

When Rainbow Hues Bedazzled Who's Who

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PHOTOS: RAJ K. RAJ

SEVEN IS a magical number – there are seven colours in the rainbow, seven notes of music, seven deadly sins, a seven-year itch and seven stars form the Great Bear. And now we have a group show of seven artists simply called, what else, SEVEN, on at the Visual Arts Gallery, India Habitat Centre, till March 31. If that was not enough, this show will be held at seven places – Mumbai, Chennai, New Delhi, London, Paris, New York and Tokyo.

Presented by Paris-based publisher Ravi Kumar and Apparao Galleries, the exhibition showcases the works of S.H. Raza, Velu Vishwanadham, Rajendra Dhawan, Akhilesh, Sujata Bajaj, Seema Ghurayya and Manish Pushkale, and what is unique is that different works will be displayed at each place. The Delhi show, inaugurated on Wednesday, coincided with the release of a coffee table book on the participant artists. "It is for the first time, that a pure abstract art show has been put together," says Ravi Kumar, who has published the book, "and the body of work is at par with the best anywhere in the world. Also, though four of the artists – Raza, Bajaj, Dhawan and Vishwanadham – live in Paris, the works of all the artists are rooted in the Indian tradition. They play the same notes in different styles,

Idris M. Tayeb, Cultural & Press Counsellor, Libyan Embassy catches up with Ashok Vajpayee



From Left: Ashok Vajpayee, Ravi Kumar, Seema Ghurayya, Akhilesh and Manish Pushkale pose for the album



Celebrated author Nirmal Verma quietly nurses a drink



Foreign Secretary Kanwal Sibal (left) chats with MEA spokesperson Navtej Sarna



Rajeev Sethi (left) with khadi designer Rita Kumari

and are indicative of the changing trends in Indian contemporary art."

While the Paris-based artists could not make it, the other three, who are incidentally all from Bhopal as also awardees of the Raza Foundation,

were there. Also present was Ashok Vajpayee, who has written the foreword of the book, released by Foreign Secretary Kanwal Sibal. Having exhibited in Mumbai and Chennai, after Delhi the show will move on to Paris.