



Devi...devi

# Devi...devi

An exhibition by

**TEN WOMEN ARTISTS**

Celebrating the Eternal and Divine presence of Goddess  
that lives within each woman

**OCTOBER 2013**

Curated by  
**VIJAYLAKSHMI**



37, Santushti Shopping Complex  
Opp. Ashok Samrat Hotel, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi-110003

## PARTICIPATING ARTISTS

ARPANA CAUR

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BULBUL SHARMA

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GOGI SAROJ PAL

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JAYASRI BURMAN

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KANCHAN CHANDER

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KRISTINE MICHAEL

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RINI DHUMAL

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SEEMA KOHLI

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SHIPRA BHATTACHARYA

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VASUNDHARA TEWARI BROOTA

In ancient tales from our epics, myths and legends there are many manifestations of Devi, each one more powerful and beautiful than the other. Sometimes she strides like a warrior and then sometimes she is as docile as a doe. It seems, everywhere you travel, within and without, her various forms seek you out. One day she will appear as Durga, astride a lion, about to slay the demon. Then the next day you will meet her as the gentle Parvati, meditating on a mountain peak, or you will see her as Radha, beloved of Lord Krishna. She is the turbulent Ganga, flowing down from Shiva's locks and then she is Sita, modest and virtuous.

She comes into our thoughts as courageous and beautiful Draupadi, then she glows like a precious jewel as the benevolent Laxmi. The next day she greets us with quiet dignity as Saraswati, the Goddess of learning, from Vedic times.

In these violent times a little girl child, a young woman, our elderly mothers, are all becoming victims of terrible abuse and crime- we read about rape every day in the newspapers, see terrible images on television and gradually seem to become indifferent to the horrors of our everyday life.

With these paintings, these powerful images, we pay tribute to all women and celebrate the Goddess that lives within each of us. We salute the elements that have formed us, as we connect to our ancient roots and remind ourselves that we must be, forever humane, compassionate and venerating in our thoughts and actions.

Devi.... devi's eternal presence- divine, protective and benevolent, lives within us all.

Bulbul Sharma



## ARPANA CAUR

Born 1954. Exhibited since 1974 across the globe. Solos in Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta, Bangalore, Chennai, London, Glasgow, Berlin, Amsterdam, Singapore, Munich, New York and in Stockholm and Copenhagen National Museum. Her work can be seen in Museums of Modern Art, in Delhi, Mumbai, Chandigarh, Dusseldorf, Singapore, Bradford, Stockholm, Hiroshima, Peabody Essex Boston, MOCA L.A, Brooklyn, Bharat Bhawan, Bhopal & Victoria and Albert Museum, London. Awarded a gold medal in the VIth International Triennale 1986 in Delhi. Was commissioned by Hiroshima Museum of Modern Art for work for its permanent collection for its 50th anniversary 1995, and by Bangalore and Hamburg to do large non-commercial murals in public spaces. Since 1981 she did three large non-commercial murals in Delhi and one in Kathmandu. She has a concern for environment, time, spirituality, condition of women and growing violence in the world, rooted in the language of ancient Indian Sculptures and Miniatures.



HER TOUCH '12 | Oil on Canvas | 31 x 40 inches



## BULBUL SHARMA

Bulbul Sharma is a painter and writer. Her works are in the collection of the National Gallery of Modern Art, Lalit Kala Akademi and Chandigarh Museum as well as in private collections in India, UK, U.S.A, Japan, Canada and France. She has held solo exhibitions of her paintings in Mumbai, London, Delhi, as well as participated in group shows in India and abroad from 1987 till 2013.

She has published several books which include “My Sainted Aunts (Penguin), The Perfect Woman (UBS), Anger of Aubergines (Kali for Women) “Banana Flower Dreams (Penguin). ShayaTales (Penguin) and Devi (Penguin), Eating Women; Telling Tales (Zubaan), Now that I am Fifty (Women Unlimited) and Tailor of Giripul (Harper Collins). Her books have been translated into Italian, French, German, Chinese, Spanish and Finnish.

Her books for children are “Fabled Book of Gods and Demons” (Puffin) and The Children’s Ramayana (Puffin). She conducts ‘Storypainting’ workshops for special needs children and is a founder –member of Sannidhi – an NGO that works in village schools.



SITA IN ASOKVATIKA '13 | Watercolour and Gouache | 30 x 24 inches



## GOGI SAROJ PAL

Born 1945, Neoli, U.P., India

Gogi Saroj Pal is one of India's leading artists. She would say that her paintings are concerned with 'eternal female'. Yet her works suggest a bold feminine intent, where she parodies earlier expositions of the Indian woman in painting and sculptures. In this she finds common cause with outstanding woman artists of today, in addressing a favoured theme: the gaze of eternity on the woman's body. In her work the woman becomes her focus, both as the object as well as the subject of desire.

