

Press Release

TALES OF THE PROPHETESS

A solo show of the Recent Works of
RINI DHUMAL

VENUE	:	Art Alive S – 221, Panchsheel Park, New Delhi – 110017
PREVIEW	:	7 th October, 2006
SHOW DATES	:	8 th to 20 th October, 2006 (11a.m. to 7 p.m.)

Art Alive presents a solo show of the recent works of well-known artist from Baroda - Rini Dhumal.

Rini Dhumal's art speaks a universal language - which has a life of its own, one with a certain degree of permanence which portrays the feel and flow of life with all its coloured nuances and experiences. The pictorial language of her works deal with myths and dreams - images from the real world and the subconscious with symbolic references - flying females which according to her are associated with sexual desires, trees, fruits, etc. The female is not dormant but vibrates a latent power.

In this exhibition there are images from her travel to China and so many more from other past journeys. Women make their presence felt, as icons regal and alone, embodying a sense of liberation and, at times, exhilaration. Chronologically, one could trace these Amazon-Medusa figures to Pagan sources, the *devis* to our own Indic mythology, but they reflect in unison a sisterhood of spirit that comes from the painter's philosophy that kindred souls know no physical belonging.

Rini's prophetess walks tall and strong, not bound in a hallowed precinct. Unburdened and light of soul. The pagan goddesses, zany and voluptuous are dressed in diaphanous *odhnees* patterned in rims of dull gold and they are seen in yogic postures with emblems of lotus, conch shells and *Om* motifs, in contrast to the mythic forms—half-women and half beast.

Rini completed her Master's in Painting from M.S.University, Baroda and studied under Bendre, Shankho Chaudhuri and K G Subramanyam, and then moved to Santiniketan, followed by Paris, where she met and trained with Krishna Reddy. Rini found her moorings at last, focusing on printmaking under Reddy's tutelage. In her restless journeys across the globe, Rini has constantly sought to reaffirm and reiterate the one thought she believed deeply in, that the feminine psyche was often a matter of shared sensitivities, no matter which world she physically inhabited.

The present collection of paintings pays homage to places and people the painter has encountered, exuberantly and in collaborative mediums that spill over with impressions of diversity, capturing nuances and moods that shift. Apart from the canvas works, Rini has collaborated with carpenters and textile designers imaginatively, creating art on the surfaces of tables, boxes and other furniture.

In the course of her travels, she has been acutely alert, meticulous in her methodical gathering of images. As the works suggest, the vignettes are alive and vibrant, pulsating with energy and life. From the pastiche of pictorial jottings emerge a fascinating travelogue that is, in a sense, art in a process of incubation, yet to be completed. These delicate watercolours are palpably fluid, as they follow the *bodhisattva* tales of Buddha under the tree of Enlightenment.

For further enquiries please contact:

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