

# Full Circle

SH Raza's *bindu*  
finds resonance in  
abstract artist  
Murlidhar Rai's  
paintings



**PALLAVI CHATTOPADHYAY**

THINK of SH Raza and the first thought to cross one's mind is usually the *bindu*, a recognisable motif in his paintings. Not only has it inspired a generation of younger artists but has also found its way into their work, and artist Murlidhar Rai is one such example. In his latest solo exhibition of 16 paintings at Gallerie Ganesha, "Circles of Life", he has used the *bindu* to narrate the tale of life.

Rai's paintings (*pictured*) have bursts of colour surrounding a circle or a dot on his canvas, giving shape to the artist's belief that nothing in life is black and white and there are innumerable shades of colour in everything we see around us.

"The circle denotes the never-ending cycle of time and also represents the earth," he says. The everyday hustle bustle of city life served as the trigger for Rai. He says, "The 'Circles of Life' refers to the never-ending positive thoughts in our mind, that revolve in a circular orbit if we take them in a positive way."

After studying Masters in Fine Arts from Banaras Hindu University, the artist began with figurative works and landscapes and has now chosen abstract forms for his pictorial language. But unlike his contemporaries, Rai has refrained from using a paint brush for the last 15 years. Instead his abstract paintings are made from everyday objects such as spatulas, knives and toothbrushes.

*The exhibition is on display at Gallerie Ganesha, E 557, Greater Kailash 2, till October 28. Contact: 29217306*