Gogi is made in the Girl's Own Adventures heroine mould. She's feisty, funny, tells a million stories a minute. Her female figures are relaxed and memorable. 'You learn sensuousness by looking at the women around you when you're growing up,' she says.

### Honors and Awards

- 1995 12th Cleveland International Drawing Biennale, Middlesbrough, U.K
- 1990 National Award, Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi • 1987 Jury's Commendation Certificate in the First International Biennale of Plastic Arts in Algeria
- 1986-88 Fellowship, Department of Culture, New Delhi • 1981-82 Fellowship of Lalit Kala Akademi, Garhi Artists' Studios, New Delhi • 1980 Sanskriti Award, New Delhi • 1978,79,81 Group '8' Medals at All India Graphic- Prints Exhibition, Chandigarh and New Delhi

Held Solo and group exhibitions in India, Germany, USA, Kuala Lumpur, Amsterdam, Canada, London, Japan, Moscow, South Korea, Yugoslavia, Karachi between 1965-2013.

Gogi Saroj Pal works and lives in Delhi.



DEVI '13 | Acrylic on Canvas Board | 20 x 24 inches



## JAYASRI BURMAN

Born in Kolkata in 1960, Burman studied first at Kala Bhavan, Santiniketan (1977-79) and later at the Visual College of Arts, Kolkata (1979-80). Shortly after, in 1984, she went to France to study printmaking under the tutelage of Monsieur Ceizerzi. Burman has received the award for 'Outstanding Merit of Tempera' in the annual exhibition of Visual College of Art in 1979. In 1985 she also received the National award from the Government of India. In early 2007 she undertook a collaborative art work with Renuka Chowdhury, Lata Mangeshkar and Kokilaben Ambani for the Khushii Foundation. Later that year the Government of India also released a series of commemorative stamps with Burman's work on them on the occasion of International Women's Day. A book 'A Mythical Universe' has been published on her life and works in 2010, accompanied with a show featuring her works from the period 1983 – 2010. She currently lives and works in New Delhi.



'KAMALA (SARASWATI)' '13 | Water Colour Pen & Ink on Paper | 24 x 24 inches



## KANCHAN CHANDER

Kanchan Chander was born in New Delhi in 1957. She received her formal training in Painting and Printmaking from College of Art, New Delhi, Weisensee Kunsthochschule, Berlin and College of Art, Santiago, Chile. She joined Delhi College of Art for a Research Fellowship and later went to study Printmaking at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts, Paris on a French government scholarship, while she has held solos and participated in various prestigious exhibitions in India and all over the world.

She has participated in residency at Braidwood, Australia and Fukuoka Museum, Japan. Amongst the awards she has received include the AIFACS award for the Women's All India Show and the International Print Biennale Award, Bradford, UK.

Kanchan's works form a part of many private and public collections including the collections of Lawrence Gallery, Santiago; Victoria & Albert Museum, and British Museum, London; Ecole des Beaux Arts, Paris; Fukuoka Art Museum and Glenberra Museum, Japan, and Air India, New Delhi. Kanchan Chander works and lives in Delhi.



DEVI '11 | Acrylic & Swarovskis on Canvas | 27 x 52 inches





## KRISTINE MICHAEL

Kristine Michael trained in ceramic design with Dashrath Patel at The National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad and subsequently with Alan Caiger Smith at Aldermaston Pottery, UK. Her formative creative years in Auroville and at The Golden Bridge Pottery in Pondicherry with Ray Meeker and Deborah Smith formed a strong base in wood firing and stoneware glazes. She has received many awards, among them the Sanskriti Award, Charles Wallace award, Nehru Fellowship and Junior Fellowship from the Ministry of Culture. Her work is a part of important collections at Bradford Museum, Cartwright Hall UK, Seoul Ceramic Foundation at Icheon Korea, The Clay Studio Philadelphia and Essl Museum Austria. She has written articles widely on ceramics both historical and contemporary, as well as on ceramic artists, in publications like Treasures of the Albert Hall Museum Jaipur, Devi Prasad, PR Daroz catalogue for Art Alive, Handicrafts of Gujarat, and the yet to be published Jaipur Blue Pottery, etc. She has participated in many international exhibitions and lectures on Indian ceramics, the most recent being ASNA Clay Triennale in Karachi in 2013. She is based in New Delhi and is currently Curriculum Leader of Visual and Performing Arts at The British School, New Delhi.

