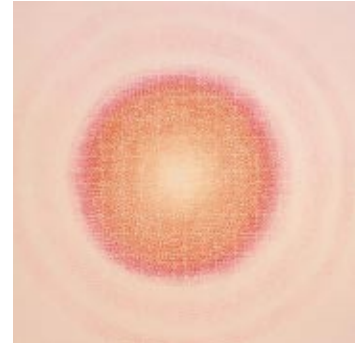


Aicon Gallery: Solo Exhibition for New Delhi Born Artist Shobha Broota

Aicon Gallery Palo Alto is delighted to present a solo exhibition for Shobha Broota. These recent works, as Anirudh Chari eloquently notes in the catalogue essay, are "emancipated from the shackles of motif." Hence Broota's works take on a more minimalist language.



Shobha Broota CELEBRATION 2007 Oil and acrylic on canvas 72 x 72 in.

Shobha Broota was born in 1943 in New Delhi. She taught art at Triveni Kala Sangam before launching her successful career as a full time artist that has spanned four decades. Her impressive C.V. is laden with honors including a commission from the government of Guyana to paint the official portrait of Dr. Chaddi Jagan, then President of Guyana, for their Parliament house.

At first glance one may mistake the works on display at the Aicon Gallery as simple. They are far from it. Broota's canvas work uses different media such as paper, wool and thread. As she weaves the material into crudely textured grids, the earthy and grounded comfort of a quilt is evoked as is the ritualistic nature of the age-old practice. Given the abstract nature, these associations are born out of a Zen like "intentionless-ness" of a master artist, and provoke in the the viewer a connection that draws together emotion, abstraction, and realness.

With her more traditional oil and acrylic on canvas works, she plays with the role of light. The Living Core for example is a soothing, serene void that transports one from a core of pure color to pure light. This energy seems to spill beyond the confines of the canvas. Within a white cube surrounding, the work inevitably transcends itself. Another work, Celestial Music exudes lyrical flow and harmony. Overall, Broota's oeuvre, irrespective of medium, is diaphanous and suggests a spiritual quest for the undefined.

Works for the show " A Path Beyond" are on view at the Aicon Gallery Palo Alto. through March 15, 2008.

Shobha Broota completed a Masters in Vocal Indian Classical Music at Sangeet Visharad and received a diploma in Fine Arts at the College of Art in 1964. Since 1992 she has had select solo exhibitions in India, the US, Australia, England, Holland and Singapore. She has equally participated in group shows all around the world. Various awards and distinctions include the AIFACS (1982), the Sahitya Kala Parishad (1986), the Scholarship, Ministry of Culture from the Government of India (1982) as well as the Fellowship-Ministry of Culture (1996).