

Spatial Concerns

Sakshi gallery's spanking new space in Mumbai played host to the recently held *Intimate Spaces*. Organised by Anupa Mehta, former editor, *Art India*, for the magazine, the cosy afternoon was conceptualised as an interactive group response to the works of two artists – Rekha Rodwittiya and Anju Dodiya. Interestingly, the group was an all woman one, the aim being to encourage a deeper, more meaningful, and maybe more, personal exchange. The invitees were drawn from different



A view of some of the participants at Intimate Spaces.

spheres of life to allow for communication at various levels. The morning session involved a slide presentation by both artists, alongside a display of some of their works, followed by questions regarding the same. It proved to be a stimulating exercise allowing for insights into the minds of the two artists and their images. Dodiya confessed to 'the terrible fears' she faces as a painter while Rodwittiya decoded her personal artistic vocabulary. After a delectable lunch, the facilitator, Dr. Rani Raote, a practising psychotherapist, took over. It promised to be an exciting session, where the participants were asked to reveal their responses to the work. It left one disappointed, however, as the conversation meandered away from intimate responses to the works to general areas of discussion like art education and the passive role of the government, eroding the novel idea behind *Intimate Spaces*.

A Smooth Blend

American whisky and Indian art blended together in an exhibition titled *Windows of Joy – Goa* held at Delhi's Park Hotel. The show was hosted by the Early Times Indian Art Foundation, which has been set up by the Brown-Forman Corporation, makers of bourbon whisky. Aimed at promoting the work of young, promising artists, the Foundation chose Dr. Subodh Kerkar for its debut exhibition held in July. Kerkar displayed a host of pretty watercolours, acrylics and ceramics, the underlying theme being windows of old Goan houses. Kerkar who feels strongly about the demolition of old houses used the show as a statement for conserving Goa's unique architectural heritage.



Dr. Subodh Kerkar.

The Foundation's next choice as artist of the month is Sanjay Ashtaputra from Hyderabad. There have been conflicting statements about the criteria used for the selection of artists. While the public relations agency for the firm maintains that a panel has been set up for the selection of artists, a spokesperson from the firm said that the choice of artist was made by the company's Vice-President, South Asia, Amrit K. Singh. Kerkar, on being asked how he was chosen for the show, said that someone from the Foundation saw his works hanging at a friend's house and took a shine to them! Clearly, a more professional and transparent method of selection needs to be evolved if the Foundation wants to make a difference to the country's art scene.

Meera Menezes



One of Dr. Kerkar's joyous windows.