

OUTLOOK Profit

Rs 50

25 JULY 2008

BULLS. BEARS.
BILLIONAIRES.

Zoom in on the colours and canvases of the season....

Today, he is acknowledged worldwide as a star on the horizon of contemporary Indian art... but that title is inadequate to describe the many facets of the colourful Bose Krishnamachari. Though he makes news for his suave if unconventional appearance at social gatherings, he is as widely known for his art rendered in a variety of media, apart from being a path-breaking curator, designer and collector. His rise over the past two decades from a student at the JJ School of Art to one of the prime promoters of Indian art has been phenomenal. The latest pre-occupation of this unlikely art patron is the creation of a museum in his hometown in Kerala... and this is embodied in the models and drawings that form part of his solo show that opened on July 9 in London. Titled *Ghost*, it brings us face-to-face with the ghosts we are afraid to confront: of social/economic inequality, the colour of one's skin, hierarchies, power

Artist of the fortnight **Bose Krishnamachari**

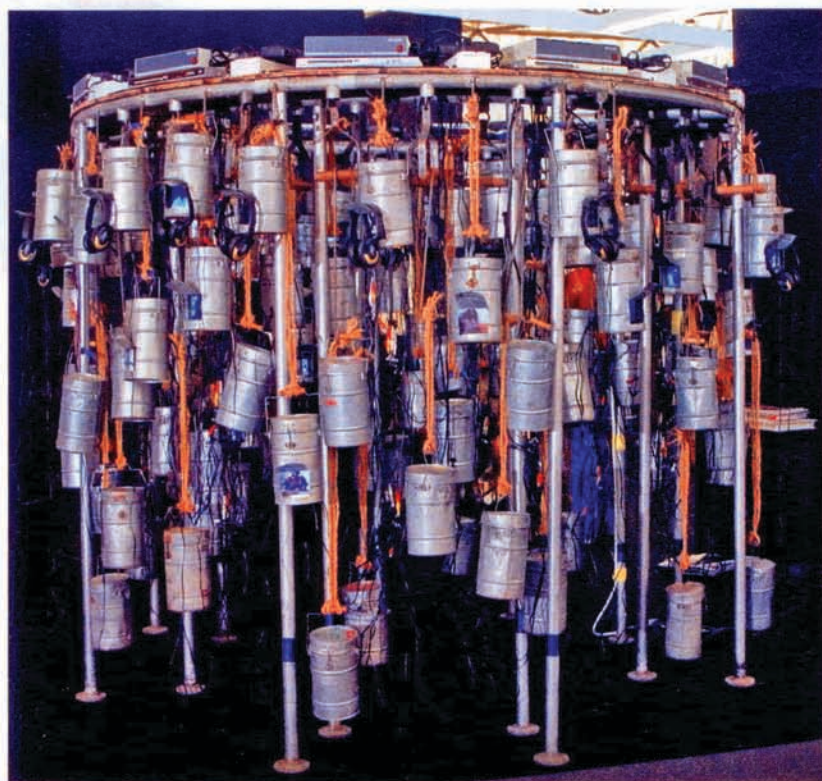
RATING: BLUE CHIP

structures, geographical positions, or unrealized dreams. This, it does by a series of juxtapositions, such as the technique of *arte povera* contrasted with garish metal frames or the tension between art and architecture. The average Mumbaikar has been lionized in Bose's portraits as a symbol of the everyday struggle for acceptance, while the tangle of wires, straps, headphones

et al in his *Ghost/Transmemoir* installation (LCD monitors embedded into the bellies of 108 metal dabbas suspended on iron scaffolding with the help of hand straps otherwise found in Mumbai's railway compartments) is a play on the indomitable spirit of

a city constantly on the move. In sum, *Ghost* plays host to the phantoms of the opera called Mumbai.

Ghost, Bose Krishnamachari's solo show of paintings, drawings and installations, will be on view at the Aicon Gallery, London, till August 18.



PHANTASMAL: Metal dabbas suspended on iron scaffoldings with straps found in Mumbai's railway compartments, Bose Krishnamachari's *Ghost/Transmemoir* installation is a study on the city's everyday struggle and its indomitable spirit