

## CHINWAG WITH...

## SUJATA SHAH SEJEKAN



An artist from Nepal, she has made Bangalore her home. She is debuting with her first solo exhibition *Hues of Fantasy*. Sejekan tells us more about her approach to art and style of works.

**Tell us about your show.**

*Hues of Fantasy* will have 30 paintings and several graphic prints. I haven't followed a particular theme, but I am inspired by nature and the myriad colours it has. Animals, flowers, butterflies, landscapes... all these have been expressed through surreal paintings. Nature's femininity and fantasy both find space here. I strongly feel that nature's emotional touch with human beings is through the flora and fauna of our eco-system and that is what I tried to capture. 25 of the works are acrylic on paper, four are acrylic canvases and one is a mixed media work of acrylic and oil paints.

**Most artists say they are inspired by nature... so what's different about your work?**

For me, nature is not just about the colours and the beauty, it's also about the spirituality that exists. I come from Nepal, but the advantage is that coming from a different country and settling in India, you get exposed to different kinds of cultures and traditions which take my understanding to a different level. I identify elements in our surroundings that connect me with spirituality. The graphic prints in my show express this element.

**Artists who have inspired you...**

I like Dorian Costar's works. She depicts femininity through butterflies and other natural elements. Though her works are not colourful, I like the use of butterflies, birds and flowers which are also part of my works. But my works are extremely colourful. I also get inspired from Seema Kohli's works that depict spirituality through femininity.

**Why do you paint?**

I paint because I want people to find peace and happiness when they see my work. I create surreal works for that main reason. I want people to feel the joy when they see my work, just like a child feels happy when he/she sees a butterfly. My husband has always been supportive and encourages me, that's how I have been able to create such work. From peacocks, animals, people, flowers... all these give happiness to people.

- Ayesha  
Tabassum

*Hues of Fantasy, Sublime Gallery, May 11 onwards*