

Exploring possibilities

Anant Art Gallery is presenting 'Fleshed Out and Lifting Off: Painting into Relief,' a group exhibition by Kriti Arora, Samit Das, Sheila Makhijani, Bindu Mehra and Mithu Sen from February 14 to March 7, 2004.

"Fleshed out and Lifting Off" explores the multiple paths that artists are taking to expand the techniques and dialogs of painting itself. Always starting with two-dimensional structures, these are then built upon, pierced, made transparent, or transformed in some way to bring them to something which is not quite painting, not quite sculpture, certainly collage and exciting new possibilities for relief. In part, these strategies may arise as a need to render painting both new and relevant, as it becomes increasingly competitive with and challenged by the disciplines of photography and video.

Mithu Sen explores the transparency of fabrics and the delicacy of materials to create strangely layered pools of mages and shapes. Samit Das extends the forms of the book, the photograph and the architectural model into an aggressive hybrid which can only be thought of as a new form of painting. Sheila Makhijani has begun to elaborate the delicate line work, organic forms and refined palette of her miniature paintings into three-dimensional works which use a range of unconventional materials. Kriti Arora's works in ceramics have led her to mount them as sets into boxed frames, exploiting their iconic status and physical richness. Bindu Mehra combines drawings with webs of glue that hover above and cast shadows, which become part of the imagery. In all cases, the artists are unafraid to combine different types of materials, both conventional and unconventional, so as to create their own personal vocabularies and highly arresting art forms.