

Bangalore Mirror

TEMPERATURE MAX 36 | MIN 24 | HUMIDITY 38%

FORECAST PARTLY CLOUDY SKY. THUNDERY CONDITIONS LIKELY TO DEVELOP TOWARDS EVENING/NIGHT | SUNRISE 06:02 HRS | SUNSET 18:33 HRS



Colours of catharsis

City-based artist Sapna Dube uses a riot of shades to deal with her ghosts for her debut show

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As a kid, self-taught artist Sapna Dube would often question her mother, also an artist, why she would draw mandalas with pencils. "Why not colour?" she would ask. Her mother always replied, "This is

what my art is." Through her childhood and later, as a communication professional, Dube resorted to art as a way to express her innermost thoughts. Always in pencil. She continued to imbibe art from her mother, who was trained by Karnataka's well-known artist SS Kukke.

For her upcoming maiden show Technicolour Dreams, 18 of her works will be up on the walls of Venkatappa Art Gallery. There is one surprise for those who are familiar with her works. The new series is in colour. The artworks have bursts of pinks, purples, indigo blues, reds and more. The transformation to kaleidoscope and pop colours happened after Dube lost her mother in 2011 and she decided to read up on mandalas during a personally intense time," she says, referring to the spiritual and religious symbol which is revered in Hinduism and Buddhism. Dube speaks of how Carl Jung, the Swiss psychiatrist known for his influential work in the field, recognised the urge to make mandalas during moments of personal growth. "Creating such symbols help stabilise, integrate and reorder inner life."

The works which are on display are largely based on the

mandalas but she has also incorporated other motifs in some of the works. A Yakshagana dancer is surrounded by paisleys and eyes denoting the third eye of Lord Shiva. "I was born and brought up in the city, so like any old Bangalorean, I too lament the loss of identity that the city is facing," she rues. "Ask any kid about Yakshagana dancers and chances are that they will not have a clue."

From being a pensioner's paradise to being caught up in a frenetic pace, the changes in the city have also become a muse for this artist. "The other creative forces behind my works are con-

sumerism, capitalism, modernity and the futility of our lifestyles," she says, spouting the terms with practised ease. Dube also cites colour as one of the major influences. She uses the varied inks just like a child, who has recently discovered the delights of colour pens. Imperfections show in the form of slightly smudged lines where two ink colours meet. But Dube says, she does not want to cover up the flaws. "They are also part of my work, of what I am."

The whole show itself is the result of three years of preparation. Meanwhile, the jury is out on the works themselves. At first glance, they may seem amateur and child-like, or like a stylised simplification of forms and design. However, the conviction with which Dube has gone about putting up the show is clear. She calls it a homage to her mother and wonders what her reaction would have been if she were alive. "I really can't say," she ponders. But she does know that all she has ever wanted to do was to create something "intricate, beautiful, and stimulating to the eye." Her earnest works do make a case in point.

Technicolour Dreams, 10am-7pm, Apr 27th - May 1st, Venkatappa Art Gallery



Intimacy



Anonymity



Song of the Sprite