

Abstract art for the heart

Aicon Gallery will present an exhibition titled *The Lines Maketh the Web* by S Harsha Vardhana, an abstract artist.

The show will open concomitant with the launch of Aicon Gallery's new web site. Aicon first changed its name from ArtsIndia in March and announced the change along with the opening of its new space in London.

Vardhana was born in 1958 in a home that embraced art. However, while his father was the famed abstractionist J Swaminathan he resisted the artistic impulse. Instead he went the science and business route, completing a master's degree in bioscience at the Birla Institute of Technology and Sciences as well as a diploma in business management.

He worked in the biomedical industry for several years before he was inevitably bitten by the art bug.

Vardhana is not a painter by training. He is self-taught and his style is grounded in spontaneous creation. It is predominantly concerned with visual experience over intellectual stuffiness. There is a rather child-like impetus to his art, one that reveals the primitivist undertones to Vardhana's intentions: an innate feeling for form untethered by mental interference.

Since 1993 he has been solely devoted to his artistic career. He works and lives in New Delhi.

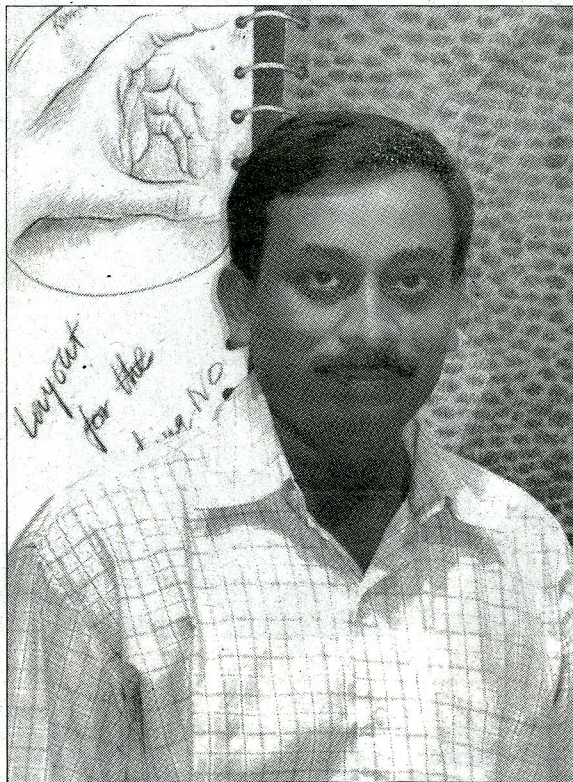
Date: September 19 to October 21.

Place: Aicon Gallery, 206 Fifth Avenue, Manhattan.

Contacts: (212) 725-6092; www.artsindia.com

Fuzzy Logic by Prema Murthy

The Contemporary Art Center is presenting an exhibition by Prema



Kamal Mitra at the opening of his exhibition, *Silent Soliloquy*

Murthy titled *Fuzzy Logic*.

Based in New York, Murthy (born 1969) received her master of fine arts degree from Goldsmiths College, London.

Dates: through September 24.

Place: PS1 Contemporary Art Center Museum of Modern Art Affiliate, 22-25 Jackson Avenue, Long Island City, Queens.

Contact: www.tamarindart.com

Mitra's Silent Soliloquy

Silent Soliloquy, a solo exhibition by Kamal Mitra, is on view at TamarindArt Gallery.

Last winter Mitra was part of a group show at TamarindArt. An introvert by nature, Mitra mesmerized the audience by painting *in situ* at the opening reception. Guests crowded around his easel as images began to appear from the blank, white canvas.

What makes Mitra's paintings so conspicuously striking among his contemporaries is his very detailed style and the hypnotic gaze of the protagonist luring the viewer to enter into his paintings. In Mitra's paintings the male body plays a vital role, but it is the portrayal of the body by implication rather than mere imitation, which makes these

paintings so palpable.

Mitra received his postgraduate degree from Kala Bhavan, Santiniketan in 1993. Since then he has participated in a number of group exhibitions and is the recipient of several awards.

Dates: through October 6.

Place: TamarindArt Gallery, 142 East 39th Street, Manhattan.

Contacts: (212) 990-9000;
www.tamarindart.com