

Newspaper Name	Pioneer
Date	23-09-09
Description	Art for peace



Art for peace

A Sharma

I am confronted with striking imagery the very instant I step into the world of art here at Religare Arts gallery. Mixed media art works by artists Sanjeev Sinha and Dianne Hagen compel your thought process in a not so easy way. The exhibition titled *Grave for Nothing*, by them, is a humble attempt at un-entangling what is intertwined, and spelling out loud and clear what is immediately needed for the day: world peace.

A work of untitled art shows a man helplessly lying on his back whereas devils and snakes gather round him to devour his essence. Another work shows us two beings sharing a huge kiss, but not in a way that can be called natural — with one almost smothering the other with the kiss, not with passion or desire, but with a kind of domineering spirit and high-handedness which can be compared with today's world of politics. "Politicians are the true hate-mongers. Our world suffers because of them. Love and peace is the last thing they would ever want us to have," Hagen states.

Another untitled artwork shows a humongous eye, drawn in the shape of a huge almond, overwhelmed with feelings and tears. "The eye is just the metaphor. What I am really alluding at is the individual human being itself," says Hagen, and adds, "It is so very important to love each other. That's what we have basically come here for. But divisive politics and

maligned interests always seem to butt their way in."

Mixed media is used collaboratively to the extent that is artistically possible. "We have made use of silver foil, just so to create the right sort of ambience," she explains and adds, "Mirrors serve dual purposes, one of beautifying and second of allowing yourself to look at your own your self-image."

In another untitled artwork, a female sits all by herself, consisting globes in her womb. Says Sinha, "We often get caught up in understanding things and thereby completely miss the within part. There's no 'me', 'you' or 'I' in our paintings. All these arise as a result of your attachment to certain identities. We have tried and decided to shed those behind."

The exhibition warns you against digging your own grave as a futile attempt aimed at nothing. All works in this exhibition have been done in abstract. For example, you wonder what a painting might mean when you see two luminous figures with conjoined heads and an alien standing right behind them. "What I understand is that we are all fast becoming prisoners of our own history. Our art is a step forward in diluting the evil and foreboding effects of history such the Indo-Pak partition, world war one and two etc. That is because if decadent past continues to plague our minds, it should seriously and adversely affect mankind's own capacity for true love and tranquil peace," insists Sinha.

The exhibition is on till September 23.