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In shades of BLACK (New- also see in Jpeg)

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A Milind Nayak exhibition in Bangalore is a very pleasant sort of thing to stumble upon, mainly because it's been so long since the last time that happened! Nayak, who lives and works out of his studio in Cooke Town, has established himself as one of the country's finest artists. His current exhibition, *Consequences of Pure Colour* marks the end of a rather long hiatus from his hometown.

"Change grips you when you have just finished a body of work and you ask yourself what's next," said Nayak. The next step can often take a long time coming. For Nayak, it's as simple as looking at a box of pastels that lay unused in his house. "I looked at them and thought I might as well use them," he said, laughing.

The element of change isn't just a cliché, not in this case, at least. Nayak has, for thirty years, been painting his ethereal landscapes that are a rare combination of wildness, fragility and mysticism, like *The Enchanting Tree*, for instance. With *Consequences of Pure Colour*, Nayak is breaking the boundaries that he has grown accustomed to, entering, for the first time, brand new terrain. "Can I come to believe that there isn't any more to painting than the sheer joy of painting itself?" he asked.

The thirty paintings in his exhibition have been done entirely on black paper. Black, the indicator of nothingness. "I just fill in my pastels."

Many of his latest works have a distinctly angular quality to them, others resemble mosaics, but the Nayak touch is unmistakable. "Cathedral-like," he says, as he describes them, "and far more forceful than anything I've done before."

Out of frustration came change and out of change came understanding. As he puts it himself, all he did was pick up a sheet of black paper, his box of pastels, pulled the same photographs he has been worked on and saw them in a whole new light, creating something quite unlike he has ever done before.

It's like Einstein once said, "Reality is merely an illusion, albeit a very persistent one."

WHAT:
Consequences of Pure Colour, by Milind Nayak
WHEN: Till May 4
WHERE: Sublime Galleria, UB City

