rini Dhumal, Shipra Bhattacharya, Shruti Gupta Chandra, Gogi Saroj Pal and Madhvi Parekh are some of the other artists who have displayed their works.

“The exhibition is a sincere attempt to understand women from their own perspective. It is our way of saluting the women artists who have greatly contributed towards Indian art,” says Sunita Gupta, the organiser of the exposition.

■ RITA JOSEPH