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## What's New

### Indian Life & style At Aicon Gallery Opening

Exhibition For  
JOHN TUN SEIN  
Aicon Gallery, Palo Alto  
October 5th - November, 2007  
Opening reception, Friday October 5, 6-9pm

**Artist John Tun Sein** was interviewed at the opening reception by **Diana Rohini LaVigne**, Online Editor for Indian Life & Style Magazine and India-West. LaVigne is also the South Asian Journalists Association Chair for the Bay Area.

Prabhakar Kolte was once quoted saying, "I paint first and see later, rather than see first and paint later." In much the same vein, John Tun Sein is predominantly driven by the act of painting. One could liken his style to abstract expressionism. Much like Jackson Pollock, the act of painting is the subject and precedes all other intentions and motives. However, unlike Pollock and his zealous counterparts, Tun Sein's spontaneity is not necessarily informed by some underlying passion. Amid the tranquility of his vineyard residence in Freiburg, Germany, the only tension present in Tun Sein's canvases is formal. Tun Sein makes a more conscious effort to leave the world behind as he turns painting onto itself. Hence, space, texture and color along with brushstroke, drip and doodling do not eventually dissect the politics of the world, but rather remain within a painter's subjectivity. His 'formal expressionism' tackles abstraction as a self-referential mode of expression.

Tun Sein trained in painting at the J.J. School of Art in Bombay with Kolte as his main mentor. He graduated in 1985 and has pursued his particular aesthetic since. His child-like imagery is not unlike that of Paul Klee. Indeed, many of Kolte's students drew from the Swiss modernist

master. Tun Sein however engages with a less rigid kind of formalism. He treads that fine line between form and expression, impulsiveness and calculation. He describes his corpus of work as a never-ending journey, with each new canvas layering it all the more. Much like the drips present throughout his work, the journey spills from one canvas onto the next and the evolution of his visual experience continues.

*For further inquiries on  
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