

Kaam opens in NY

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

New York

KAAM "is one word for work, sex and death" according to Suketu Mehta in his book *Maximum City: Bombay Lost and Found*. It was in this holistic spirit that Gallery Arts India New York opened its exhibition Kaam on December 2, featuring 10 contemporary artists from Bombay and Baroda. The show was inspired by the wave Indian artists are creating in the global art world these days.

The exhibition conveys that participating artists have broken through the boundaries of traditional schools and created their own vocabularies. It shows that our artists are making a mark in the art world. Specifically this exhibition features Anandajit Ray, Anant Joshi, Baiju Parthan, Bose Krishnamachari, Chintan Upadhyay, Justin Ponmany, Jyothi Basu, Sudershan Shetty, Riyas Komu and T. V. Santosh.

The show travels to Mumbai, New York and San Francisco. It began with in Mumbai in November at Kitab Mahal. It will run at Arts India through end December and then move on to Arts India West in February, 2006.

To extend an understanding into the perspectives of the works and their philosophical, political, and aesthetic positions, the show is accompanied by a compilation of interviews where the artists speak about their inspiration, vicissitudes, victories and failures.

The exhibition is as diverse as the definition of 'kaam.' Baroda artist T. V. Santosh's technicolor paintings of cybernetic forms

evoke postmodern political inquiry. The deep cynicism of media-derived images is further inverted by his use of photonegative saturation. The work exploits the media's disconnection and explores the politics of urban culture. Bombay's Baiju Parthan is an engineer by training but found his way to art after chancing upon a book detailing the history of Western Art. His works explore the influence of technology on religious beliefs, the implication of genetic engineering and the possibilities of the development of symbiotic relations between men and machines. And Bose Krishnamachari's work weaves photographic images with painting. Startling planes of flat color are juxtaposed against skilful representations of various persona, presenting the viewer with a reflection of the signifier and the signified.

Justin Ponmany's holographic paintings of plastic memory explore human states through layering, fragmented imagery. Riyas Komu's large-scale portraits draw the viewer into a space of disquiet. His subjects are randomly drawn from the media; accounting for the viewer's disconnect. Sudershan Shetty's sculptures and installations are evidence of an exploration of contemporary life, combining everyday objects to construct commentary on human reality.

Anandajit Ray's exposition deals with inanimate objects and pop imagery. Ray calls himself a 'surface painter' lending to an exploration of the world through painting that does not presume to judge—"one of the rea-



One of the pieces in the Kaam exhibition.

sons why one deals with pop imagery—something that is lighter, 'surficial' and very immediate," as he puts it. And Jyothi Basu's sensuously detailed futuristic landscapes evoke the architecture of space stations. The imaginative forms create a labyrinth of other worldly space allowing the viewer to wander through and discover new symbols around every turn.

Anant Joshi's canvases deal with the manipulation of abstract spaces with the aid of color and light. Chintan Upadhyay's work studies the visual imagery that has become the language of consumerism. His stark canvases have references to Bollywood hoardings and popular advertisements.

The exhibition displays a range of ap-

proaches in form and content exclusively in the realm of painting from the current generation of Indian contemporaries. The show explores the intensely personal relationship between the artists and their 'kaam.' The show displays that Indian artists have come of age in an era where the global pop culture had started its first waves into India. Within this atmosphere, their effort has been to find a unique artistic expression—Kaam is an exploration of that expression.

Located on Fifth Avenue in New York's vibrant Flatiron district and in downtown Palo Alto in California, Arts India has emerged as the definitive outlet for Contemporary Indian Art in America and around the globe—exhibiting works both by established and emerging Indian Artists.