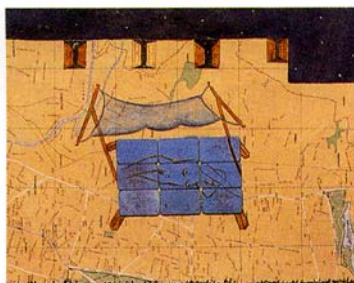




ROUND UP

New Voices



Mithu Sen. *Good Knight Girls' Hostel*. Mixed media on paper. 1999. 25.5 cm x 32.5 cm.

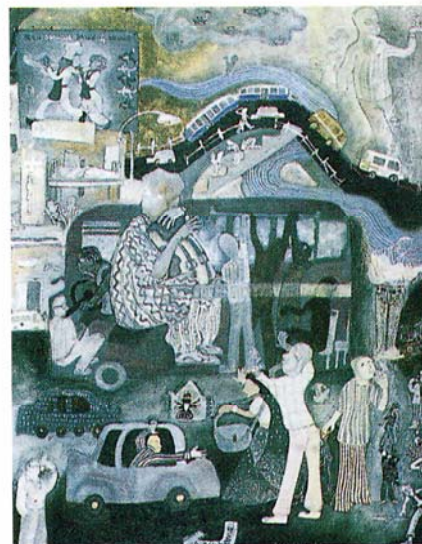
Emerging Trends, a showing of works by eight young artists presented at the CIMA gallery in Calcutta from August 3-15, was, perhaps, inappropriately named. If a new trend symbolises a fresh paradigm then this was not in evidence at the show. The majority of the 108 works on display lacked this newness either in their thematic character or in their formal structures. There were only variations in styles already familiar in contemporary art.

Of the eight artists, Mithu Sen seems to be evolving a new visual language along with a concern for socio-political issues. Her strongest trait is that, even when handling the most obvious reality, she avoids clichés by creating a distinct form using the familiar map image. For instance, in the work, *Good Knight Girls' Hostel* Sen pasted four mosquito-repellent mats with a bold drawing of a sleeping girl on them onto a map of Calcutta. The top edge was manipulated to suggest high rise buildings, beyond which stretched a pitch dark sky. It was a simple yet multilayered statement.

Amrita Sen, with her Mario Miranda-like style of drawing figures, juggled diverse situations, moods and statements into a pictorial collage that sought to convey a kind of wit and irony and build up a narration. Elements of fun and humour are also her distinguishing traits and were evident in the works *Way Home* and *How Many Hands Do I Need?*

Jayshree Burman, Dilip Kumar Samanta, Arup Ghosh, Samit Das were very distinct in their application of colours and use of textures. Geometric shapes were dominant in Samit Das's works. Soumitra Basak's images were culled from popular cinema and the print medium. Each of these artists reflected the nascent development of an individual style in their works. They are all young and one can hope that they will all be able to evolve their distinctive voices over time.

- S.S.



Amrita Sen. *Way Home*. Mixed media on paper. 1998. 53 cm x 40.3 cm.