

Flying Colours

Express news service

Posted online: Sunday, February 10, 2008 at 0005 hrs IST

When the orange sun slithered down the evening sky over Sindgi in north Karnataka, a little boy would leave the green fields, pack his plough and pick up chalks to sketch deities on the asphalt road. He went on to master the fine arts, but visions of childhood and the free lines of white on the tarmac continue to inspire 37-year-old Iranna GR.

"I always look back at those years," says the artist who is now based in Delhi. And that is visible in his creations, in agricultural tools finding place in fibreglass installations, and in the portrayal of heroic male figures with the body levitating in a trance. His latest series, Birth of Blindness, is set to travel to Aicon Gallery, London, in March and to New York in May. "It is about acting blindly, about choosing a particular path without understanding the situation and its implications," says Iranna. The collection includes an acrylic on tarpaulin titled Make Sure You Are Singing that has a slightly nervous girl singing to the tunes of a blindfolded piano player, with a tiger acting as the ringmaster. The rugby players are also masked and blinded, as they get ready to play the game in Playing With White Ball. "On both occasions, the performance is hindered because the individuals are blinded. They aren't aware of their surroundings," says Iranna.

He also comments on the global hierarchy through creations like Wounded Tools that has a fibreglass donkey carrying a sack of gardening tools wrapped in bandage. "They are rusted and outdated, like the weapons dumped by developed countries on the developing ones," observes Iranna.

A preview of the exhibition will be held on February 10 at The Stainless Gallery, Okhla.