

“Aq@Priyasri II - The Big Baroda Show”

25th to 27th March, 2010

Maharaja Sayaji University at the Fine Art Faculty- Baroda

Aq@Priyasri II showcases art from Baroda – the city that ties diverse artist’s works together. Baroda has been a breeding ground for many “isms”. In fact at one stage I wanted to title the show “Baroda-ism”. This show is yet another attempt to showcasing the artists who never made Baroda their home. This city has become a vibrant living organism. Inventing & reinventing artist of diverse thing and backgrounds.

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Write up

“ Aq@Priyasri II - The Big Baroda Show”

AQ@Priyasri part II showcases art from Baroda the city that ties diverse artist’s works together. Baroda has been a breeding ground for many “isms” -In-fact at one stage I wanted to title the show Baroda-ism. .

This show is yet another attempt to showcasing artists who have made Baroda their home, in-fact this city has become a vibrant living organism inventing and re -inventing artist of diverse thinking and backgrounds.

Baroda houses thousands of these artists and now patrons have opened art centers which give studio facility to artists and some even housing. Like most other professions where in they have specific placement agencies and jobs waiting for them an artists gestation period to start selling works is long and meanwhile he needs support in terms of space and money to sustain and be able to practice his art and finally come out with his own unique language of art which makes his work recognizable and saleable. Here these art center play a pivotal role. AQ@Priyasri is an art center situated in the heart of the city of Baroda facilitating many future masters. 40 percent of the artists participating

in this show have either been connected in past or are connected in some way to this art center.

At least 50% percent of the artists who make it to auctions or houses of collectors and Gallery spaces has some connection to Baroda in some way, either their style of art or they would have been educated at the Fine Art Univ or has been living or lived in Baroda at some point of their life because this city has become an epicenter of Art. The best thing about this city is that it is open and welcome to anyone with a creative instinct whether he is from Mizoram or Kerala or Orissa and Bengal. It almost becomes like the United States of India where in the artist community live together making it a powerful stage of exchange and ideas. Art in any country represents its political, socio-economical, religious values and it's a medium of communication to express emotions, revolutionary ideas and illusionary ideas at times. The artists have a knack of expressing a thought without being explicit and yet conveying a social message at times.

In fact I would propose an ambitious idea to the govt to organize ART FARI since Gujarat is loaded with people with creative minds and boasts of top of the line art schools like NID in Ahmedabad and M.S U Fine Arts in Baroda.

Through this show we are aiming that we showcase the works of students who have recently passed out from the Univ in Baroda but have not got a chance to show their works in Baroda because most times their works are sent off to Galleries in bigger cities also this gives a chance for the Senior art fraternity to come and view the works of these young emerging artists who are the future masters and the guidance and criticism they should get from senior masters is crucial and if the works are displayed under one roof it becomes conducive for the masters to come and mentor these students.

This also inculcates the harmony within the artist community who come from various socio-economic backgrounds various states of India and various religions. Art binds them but also sets them free. I am grateful to a young master Jagganath Mohapatra to have coordinated this show. He lives in Baroda and is originally from Orissa it was through his effort we are able to showcase "Big Baroda show". Our effort will be to annually showcase this kind of art endeavor so that more art patrons come forward to open more art centers buyers and gallerists can come and view the works of young artists under one roof.