

Newspaper's Name	The Times of India
Date	23.01.11
Description	On the Lookout for Fresh Talent

ON THE LOOKOUT FOR FRESH TALENT

The India Art Summit did grab the attention of many this time. Almost all through the day, there were people thronging Pragati Maidan - a fact that has made many gallery owners very happy. One of the constantly crowded galleries was Religare Art. They've put up some lovely thought provoking works of emerging artists - and their stall is an interesting mix of paintings, sculptures and videos... The striking Julius Macwan sculpture at the entrance just drew people in, where there's another interesting installation by Sumakshi Singh, titled Animated Suspension.

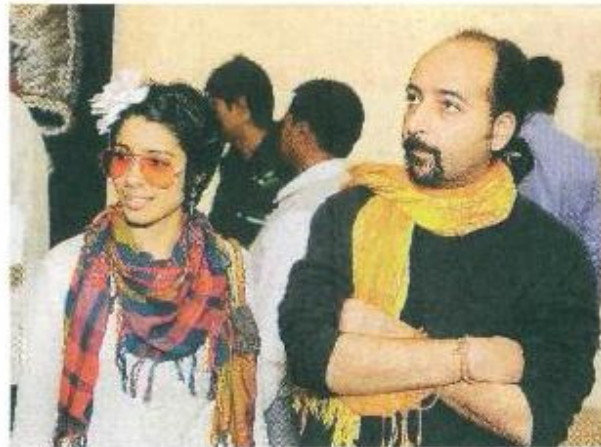
It was when we were mulling over the striking statement made by Samar Jodha's work that we came across Mukesh Panika, director, Religare Art. "It's been two years now and we've worked with over 200 artists. First we wanted to work with everyone, as we had to establish our base, but now, we're looking for people we want to work with," he said. And who are those people? "A combination of a good human being and an artist is essential in a good

artist. Since we're looking at building a relationship that would last years, it's not just the artist and the art, but his or her disposition and attitude too that is very important," says Panika. But why has the gallery not gone for known names? "The intent of every gallery is to generate revenue at the end of the day. But even today, the quality and quantum of visitors to the summit and the artwork purchases would be excellent indi-

cators of the growing interest and give a glimpse of the positive direction in which we are headed," interjects Amit Sarup, president, Religare Art & Family Office, who'd just walked in. But Panika said that, "The fun is in finding the new talent. We could've easily got in all well known, established names, and made a lot of money, but at the end of the day, what have you achieved?" asks

Panika. And it is with this logic that the seven artists whose works Religare Art has exhibited at the summit - Jenson Anto, Arijoy Ehat-tacharya, Sumakshi Singh, Anant Kumar Mishra, Julius Macwan and Samar Jodha have been selected.

Jyothi Prabhakar



Nida and Raul at the Religare Art Gallery at the India Art Summit



Mukesh Panika



Sanjay Bhattacharyya in front of a Julius Macwan sculpture