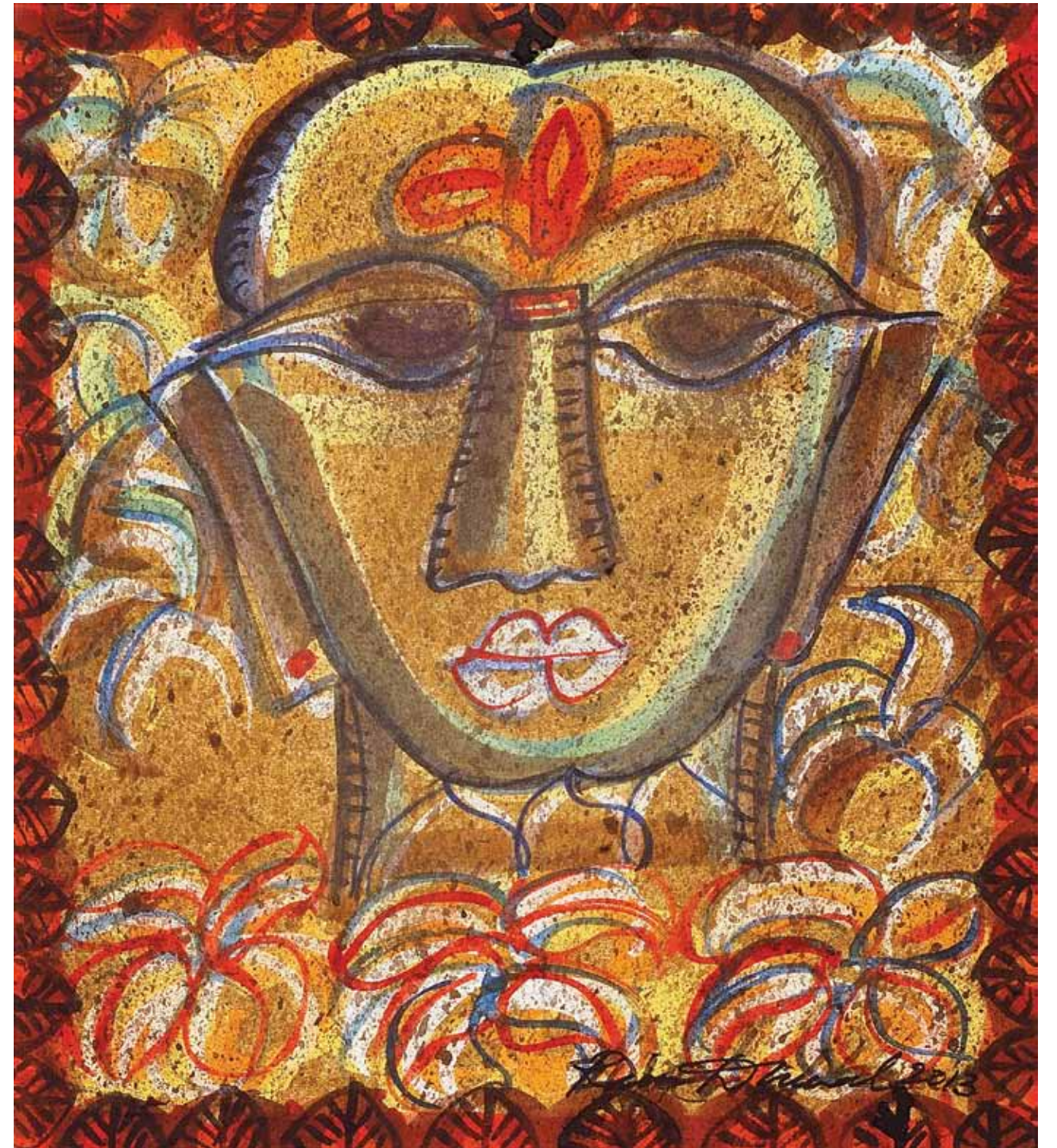
The current works are a part of a series on the symbiosis between woman and nature. Elements of seed, growth and renewal have been a constant thread running conceptually through her work over the past twenty years.





