

**T**he fascination for number 'seven' has been there since ages. Scientifically too, if you notice, you'll find that there are seven primary colours, seven constituents of the body and so on. That explains the bringing of seven artists together in this unique initiative. And keeping in perfect harmony with the name of the exhibition 'Seven,' we hereby formally open the exhibition as the clock strikes seven today on this wonderful evening," declared Ashok Vajpeyi, at the launch function of his latest art book *Seven*, held recently at the Visual Art Gallery, India Habitat Centre.

The book published by Paris-based Ravi Kumar Publisher is based on the works of seven contemporary artists spanning three different generations. These include 29-year-old Manish Pushkale (the youngest of the lot) to Rajendra Dhawan, Sujata Bajaj, Velu Vishwanadhan, Akhilesh, Seema Ghuraya and the oldest and one of the best known names in contemporary "Indian" art, Syed Haider Raza.

"Each work of the artists featured in this book has a life of its own. Here, you'll find an unorthodox display of colours and forms, which expresses the little music of the soul," explained Mr Vajpeyi. Each of the "Seven" artists has

succeeded in giving an original form, the form of their roots, to the artistic debates in a world that is larger and more open than ever before.

"If you look at the paintings properly, you'll discover a warmth of sensuality. If you talk to them, they will talk back to you," Akhilesh commented on his paintings. Manish, based in Bhopal, is excited about his first major show in India. "I feel good to be the youngest of the lot here. I have been painting since my childhood

days. But I got a degree in art just for the sake of scholarships and for career growth," he said. For these seven artists, the world is a musical score, a jumble of notes. We only need to find the keys and play. As Mr Kaniwal Sibal, foreign secretary of India, who was present at the launch function puts it, "One should not talk about art, one should enjoy it." (K.D.)

*The exhibition is on at the Visual Art Gallery, IHC till March 31, 2003*



# SEVEN BY 7