

# Exhibition of works by 15 artists at the consulate

The Indo-American Arts Council and the Consulate General of India will present an exhibition of works by 15 Indian-American artists, each making his/her own statement through their art.

Organized by Vijay Kumar and Aroon Shivdasani of the IAAC, the exhibition will be open to the public from 11 am to 5 pm Monday-Friday.

About the artists and their works:

**Anujan Ezhikode** has trained in makeup and costume making for Kutiyattam and Kathakali-South Indian theater arts dating from the 17th century. He has studied painting and printmaking at the Art Student's League of New York. A recipient of a Diverse Forms Artists' Projects: Regional Initiative Grant, Anujan in his work explores personal narratives and authorship, evoking the possibilities of time and place.

**Bivas Chaudhuri** has a master of fine arts degree, from the University of New York, and more than 12 years of extensive training in arts and design both in India and in New York.

Born and raised in New York City, **Chitra Ganesh** received an MFA from Columbia University in 2002. The recipient of several prestigious awards and residencies, she is currently receiving an emerging artist workspace grant from the Center for Book Arts, and holding a residency at the Artists' Alliance on the Lower East Side.

**Ela Shah** began painting at an early age in India where she learned Indian miniature painting techniques as well as various Western styles. She received her master of arts degree in sculpture at Montclair State University. Her work addresses the conflicts between the spiritual and material worlds. It depicts how women keep faith in the modern world, their hopes, fears, pleasures and pains, as well as their confusions between a family life and a successful career.

Mumbai-born **Madhvi Subrahmanian** now lives and works in Princeton, New Jersey. She teaches ceramics at the Arts Council of Princeton and is a docent at the Princeton Art Museum. On her work that is part of this exhibit, Madhvi says, 'The forms I am compelled to make repeatedly and explore sculpturally revolve around the theme of the seed and the pod — containers that hold, protect, and nurture.'

**Murali Harathi** is an architect by training,



Awakening by Chitra Ganesh

and uses his artistic talent to show his appreciation for the stately buildings of his birthplace, Hyderabad. His watercolors render the doodling complexities of ancient Indian architecture with precision and a certain romantic flair.

**Nandini Chirimar** received her MFA in painting from the Maryland Institute College of Art (1993). She has spent four years in Tokyo learning Japanese woodblock printing (Hanga), exhibiting her work and teaching art. She has worked in many media including painting, handmade paper, mixed media and printmaking. Her work is inspired by her visual and cultural experiences of different cities she has lived in or visited.

Born in Lawrence, Massachusetts, **Nitin Mukul** obtained his bachelor of fine arts degree at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. He has also studied at the Amsterdam School of the Arts, the Netherlands. Nitin says, 'In a loosely autobiographical sense, my work is inevitably linked to being the first generation in the family to be born in America, which creates a duality marked by a removed and at once direct presence of culture, religion, values and ethos. Through art I am able to reconcile this gap

and celebrate the richness of the culture of India, which I inherited, and that of America, which is mine by birth. A sense of vertigo, of being neither here nor there, often pervades.'

**Reeta Karmarkar's** longstanding passion for art bursts forth in her words: 'From the time I held a crayon as a child all I ever wanted to do was paint.' She started out as a figurative painter; but over time and study at the Accademia di Belle Arti, in Rome, she discovered a joy in untangling or tangling with perspective. Her inspiration was architecture in 14th century Italian art; ie, Paolo Uccello, Piero Della Francesca and Raffaello.

**Salma Arastu** has an MFA from Maharaja Sayajirao University, Baroda. Some of her works direct influences of Indian folk or miniature art. Others are total abstracts. She has made an effort to bring together Eastern spirituality and Western techniques of painting that she has learned over the years.

**Satish Joshi** was born in India in 1945. He graduated from the New Delhi College of Art and has taught at Riverdale Country School since 1974. He began as a painter and printmaker and moved gradually into the realm of sculpture. His paintings are created on canvas or wood using a combination

of acrylic modeling paste, gesso, and oil paints, through which he creates painted textured surfaces with a three-dimensional appearance.

**Siona Benjamin** is a painter originally from Bombay, now living in the United States. She earned her first MFA in painting and a second MFA in theater set design. Her work reflects her background of being brought up Jewish in a predominantly Hindu and Muslim India. In her paintings she combines the imagery of her past with the role she plays in America today, making a mosaic inspired by both Indian miniature paintings and Sephardic icons.

**Tara Sabharwal** was born in India and studied painting in Baroda Art College.

She has an MA in painting from the Royal College of Art, London and has been a long-time teacher and exhibitor of her art in Europe and the US. 'In my paintings,' she says, 'I am interested in evoking a sense of mood, often connected with specific events and places, and especially those suggestive of dream and of memory. The figures are neither metaphors beyond themselves nor are they purely what they depict; the aim is to hold the mind in suspension over a field of possibilities rather than arrest it in a concept.'

**Vijay Kumar** studied art at Triveni Kala Sangam in New Delhi, and at Pratt Graphics Center in New York City. He has had many shows of his drawings, prints and paintings in the US and abroad. He has worked extensively in printmaking techniques and currently teaches etching at the Manhattan Graphics Center in New York City, and in Garrison, NY, South Norwalk Conn. and Summit, NJ.

**Vinod Dave** has bachelor's and master's degrees in fine arts from the Maharaja Sayajirao University in Baroda and an MA in mixed-media at the University of South Carolina. 'Dave's paintings reference Bollywood kitsch, comic books and the gods and goddesses whose images are found on common objects such as matchbooks, fire-cracker boxes, beedi cigarette packs and gaudy religious posters.'

**Date:** March 1 to March 8.

**Place:** Consulate of India, 3 East 64th Street, (between Madison and Fifth Avenues), Manhattan.

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