

Cite Du Couvent on Rue de Charonne in Paris was originally built in the 17th century and functioned as a convent for nuns. After the French revolution, it became residential quarters. On its second floor, the Indian painter Sayed Haider Raza has his studio and apartments: one in which he has his studio and lives with his French artist-wife Janine Mongillat; and the other, which Janine uses as her studio. Trained in the painterly values that Paris offered and belonging at one period of time to what is known as the Paris School, Raza has moved decisively towards a more rooted vision, which has imbibed *le sens plastique* and reinvented it with many Indian ideas. It has blossomed into something uniquely Raza, an inclusive vision whose alchemy now supercedes the merely French or the specifically Indian.

Raza's studio is difficult to describe. Apart from part of the floor cluttered with colour tubes, brushes, cups, other odd instruments as also white stretched canvases of many sizes on the easels, the rest has racks of books. There are books on art, Hindi and French poetry,