



मूर्त अमूर्त

An Exhibition of Paintings by
Khetanchi



6 - 11
Sep 2022

Visual Art Gallery
Indian Habitat Centre
New Delhi



Born and brought up in Rajasthan, a land of chivalry, courage and romance, Gopal Swami Khetanchi's creative journey of art has many interesting facets. He has successfully worked in diverse art fields so far and finally cast an unblemished image for himself as unique painter-depicting beauty, either of people or places. Khetanchi's art effectively merges both, the tradition and the modern. On one hand, he is explicitly traditional- sometimes more than miniature painters, while painting beautiful Rajasthani ladies in conventional attire, he simultaneously is capable of creating beautifully coloured & compositionally balanced abstract geometrical forms: all in oil. Picturesque Havelis of the Shekhawati region gather their own distinctive meaning while descending on his oil canvases. Similarly, in an earlier series of works, Khetanchi while focusing on Mahatma Gandhi had successfully created a mind-blowing contrast by pasteurizing the dream that Gandhi had of independent India and what really the contemporary reality is. He has a mastery over his medium, depiction of human anatomy and his photo-realistic lady-figures leave the viewer spellbound, with their feminine beauty, facial expressions, mannerism, intricately precious painted ornaments and lavish drapery (Series: Saaj Shringar). The present one-man show by this ingenious craftsman painter gives a reasonably convincing opportunity of underlying this fact: how perfect artist, with an elevated sense of fusion, Gopal Khetanchi is, who has intelligently amalgamated the tradition with novel modernity. His art world thus opens before everyone, the significance of this temporal-unison. The essence of modernity lies not in blind refutation of the past and imprudent acceptance of all the upcoming new, but in an objective assortment from the best of both. His sub-conscious ideal might be the greatest of great Sanskrit poets Kalidas, who had rightly said: पुराणमित्यं न साधु सर्वम्.....!

Khetanchi has been working for more than four decades and all his previous exhibitions: 'Padharo Mhare Des', Barahmasa, Dharohar, Gandhigiri, A tribute to the Masters, Romance with realism, Saaj-Shringaar and many more, have unanimously confirmed that through his differently casted series of beautiful paintings, he is silently yet untiringly transporting us to another world of beauty, peace, harmony, solace, and tranquillity.

-Hemant Shesh*

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