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## Multiple mindscapes

While Prananime will stun you with contrasting cultural symbols, Narrative Movement captivates the senses



### ***DYNAMIC* Toby Barnes fascinates, and Santiniketan artists narrate physical and mental mindscapes**

Two visually stunning exhibitions — Toby Barnes' "Prananime" at Time and Space Gallery and "Narrative Movement" by artists from Santiniketan — Gopa Sikder, Kousik Roy, Manoj Poddar, Pratyusha Mukherjee, Ram Kishu, Subrata Mete and Taslima Akter at Gallery Mementos pour colours onto canvasses.

#### **Toby Barnes' Prananime**

For Asian-American Toby Barnes, Hindu mythology fascinated him first. Dull landscapes of mountains and snow or space travel straight out of sci-fi form the background with imagery of "robotic forms and spiritual icons" are a fantastic creation of Toby's imagination. "Inspired by Eastern philosophy and contemporary pop/techno-culture iconography", "Prananime" could be a crazy re-interpretation of characters straight out of comics freshly created by Japanese manga artist who sell their colourful works right from the street, as a pop-culture proficient friend pointed out. So what you have are amazing forms of these robust, animated characters ready to burst or jump out of the canvas in their robo-cars or bikes and slam straight into you with a vroom.

Translated to "whimsical pictures", manga art depicted on large canvasses captivate your senses, creating an energy so pulsating, bouncy and full of beans, that you sometimes have to take a step back to control your joy. You cannot help but trace all of this to the history of manga to the occupation of U.S.A on Japan which brought with it symbols and images from the militarisation of a country — GIs, Disney and heroism finding visual dynamism on canvasses.