

Artistic focus on women's empowerment

THE FOCUS on the girl child remains an important one and needs all the help it can get. While it continues to remain an oft visited theme in every publication worth its salt, there are many efforts that remain mostly unknown. The national capital's Visual Art Gallery located at the Habitat Centre, has lent itself to hosting an exhibition of splendid artworks, on the theme of *Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao*. The exhibition presented by Gallery Freedom in collaboration with the Voluntary Health Association of India (VHAI), has been organised to raise resources for promoting this important social issue.

The exhibition titled *Aparajita — Indomitable Spirit of Women*, is unfortunately only on view for a very short while — August 28 to September 2. This is a great pity as the gallery has put together a wonderful collection of artworks that include handpicked works of masters along with creations of promising younger artists. Works by 57 artists are on show and include masters such as Nandalal Bose, Jamini Roy, M F Husain, F N Souza, Akbar Padamsee, Satish Gujral and Bhabesh Sanyal. Then we have contemporary artists Anjolie Ela Menon, Sunil Das, G R Santosh, Vaikuntam, Arpana Caur, Gogi Saroj Pal, Jogen Chowdhury, Dhiraj Choudhury, Jatin Das, Jai Zharotia, Niren Sen Gupta, Sanjay Bhattacharya, Sudip Roy and so many other known and lesser-known artists. It is truly an exhibition that offers a chance of viewing so many styles

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ARTY MATTERS: A Paritosh Sen painting that will be displayed at Shridhani Gallery

and images under one roof. Among the works that caught my eye were canvases by younger artists, in all of which bright colours played a major part. The artists were Anjam Khan, Kota Neelima, Manas Jena, Nin Taneja and Ashok Bhowmik.

Another interesting exhibition scheduled for September 4 is *Bengal panorama: the legacy and the continuity*, at Delhi's Shridharani Gallery presented by Kolkata-based Janus Art Gallery. The exhibition, offers a glimpse of India's colourful art history — cutting across more than a century, from the old masters to younger artists of today. So, here we have Nandalal Bose, Paritosh Sen, Dhiren Brahma and other senior artists. Then there is the next generation of Sunil Das, Ramananda Bandopadhyay, Jogen Choudhury, Lalu Prasad Shaw and Prakash Karmakar Bijon Chowdhury followed by the younger lot including Ananda Moy Banerjee, Debabrata Sarkar, Bimal Kar and others. The exhibition will be on till September 14 and art lovers should make a point of not to miss it as there are a number of paintings that have not been seen before.

We now move on to an ambitious event down south. This is the Yes Bank Art Bengaluru 2015, which closed on August 30. This year's programme for this event, which is its sixth edition, also included other arts such as music, dance, theatre and interesting workshops. The art exhibition featured over 35 exhibits showcasing sculptures, installations, paintings and photography. Curated by noted artist and art historian Suresh Jayaram, the exhibition featured the works of international artists Kevin Kelly from Canada, Li Hongbo (China) and Nicolas Clauss (France). Indian artists who participated in the show were Gigi Scaria and Vivan Sunderam from Delhi, Claire Arni from Bengaluru, Subodh Kerkar from Goa and Thota Tharani from Chennai.

(The writer is an author and a former art gallery owner)