## RINI DHUMAL

Born 1948 in Bengal, Rini completed her Masters in Painting from M.S. University, Baroda. She has held over 25 solo shows including those at Delhi, Mumbai, Baroda, Ahmedabad and Hyderabad in India and Paris, Chile, Germany and Spain, overseas. Her work has been exhibited in numerous group shows throughout India and abroad. She is a recipient of Research Scholarship and Senior Fellowship from Ministry of Human Resource, New Delhi as well as a French Govt. Scholarship to study and work with Sir S.W. Hayter in Atelier 17 in Paris. The awards to her credit include the Chancellors Gold Medal from Baroda; Governors Gold Medal from Calcutta; AIFACS Award; National Award of the Lalit Kala Akademi and M. S. Randhawa Award- all three in New Delhi. Rini lives and works in Baroda. Dhumal is characterized by her very varied choice of materials and colors. She is just at home painting with acrylic paints on glass as she is with creating a black and white linocut. She is currently a Professor of Fine Arts at her alma mater M.S. University in Vadodra.



UNTITLED | Mix Media on Gold Paper | 12 x 14 inches

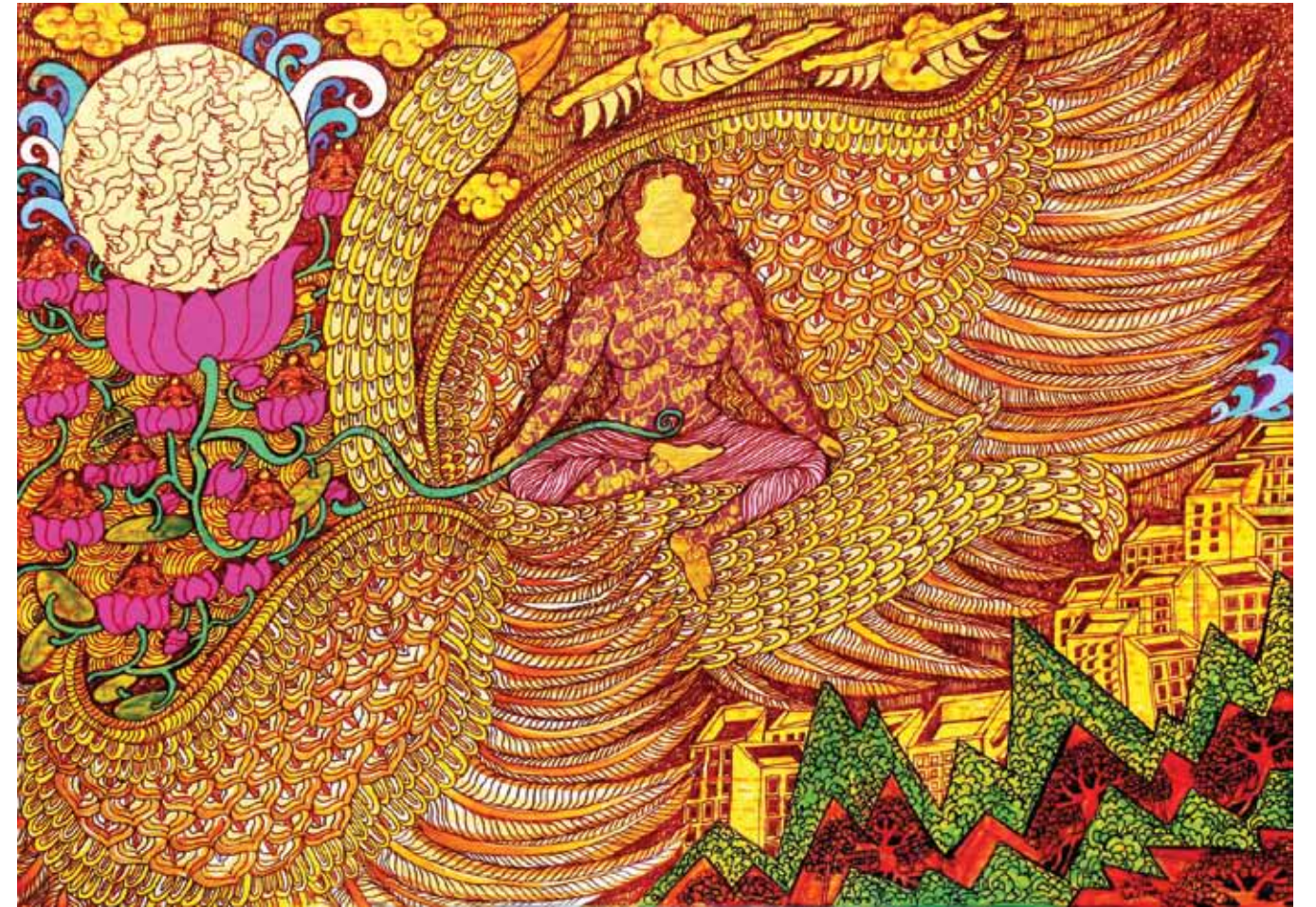


## SEEMA KOHLI

Seema Kohli's works reveal a claiming of feminine subjectivities, an altered concept of feminine sexuality. Her works bring into focus a woman's intellect, thought, dreams and realities. The domain of sacred feminine geography with an effulgence of energy emanates from the paintings, where myth, memory and imagination have become the handmaiden of her own artistic oeuvre. Within the genres of sexuality and desire, one can't ignore the parallel journeys of discovery that she has made. Being a student of philosophy, she has inhaled and experienced myriad notions of existence, and has lived emotional and psychological reality. Since last 28 years Seema Kohli has had over 20 solo shows in NY, Dubai, Singapore Delhi, Chennai, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Bangalore. She works in various mediums other than painting, moving on to sculpture video performance and installation art. She has participated in International art fairs (Beijing, Basel, Shanghai, Madrid, Singapore, Hong Kong, Japan and India)

Seema has held interactive presentations of her works at TedEX Chennai, WIN Conference-Rome and Prague, NGMA Bangalore, Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi and Jaipur. Her work can be seen in public art as murals of 10' x 100' at the Delhi International Airport, Mumbai International/Domestic Airport, the Defense Ministry, ONGC, Tata Residency, Manipal University, Leela Palace and Ritz Carlton Hotels. Her paintings are in collections of H.E. The President of Singapore, Mr. S.R. Nathan; Chairman of the Arts Council of Singapore, Mr. Liu Thai Ker; French Embassy in India, Norway High Commissioner, Camlin, UNDCP, Raj Niwas Pondicherry, Northern Railways, Indian Railways, CCS India, Bharat Bhawan, Bhopal, Lalit Kala and Sahitya Kala Akademi and various art collectors in India and abroad.

