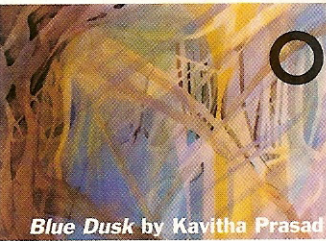


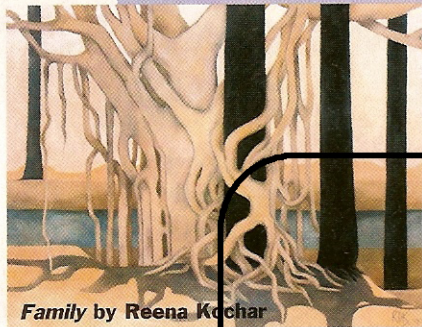
Branching off



Blue Dusk by Kavitha Prasad

What do you get when two students

of art are planted on an IIT campus, surrounded by acres of trees? A collection of paintings that offer fresh perspectives on branches, trunks and roots, seen at different times of the day! Kavitha Prasad and Reena Dharmaraj Kochar, students of noted artist A V Ilango, had their first exhibition at Manasthala in Chennai. Their work enables others to slip into warm, golden afternoons, or purple after-dusk evenings, all shining through the sinews of the omnipresent tree. While Prasad's canvases have arresting combinations of greens, blues and violets, Kochar's oils reflect her awe of the banyan tree. Also in Kochar's paintings, change seems parallel to deterioration. So, is change never any good? *Manasthala is located at no 12, Cenotaph Road, Teynampet, Chennai 600018.* — Ameeta Agnihotri



Family by Reena Kochar

where FANTASY meets MYTHOLOGY

On viewing a Bulbul Sharma painting, one is immediately struck by her artistic forms and the vivid usage of colour. You are also able to absorb the very apparent manifestations of fantasy, that come across very determinedly. For her, fantasy is equitable with mythology, which is always very visual and far removed from reality, focussing on the celestial and cosmic elements. Folklore and myths are themes that go hand in hand and it is a facet of her work that she continually deals with. She has always needed to express this element, right from childhood. "Fantasies have always played an important role as a child. I have a vivid imagination. Expressing these ideas is like flying! It's like living in an unreal world which is continually exciting and endless," she saying, laughing freely. Her paintings in the past have dealt with mythical birds and



Kakatia Lion by Bulbul Sharma

animals. The mythical lion Yali, and the half bird-half

man Garuda, are images she's been involved with. The interplay of fantasy and mythology can be seen in her newer works too, where she deals with the creation myth referred to as the 'churning of the ocean'. Apart from her artistic endeavors, Bulbul is a tireless social worker, working with children in jail, holding workshops, yet being prolific with her art. This is someone with an exciting mind, artistic fluidity and cultural understanding. Look out for her work!

— Hanut Singh

out of the woodwork!

Sheila Maryse Panjwani runs a 'recycled' wooden furniture boutique in garden city, Bangalore. Basically, that means she finds new uses for traditional furniture, selling an *urli* (cooking pot) as a planter, an ayurvedic medicine chest as a CD holder, and so on. Most of her pieces are sourced from South India, and she hopes her enterprise is helping the craftspeople in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Pondicherry. Interestingly, at least half her clients are not of Indian origin. Most of them are young, experimental, and budget conscious. "Most of the pieces are priced about 15% higher than at their source. In fact, nothing costs more than Rs 15,000!" Antiquity at a modern price? Not bad! *Maram is located at 57, Fourth Cross, RMV Second Stage, Block 1, Bangalore 560094. Tel no (080) 3411427.* — Aradhana Bhola

SAVED!

If you collect art with a heart, and can't bear to see your objects fading with the vicissitudes of time, you can now safely check restoration possibilities with Dharohar, an art conservation centre. Formed by two individuals, Venkat and Madhavi, in Lucknow, the centre provides a range of restoration services. You can restore old ceramic pieces, murals, metal, oil, watercolour, miniature, Tanjore, *picchwai* and *thanka* paintings. You can also salvage material on paper; like old manuscripts, printed books, lithographs, oileographs, and photographs. And for those of you who live in *havelis*, take heart! They also work with stone, wooden sculpture and icons, and old textiles! Services are offered at the centre, or at the site. *For more information, write to Dharohar, 30, Ravindra Garden, Aliganj, Lucknow 226 024, or call at (522) 335 492, 98380 33210, or e-mail them at dharohar99@hotmail.com*



Laxmi by M Dhurandh during treatment

— Sangita Wadhvani