

**Press Release**

# Geometric Abstractions

A Neo-Tantric Journey

A solo show of the Recent Works of  
**Akkitham Narayanan**

VENUE	:	<b>Alliance Française de Delhi</b> Galerie Romain Rolland 72, Lodhi Estate New Delhi – 110003
PREVIEW	:	27 <sup>th</sup> October, 2006 at 7.00 pm
SHOW DATES	:	28 <sup>th</sup> October to 4 <sup>th</sup> November, 2006 (11a.m. to 8 p.m.)

**Art Alive in collaboration with Alliance Française de Delhi, presents a solo show of the recent works of well-known Indian artist based in Paris - Akkitham Narayanan.**

Akkitham Narayanan's paintings are geometric configurations of abstract forms. With a predisposition towards the purity of geometry, he creates a fusion of Indian tantrik art and the European geometric art.

Akkitham oversees the picture plane with a classification of space through lines, angles, squares, rectangles, and so on. There is a clever use of colour within each space, which may be amorphous and smudged in some areas, or sharp in others. The blending of triangles and rectangles is highly musical and it has an emotive touch. Within these forms one can see thin lines suggestive of the forms of cloud and elements like fire and water. Also seen are the combination of archaic lines reminding one of letters and snakes.

Born in Kerala, Akkitham Narayanan studied art at the Madras College of Art and Craft, before settling down in his life and career in art in Paris about three-and-a-half decades back. It was through his Japanese wife that Akkitham came closer to the oriental tradition. The presence of tantrik art, religious images and the influence of rituals visible in his paintings bear testimony to this nexus.

Akkitham's works are geometric abstractions to the core. This he has achieved without sacrificing the Indian, or in the broader sense the Oriental, sense of the self. This sense of the self is more evident in his selection of colours. He uses the combination of pigments redolent of Indian murals, which is a departure from the chemical colours. A blackish tone that reflects a kind of tension is unique to his works; this is what kindles memories of ancient wall paintings and architecture.

Akkitham Narayanan creates the feeling of light and shade by applying a thin coat of oil paint on the canvas and then erasing it. It is the presence of the light that gives a three-dimensional flavour to his canvas. His works evoke the experience of walking along ancient corridors. Narayanan has a great expertise in using the possibility of engraving. His works have the totality of a vision based on the five elements of nature.

The well known French curator, Christina Burrus sums it up - "The mixture of his Indian roots and French culture is a hallmark of Akkitham's artistic expression. His work reflects his search for the divine, for freedom and for immortality, which finds expression in simple geometrical, abstract, clear forms, the geographical reconciliation of ancestral Indian tradition with an aesthetic born of French cubism.

The warm, shimmering tones of his paintings, sometimes highlighted discreetly with gold, communicates the mystery of an age-old civilization. Narayanan invites us, in the silence of meditation, to a state of inner peace, in a spirit of universality."

**For further enquiries please contact:**

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