

Don't miss the exhibition of paintings by seven contemporary Indian artists at Apparao Galleries. And the book that promises an insight into the works

**S** *EVEN* is the book and it is exotic not only because it is in a limited edition of 600 copies in India, each numbered and signed, but also because it attempts to explain abstraction in the works of these artists as lucidly as possible.

Conceptualised by publisher Ravi Kumar, this book charts the works and ideas of seven Indian contemporary artists, young and old, in India and abroad. They are Parisians Rajendra Dhawan, Sujata Bajaj, V Vishwanadhan and SH Raza and Akhilesh, Seema Ghurayya and Manish Pushkale.

From his experience in the publishing business for approximately 37 years, Ravi Kumar now believes that the sale of books on art in India is on a steady decline, he says. This is the reason why he always brings out limited editions of his publications, he says. Moreover, very few in India buy a book priced at Rs 4,000 (the price of *Seven*), he says, adding that even libraries in India are hesitant to buy a pricey book.

Hindi poet and critic Ashok



SH Raza explores art



Vajpeyi has written in the book that art is wandering and not travelling towards a definite goal. It is in such meanderings that one may stumble across a moment of truth, he adds.

This explains the mood of the works on display. A sneak peek into the *Seven*.

**ONE:** Akhilesh. This senior Bhopal artist paints to endow a "self" to a painting. He believes a painting must reflect its own being beside that of its creator.

**TWO:** V Vishwanadhan. One of the founder members of the Cholamandal Artists Village, Vish-

# Seven artists and a book

wanadhan now lives in Paris. Four paintings of his *Caesin on Canvas Series* have been exhibited. Vishwanadhan believes that naming is restricting the prospects of a painting.

**THREE:** Padma Shri SH Raza. Octogenarian Raza seeks to explore the realities beyond the objective, which are accessible only to art. According to him, art is nothing if not mystery and wonder.

**FOUR:** Sujata Bajaj. She wants to energise space with her colours and images. Four of her paintings are on display.

**FIVE:** Seema Ghurayya. While most artists fear the colour white, Ghurayya experiments with it. Four of her paintings that have been exhibited are well, white-washed.

**SIX:** Manish Pushkale. He has no formal training in art or painting. Starting from scratch, he has gone to criticise other art styles

and artists, in his paintings. Thanks to his keen and intelligent observation of art.

**SEVEN:** Rajendra Dhawan. Five paintings of his that have been exhibited look like faint impressions of landscapes. But these could also reflect a certain inscape of the mind. "You should not be tempted to read, you are only invited to discover," says the artist in *Seven*. So, armed with this book that will be available in the gallery during the exhibition, you can start off on your artistic "meanderings." *Seven* will be released today by former Union minister Jayanti Natarajan at the Apparao Galleries here.

The exhibition will be on from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. everyday except Sundays till March 26 at the Apparao Galleries, No 7, Wallace Gardens, Third Street. On Mondays, the timings are 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

—Gayatri Hazarika



Yoni puja by SH Raza