

There is an obvious, colourful humour in Toby's style and sense — contrasting characters and landscapes and also, contrasting artistic mediums — comic and fine art. The robotic forms are “alien” to their landscapes “...appear as sages in meditative poses, their serenity sharply contrasting with their steely exteriors...they take flight as alien visitors on snowy mountain tops or humorous deviants on lotus blossoms. The spiritual icons, from Bal Krishna to Shiva, are re-represented in the contemporary playful language of anime.” Toby's works will have an amazing, dazzling effect that will play on your minds in “interplay of kitsch and landscape art” fusing multiple divergent elements and cultures. Prananime is sponsored by Kingfisher Airlines, Bouvet Ladubay and Whyte & Mackay.

“Prananime” at Time and Space Gallery is on till December 30, Monday to Saturday, No. 55 Lavelle Road. Call 22124117.

Narrative Movement

Moving on to more traditional, contemporary art forms, “Narrative Movement” the group exhibition at Gallery Mementos by Santiniketan artists called the “Magnificent Seven” by Ruby Palchoudhuri — Gopa Sikder, Kousik Roy, Manoj Poddar, Pratyusha Mukherjee, Ram Kishu, Subrata Mete and Taslima Akter engage with multiple themes and forms — flora and fauna, surreal imagery, portraits of survivors, architecture and dreamscapes, animal and human coexistence, mood and poetry in domestic spaces — as art historian Suresh Jayaram writes in the catalogue.

Gopa Sikder's striking mixed media on canvas captures both the water world and flora and fauna so vivid that it seems to dip right out of the canvas in their larger-than-life depiction. Kousik Roy explores myriad styles from the dark and sombre textured frontal form of a man to the bright re-look at bustling street-life with a pair of glasses lying on the ground. Manoj Poddar's various styles uses black and white to create twirling energy and fusions of human beings and animals, dream states and yearnings.

Ram Kishu's focuses on human living, survival, and angst in his definite forms and human features, bright, monotone colours which go out of shape in the painting of a woman on her knees and palms, dishevelled and looking up. Subrata Mete also focuses on the human form and existence using mixed media. Bangladeshi artist Taslima Akter's vision of old decaying structures which still breathes, lives and houses life are a poetic portrayal of structures which go beyond their physicality to create again, the fluidity between physical structures and wandering minds.

“Narrative Movement” is on at Gallery Mementos, The Chancery, No. 10/6 Lavelle Road till December 30, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on all days. Call 65469627.

AYESHA MATTHAN

© Copyright 2000 - 2008 The Hindu