

Bill Gates, the guru of our times, in his new book *Business@the Speed of Thought* says, "I have a simple but strong belief. How you gather, manage and use information will determine whether you win or lose".

This is true even in the field of art. No one culture can exist in isolation. All works of art are being more and more influenced by a global culture which is a medley of traditions and ideologies. In this age of integrated information systems, we have to keep pace with the rest of the world and our standards of evaluation cannot be different from those accepted worldwide. Nalini Malani's video installation, *Remembering Toba Tek Singh* moved me. The video projections of grotesque nuclear catastrophes filled me with a sense of disgust, anger and helplessness.

Our institutions should support such creations as permanent exhibits in our museums and thereby allow a larger and varied audience to view them.

It is an irony, however, that many of our creative minds often have to search for foreign funding, especially for projects which do not have a resale value – but is art only a commodity?

Another landmark was Atul Dodiya's interpretation of Gandhi, *An Artist of Non-violence*. His watercolours recreated the whole epoch of the freedom struggle. The present is deeply rooted in the past and the contemporary interpretation of Gandhi was a visual treat.

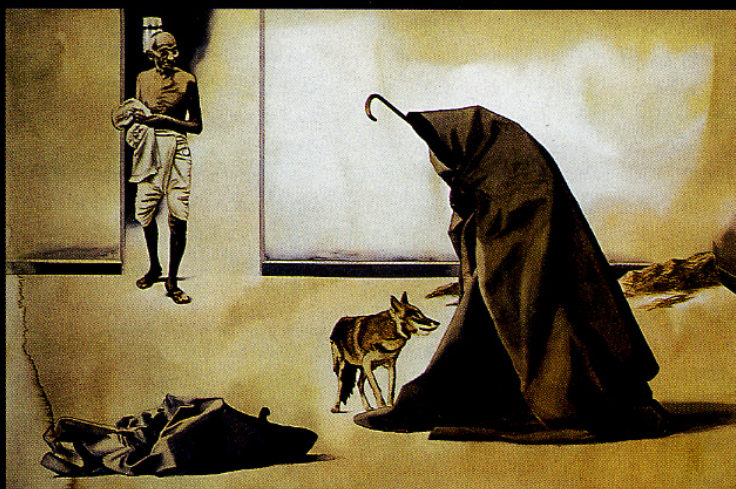
As we move towards the new millennium, all of us must gear ourselves for change which is happening because of a simple idea – the internet which creates a new space for information sharing, collaboration and interaction.

More on this next time.

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Nalini Malani. *Remembering Toba Tek Singh*. Video Installation.



Atul Dodiya. *Bapu at Rene Block Gallery, New York, 1974*. Watercolour. 1998. 45 inches x 70 inches.