

BOOK ON RAZA

A BOOK on S H Raza and six other artists, all abstractionists, will be launched on February 22. The book, simply titled Seven, has been published by Paris-based Ravi Kumar. It includes essays by noted Hindi poet and eminent critic Ashok Vajpeyi.

Kumar, who has been promoting Indian art in Europe by publishing books since 1966, says, "The book is on seven contemporary artists from three generations — including the oldest — Raza (81) — and the youngest, Manish Pushkale (29)."

The other five artists included in this collection of essays are Sujata Bajaj, Seema Ghurayya, Rajendra Dhawan, Akhilesh and Velu Viswanadhan. "These artists have been included because each has something that is fundamentally common. They play the same notes in different styles," says Kumar.

Interestingly, the list includes artists who are considered to be Raza's protégés including Bajaj and Ghurayya. Raza is known to have supported these artists in their earlier stages. They are now successful in their own right.

The book will be released at the Tao Art Gallery by Maharashtra Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Shinde. An exhibition of works by these seven artists will also be unveiled on Saturday.

The city will also see another exhibition of the early works of Raza and recent paintings by Bajaj at The Guild Art Gallery from February 20.

