

SR DECODING THE ART OF ABSTRACTION

Artists at the 'Romance Of Abstract' exhibition talk about their art being a visual grammar of colours and frames



Artists at the Abstract Art Show
| P RAVIKUMAR

Many years ago, there arose two concepts about art — Art for art's sake and Art for society's sake. Centuries later, there still exists a wide disparity between the ideologies of representational artists and their counterparts, abstract artists. Though abstract art doesn't represent anything, it becomes a means for artists to vent out their feelings and angst through a language of colours, lines, borders, forms and textures.

The paintings on display at the exhibition at Vinnyasa Art Gallery, named 'the romance of abstract 2014', brought together abstract artists Achudhan Kudal-lur, Akhilesh, Harsha Vardhana, Manish Pushkale and Sheetal Gattani.

For Delhi-based Manish Pushkale, abstract art is not to paint objects which are existing in the world, or an art of imitation, but creating a



visual grammar through colours and frames. The self taught artist says, "My paintings, as a matter of fact, any abstract painting, is not a tool meant to convey an idea. It is an exercise to achieve one's own visual language."

Sheetal Gattani from Mumbai, for whom this is the first group show in the city, says that it is a process-based work, and the concept that she follows is colourlessness. She says, "I was impressed by the Zen philosophy and I started painting layers and scratches existing in a non memory zone." She adds that the art of abstraction is to be free of memories and live in the present moment.

Harsha Vardhana from Delhi feels that there is still a lot of hesitation and fear among artists of not finding a representational form, and to accept the abstract art as such. The art clouded by shapes and lines is still not in the forefront in India, according to him. He says, "The language in it is not apparent unless you train your eyes to comprehend it. Artists like me are inspired by nature, colours and music, but not directly, as we do not try to reproduce them in the direct way."

Bhopal-based Akhilesh, who has done shows in Japan, Singapore, France and other countries, alludes the theory of Karma to the art of abstraction. He says an abstract art is done because it has to be done. It is done for no implicit reason or logic. His father, also an artist, had given him ideas about painting. The artist, who has been painting for around 40 years, says, "I used black colour for 10 years. Black taught me the tonality in colours and about the other side of colours." Akhilesh's first exhibition consisted of a 104-feet long work.

Achuthan Kudallur's paintings stood out for the colours he employed. The colours and shapes he used made people think about the possibilities of colours one can use in a work.

The exhibition is on from August 15 to 30.

— Deepika Jayaram