

# SHADES OF AFRICA

**A group of artists get together and celebrate the spirit of African art and tantra**

**By ARUNA RATHOD**  
**THANE**

THEY want to cast their spell on you. So says their invite. Colourful, yet enigmatic is the first thing that comes to mind on seeing the works of Deepali and Sunita. African masks stare down at you, while insects and animals made in cold ceramics look out of wooden frames.

While pots painted in a tiger skin print by Sandhya, and a painting of a marketplace by Ajit add a touch of realism. Four artists, Deepali Parab,

Sunita Khedekar, Sandhya Kavaiya and Ajit Deswansdkar, have got together to exhibit their works at the Design Centre, Gajpuri's cottage at Bhakti Mandir road at Thane (W). The exhibition will go on from September 27 to October 4 from 10 am to 7 pm.

"We decided on the theme of African ancient art and tantra as it is something different and interesting," say the four in unison. Sandhya's works are all medium-sized. She has worked with fabric paints on canvases

which would be ideal for adorning homes. Some of her works include hand painted tribal figures in brown, red and blue staring out of the frame, with typically African motifs in the background, while some paintings have just one circular motif that radiates energy.

Sandhya Kavaiya has done her diploma in textile designing and hence the use of fabric paints. She has also created small animal shapes in aluminium, painted in black which can be hung on the wall in a series. To

obtain a fluid movement with the paints, the artists have also used stained glass paints on tiles.

Sunita in contrast believes in a larger canvas. She works with paints used on stained glass for a rich effect and has used the village themes in some of her works. For instance, a bull's head in glass with just three colours - white, brown and black makes an interesting wallpiece.

Another piece, a mask is coloured in beautiful shades of green, and mounted on wood. Her masks use jewellery in the form of shells and beads in keeping with the village theme. Again, Sunita too has almost all her pieces which can be used to adorn your wall, while some can be used as table pieces.

Deepa, Sunita's sister, works with cold ceramics. She uses animal and bird forms in her works. Also present are Warli motifs in her works. She has also made an attractive mirror with sea sponges border.

The paintings by Ajit are inspired by nature. "I have made only two large-sized canvases. I



**BIG BULL:** One of Sunita's works

use acrylic and water colours in combination while at times I use oils too," says Ajit. A market place, interiors with a single model and an outdoor portrayal of a small bridge are some of his works. "At times I paint on the spot or I sketch an interesting location and later develop it on my own."

All the works are priced extremely reasonably and are ideal as gifts during the festive season.  
Design Centre  
Phone: 8444144



**CREATIVE TRIO:** Three of the four artists, from left to right, Suneta, Sandhya and Deepa



**THE MASK:** One of the works on display (SUNITA)



THE TIMES OF INDIA

**SATURDAY**

**Aruna Rathod/ Thane**  
IT is difficult to imagine the beauty that Suneeta Khedekar can create in her messy studio. Paints, brushes, acid, paper, various sizes of glass are strewn all over. Suneeta is a refreshing change in the midst of all this. Basically a painter, Suneeta loves creating designs on stained glass. What's more interesting is that she even teaches students how to make designs on stained glass.

"I have completed my commercial art from the JJ School of art and worked as a visualiser in an advertisement agency.

tiles, partitions using glass, mirrors with designs etched on the border or on one side and so on.

One of the most interesting techniques she uses is on a combination of stained glass and canvases. One of the pieces at the exhibition was a painting, a large arch shaped window, in green. "On the top I created a stained glass design and below is a painting," she says. Suneeta also specialises in working on cold ceramics directly with paints.

"Ganpati is my major inspiration, and features on a lot of my work. I had also done a series of

outline with the cone, the design is painted with the chosen colour. The hardener and clear (a solution) are used in a proportion 1:2 for painting. "We use ice glass popularly known as Kusumbi for stained glass which is available in the market for Rs 25 per sq feet," says Suneeta.

She explains further, "The clear reduces the shade, makes a colour lighter while the hard-



## Through a glass, beautifully



Suneeta Khedekar with some of her students and her creations

miniature paintings on the Warli tribe, which were priced at Rs 500 each," she adds.

She also explains that to work on designs on glass one must have a steady hand. "The lead work is done with a help of a cone. This is the outline so it has to be neat. I work with imported paints, so that the effect is good and long lasting," adds Suneeta.

For the splendour that stained glass gives, the efforts are tedious. "For creating the opaque effect, acid is used. One works with acid so the fingers have to be protected. The hand has to also be steady to trace the designs with the cone," explains Suneeta. After designing the

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Sunita Khedekar's One with the moon on forehead

### Artist eye

**A** long similar lines is *The Eye of an Artist*, by Bharati Tike, Archana Tyagi, Sunita Khedekar and Deepa Parab. They showcase their abstract compositions, ideas in ceramics, start portraits and images of Lord Ganesh. The exhibition starts at the Nehru Centre Secular Art Gallery on September 14, and will remain on view until Sept 20.

# Art Review

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