

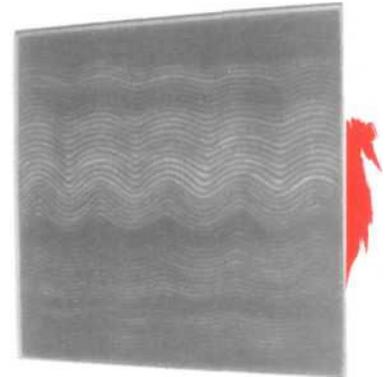
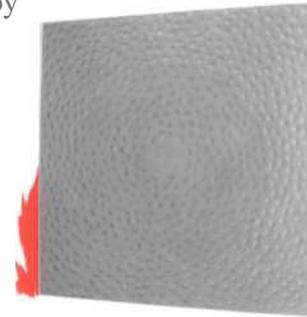
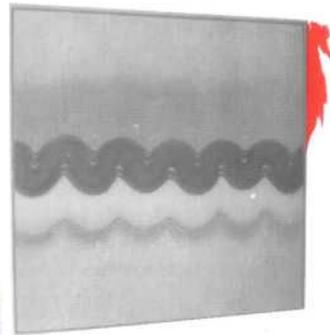
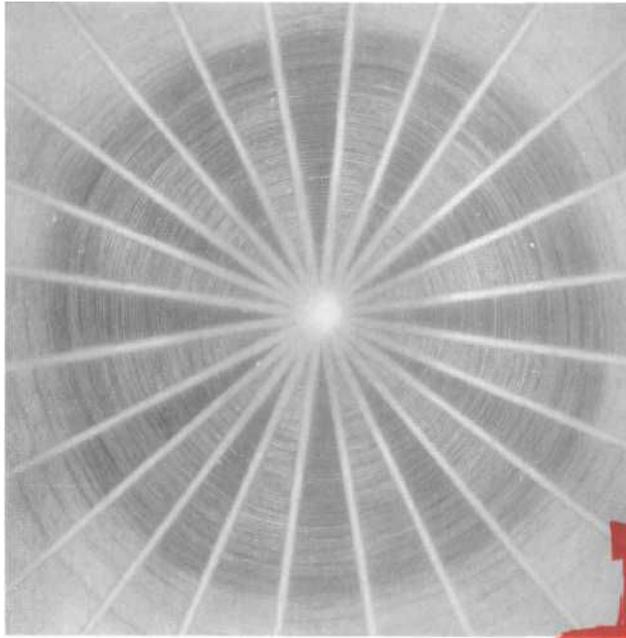


The music of the Spheres -

an exhibition of paintings by Shobha Broota

"To evoke oneself a feeling one has experienced, and having evoked in oneself, then by means of movement, lines, colours, sounds, or forms, expressed in words so to transmit that feeling that others experience the same feeling - this is the activity of art"

- Leo Tolstoy



If making art is about expressing a human experience, viewing a work of art must surely then be about understanding or relating to the humanness of this experience. The world is at war. Be it in the name of religion or ideology or for the sake of world peace to remove terrorism, we are at war, because essentially we are at war with ourselves and this erodes all the subtle nuances of the human experience, its beauty and intensity. The human experience today is being limited to the strife and struggle of a very wounding kind because we are intent upon creating boundaries and identities and trying to fit ourselves into them. The essence of Shobha Broota's work to me is about the very opposite, about

Broota's studio in Soami Nagar. She was busy conducting a class but bid me wait. I went to a distant corner of her studio, sat down in a distracted fashion and looked around me. There was a large canvas in front of me, which I kept on returning to until I was finally drawn to its depths and entirely focused upon this. A certain sense of calm returned, I felt more at peace and left. Later that evening I called Shobha and told her of my very interesting and uplifting experience suggesting that her work be hung on the walls of sacred spaces or temples for they worked upon the mind in the way the meditation does. All the dust settles, calmness and peace prevails.

diminishing boundaries, about relishing the subtler nature of being. And this in our frenetic paced world is not something we are cultivating but seek only when we are at odds with ourselves and need an enlightened view. The New Year then started on an unusually spiritual note when after a decade Delhi was treated to a large exhibition of works on canvas by Shobha Broota. (IHC Visual Arts Gallery 1st-6th January 2003.)

The physical world is changing. Today, communication is simply a click away, defying geographical boundaries and traditional concepts of time. Computer memories are more accessible than human ones and images may be recalled and retrieved from any era or area, in matter of minutes, with the help of that proverbial click. At a certain level, life is much simpler and there are seemingly no limitations, but at another level, one that is deeper and more fundamental to human nature, life has actually become very complex.

One day, feeling pulled in the direction of one thousand unresolved thoughts, distraught, anxious and unforgettable because of this, I walked into Shobha

Shobha works in an inimitable style using a hog hairbrush to 'flick' 'throw' or 'spray' the paint onto canvas. This technique evolved with her desire to do away with the hard line and edges from the 'form' to evoke the essential nature of matter; which when seen up close does not have any boundaries. Her paintings aptly represent this where the boundaries seemingly vanish and what remains is a sensation or vibration of being in the midst of it all. This is the essence of Shobha's expression.

For many artists the canvas now goes beyond the cloth including digital technologies and much else, but not so for Shobha Broota. The essence of her expression lies in the painstaking methodology in as much as what she says. If her works evoke the state of meditation, it is because for her making them is a form of meditation. And of her own work she says that the creative impulse leads her towards the inner core of her being, from where it bursts forth in numerous artistic creations, dwelling upon the play of colour, light, movement and rhythm... The music of the spheres.