Kohli has received the Annual Dayawati Modi Stree Shakti Award 2012, Gold at Florence Biennale 2009, 1 Premio "Video, the YFLO Women Achiever's Award and the LKA National Award for Women in 2008. Her works are a part of prestigious private and public Museums including Rubin's Museum, USA. She has authored a book "I Am" in verse, based on the interrelation of art with her life (both supporting each other simultaneously). She lives and works from her studio in New Delhi, India.





## SHIPRA BHATTACHARYA

Born in 1954 in Kolkata, West Bengal; graduated from Kolkata University in 1975. She studied at Govt. College of Art & Craft and studied Fine Arts at College of Visual Arts, under guidance of Shuvapasanna. She has held 12 solo exhibitions and numerous group exhibitions in India and abroad. Till now five portfolios are made on her drawings and paintings. Shipra has done a number of International projects and workshops. More important amongst which, are 'To Encounter the other', Kassel, Germany; Fukuoka Collection, Japan.

Shipra Bhattacharya paints her images generally placing a female form in the thematic or structural center of the pictorial world. Not a feminist, of any ideological mould, she portrays woman as the still center of life in spheres ranging from the humdrum reality of the home in urban ambience to the far existential horizon of the wide world. She has inherited the tradition of homocentric image making but has enriched it with a spectacular input of her own technical and stylistic resources as well as a fabulous visual repertoire of myths and metaphors.





## VASUNDHARA TEWARI BROOTA

Vasundhara Tewari Broota was born and lived in Kolkata till she was fifteen after which she resided in Delhi. She graduated from Lady Shri Ram College with English Honours and simultaneously studied art at Triveni Kala Sangam being awarded the National Cultural Scholarship for fine arts from the ministry of culture HRD. She held her first solo show in Shridharani Gallery, Delhi in 1980. In 1984 she toured USA and exhibited at the University of Illinois. She held solo shows at Pundole Art Gallery, Mumbai in 1991 and Vadehra Art Gallery, Delhi in 2007, apart from other solo and group shows in galleries and museums in India and abroad. She has won several awards including a silver medal at 1st International Biennale, Algiers; The Sanskriti Award as well as annual awards at All India Fine Arts and Crafts Society and Sahitya Kala Parishad. Her works are in several important public and private collections including National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi, Peabody Museum USA, Tehran Museum of Art, Iran, Rental Gallery of MOMA San Francisco, Bharat Bhavan museum, Bhopal Chandigarh museum and several others.



AND SHE WILL RISE '13 | Oil on Canvas | 48 x 48 inches

*Text : Bulbul Sharma*

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37, Santushti Shopping Complex  
Opp. Ashok Samrat Hotel, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi-110003  
011-26883738 | [artindus@gmail.com](mailto:artindus@gmail.com) | [www.artindusonline.com](http://www.artindusonline.com)