

PRAGYA JAIN

Pragya Jain, a graduate of the Delhi College of Art, New Delhi, is an artist whose works have been showcased globally since 2005. In High School, she was awarded for her excellence in Art by the President of India. Her first solo exhibition in Bangalore, held in November 2009, brought her great appreciation and lot of opportunities. Her works are featured in various collections and collectors like the Jindals, and the Prestige group in India, and with some well-known art collectors in New York City. Recently, Pragya displayed her artworks in a number of women oriented shows, as well as contemporary art shows in Boston and New York and Bangladesh.

Currently living in Bangalore, pursuing her art, she has made positive inroads into the contemporary art scene in India as well as the United States, where she lived from 2005-2011. A creative and thinking artist par excellence, Pragya made a flying start into art with her maiden art exhibition at the Polka Art Gallery, New Delhi. Her works were handpicked to be exhibited with a number of Indian masters. Her solo show in Bangalore, in 2009, was an enormous success where her works were picked by noted interior designers and industrialists. Today, her artworks are in the homes and offices of major collectors and million dollar apartment models, all over the world.

After moving to India in 2011, Pragya started a label called ARTychoke. This label is an extension of her art, where she digitally prints fragments of her work on everyday products such as bags, scarves, cushions, trays, furniture and more. Her entire range of products is vegetarian (no leather), much like herself, and handcrafted by Indian artisans.

While living in the US, she was a volunteer at a charity organization which fed homeless people and also provided them a space to learn and pursue art. Pragya has been involved in teaching these struggling children and adults about the basics of art, and then helping them showcase their works. The proceeds from the sales have given back a sense of purpose to the hapless. She is also actively involved with the Women's Caucus for the Art, and is one of the founding members and former Vice President of its Pioneer Valley Chapter.

The pristine lines of determined geometry that adorn her canvases are favoured by viewers for their clean contours. Her colour palette ranges from sharp black and white contrasts to a fine merger of contiguous blends. In this body of work, you will find yourself looking at a lot of burnt oranges, teal, and yellows. The impositions of ballerinas, horses, birds, fishes, and elephants in motion on the surface suggest a mood of well-being, harmony, and lyricism. Fascinated by the drama of how opposites attract each other, Pragya reveals an entirely different personality in other works, where the squared segments box in her ideas into compartmented cellular arrangements, suggesting a narrative born of questioning statements on current trends, and the need to focus on issues in a systematic manner.

As is apparent, in several of her compositions, she takes recourse to grids, or a checkerboard format delicately coloured. This aspect of her work can be enjoyed in itself. It is almost the foundation as well as the moot content of her overall style, as of now.

Sublime

INSPIRING AWE

GALLERIA

She also possesses another profile - a lyrically rhythmic one - based on western ballet and on classical Indian dance forms. And, as it happens, ballet is one of the best introductions to contemporary art forms. The beauty of the human form is the basis of its appeal, and whatever the mood or the theme; the artist, like a choreographer, is concerned with exploiting the ability of the dancing figures to make beautiful and expressive movements. This, Pragya does in the choice of her offerings, where we have a series of graceful or significant gestures, attitudes, and groupings evolving from one another in a rhythmically related flow. The artist dances, so to say, upon her canvases by the quickness of her brush. The gestures that she has to deal with are the lines and the colours of her pictures and by which she can also touch the receptive heart. Thus, beauty of ballet movement is expressed in terms of human beauty on canvas. Poise, grace, and vitality, to repeat, are personified here and given due expression through an adequate technique. The flight of birds and those of consummate dancers have a close affinity.
