

San Francisco's Asian Art Museum will present a selection of eleven paintings by the acclaimed contemporary Indian artist Anjolie Ela Menon May thru December. A **Siliconeer** report.



ANJOLIE MENON'S ART

ASIAN ART MUSEUM TO EXHIBIT

The Asian Art Museum will present a selection of eleven paintings May 9 by Anjolie Ela Menon, one of most acclaimed contemporary Indian artists. The paintings will be on display through Dec. 17.

Admirers of the artist will have an opportunity to hear her speak as UC Santa Cruz Prof. Melissa Gwyn interviews Menon May 18 in the Carriage House of the Montalvo Arts Centre in Saratoga, Calif. The event is free and open to the public.

At the Asian museum exhibit, the centerpiece of the installation is "Yatra" (2004), a large oil painting on masonite board recently acquired by the Asian Art Museum. This triptych depicts various figures that can be identified as participants in a particularly well-known north Indian Hindu pilgrimage, or *yatra*. Menon's interest in these pilgrims stems from both a sense of admiration and from her view of their devotional act as an unbroken bridge linking India's ancient past with its rapidly modernizing present.

Accompanying "Yatra" are 10 other paintings drawn from Menon's most recent body of work — all borrowed from Gallery ArtsIndia, New York. These convey a sense of the artist's rich artistic repertoire, while also highlighting her sustained engagement with the aesthetic and intellectual themes evident in "Yatra."

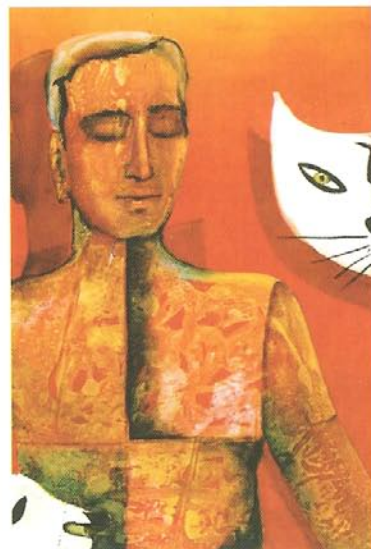
These themes — the past and the

present, tradition and modernity, and the interplay between popular and elite practices and prejudices — have guided Menon's work throughout her long career.

Anjolie Ela Menon was born in West Bengal state in 1940. She studied at the Sir J.J. School of Art in Mumbai, Delhi University, and the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris. She has had over thirty-five shows in India, the United States, Russia, Germany, France, and England. Her

works have been acquired by several museums in India and abroad, and the Padmashri-winning artist has represented India at various international Biennials. In 2002, a retrospective of her work was held at the National Gallery of Modern Art, Mumbai. The artist lives and works in Delhi. ■

Interested readers can get more information by calling the museum at (415) 581-3500, or visiting its Web site at www.asianart.org



(Top, above and right): Paintings by Anjolie Ela Menon

