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'I don't title my work'

ART Laila Rajpal explores female face for her next solo show

In a quaint corner that opens into a spectacular skylight-the atrium in ISB, artiste Laila Rajpal has students dropping by as she works on her untitled oil on canvas frame. "I don't title my work. Art should be open to interpretation," explains Laila at the B-School as part of its Artist in Residence programme.

"It is a lovely space and very tranquil and inspiring to work here. There is a great sense of openness, lovely rock formation and the peacocks. I am happily surprised," she says.

Celebrating feminity

Known for her depiction of female form that she continues post her study of life drawing from the nude while at Slade School of Arts London, here one finds her exploring female face. "Anjolie Ela Menon has been my favourite Indian artist apart from international artists Gustav Klimt and Picasso. I like the mood Anjolie creates in the women she depicts--there is a sense of melancholy in her work. For me a female principle is a symbol of love, union, sensuality and most of all the female body is a beautiful thing. At the moment I have transcended female form and I am more into portraits, celebrating female face. I am working towards my next solo show that will be held in Mumbai which will find me delving deeper within depicting inner struggle that we go through—self doubts and conflicts we have with our personality. I am studying landscape of the face," says Laila.



VIVID CANVAS Laila Rajpal transcends female form

SHE (MEENA KUMARI) WAS A GREAT COMBINATION--A FRAGILE LOOKING WOMAN YET WITH A LOT OF CHARACTER

Architecture, one of her inspirations, was a prominent theme for her earlier solo show at the Habitat Centre New Delhi in 2001 that was, "inspired by ancient Greek, Egyptian and Roman architecture. I was working with sand on canvas," says Laila.

Making a fleeting appearance as a visage in her work has been actress Meena Kumari. "I was very inspired by her face. For me her being Meena Kumari was not as significant as the fact that she was hauntingly beautiful. She was a great combination--a fragile looking woman yet with a lot of character," she says.

Hailing from a filmy family, does she plan to make a foray into the celluloid realm? "You never know. I love the whole art of filmmaking. My mother is a fashion designer, Suzanne is into textiles and Farah designs jewellery. My whole family is into art, each differently," she says.

As creative director of husband Rohit Rajpal's prêt line, fashion is yet another realm that one will find her actively involved. "It will be a trendy and affordable line for the youth slated to hit the market in two months," she says. On the art market, "prices have skyrocketed recently. Art is being considered as a good investment proposition for a while.

There is a lot of curiosity about it all. There are art funds today. Art seems to be the in thing to do," says Laila.

SYEDA FARIDA