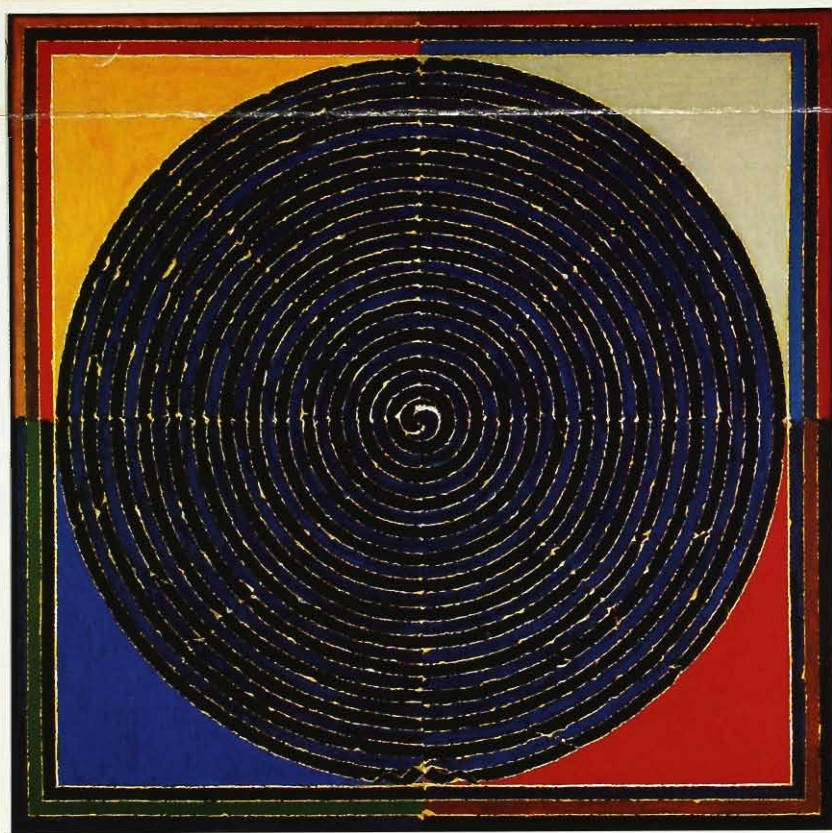


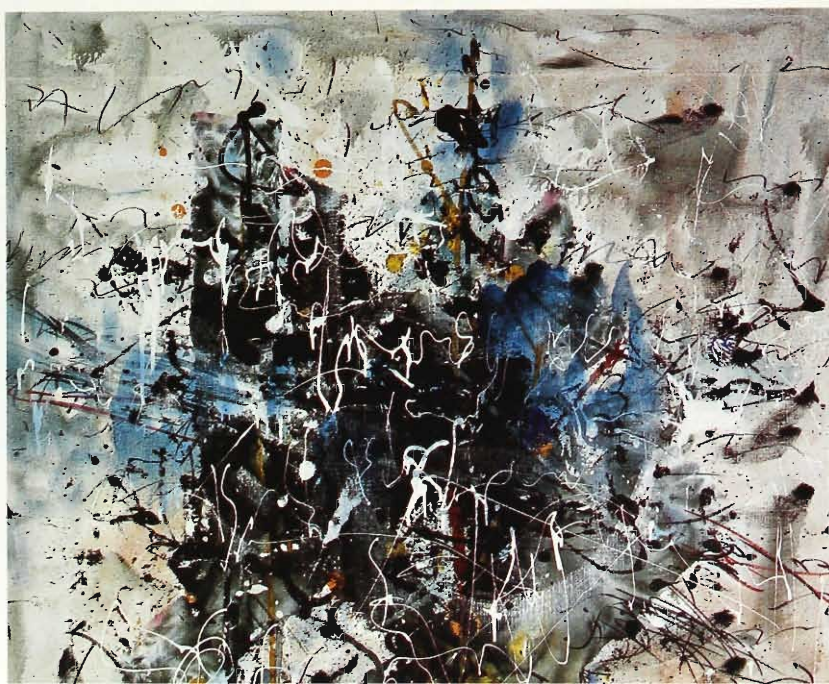
The Search Within

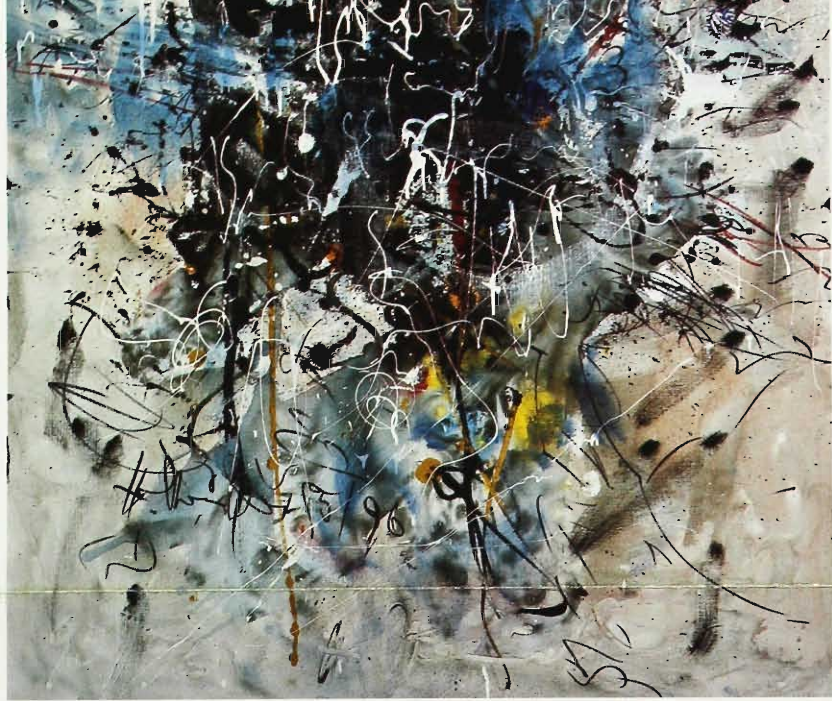
INDIAN AND AUSTRIAN PAINTINGS

BETWEEN IMPLOSION AND EXPLOSION



S.H. RAZA





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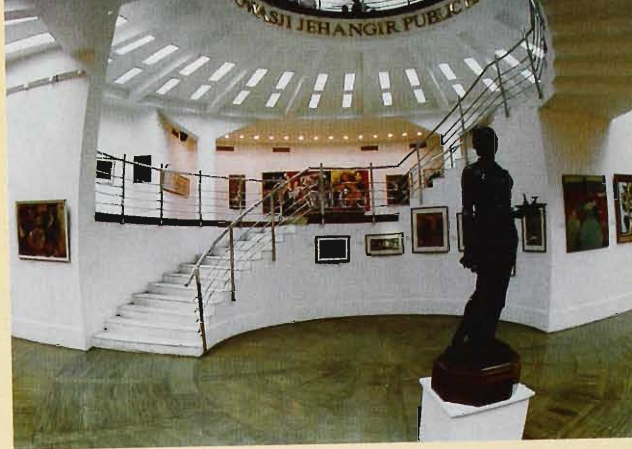
10. DEC. 1998 – 10. JAN. 1999

**NATIONAL GALLERY OF MODERN ART
MUMBAI**

*SIR COWASJI JEHANGIR PUBLIC HALL, M.G. ROAD,
THURSDAY – SUNDAY: 10 am – 5 pm (INFO-LINE: 022/2852457)*

SPONSORED MAINLY BY
THE INDIAN COUNCIL FOR CULTURAL RELATIONS AND THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT
CURATOR: WERNER DORNIK

The Search Within



FRITZ GROHS
Artist and Writer

A lot of time is spent searching these days. Searching for meaning, safety, clarity, love, wealth, health, etc. And whilst one can rely less and less on traditional structures and their representatives in answering this kind of question, more and more people are turning to the most reliable companion of their existence, their own self.

However also the self has to be found, after an often confusing search, and the self often seems to be furthest away. After both the exhibitions in Austria (Pernegg Monastery and "Kunstraum Salzburg"), 20 artists from India and Austria show in the National Gallery of Modern Art in New Delhi and Mumbai under the title "The Search Within", their own self, their search and their respective paintings on the subject.

"The Search Within" – "Innenschau" is a topical expression. With an overwhelming mass of information and the turn of the century in view, the collective conscience searches for something to hold onto. The inner world rates high whilst the outside world collapses.

Art is in its element in both worlds, and projects such as this find a huge echo. The documentation of a state of being at the time of its evaporation is the not easily realisable root idea of this exhibition. The choice of artists taking part, as well as the comparative confrontation of India-Austria should document as many positions of the inner search as possible.

For India speaks its image as the fountain of all knowledge. Long before hippie-times, the western

world has been using the philosophy, religions and mysticism of Asia to transcend the misery of life – the turnover rates of the esoteric industry speak for themselves. India itself is of course at the moment much more occupied with finding a connection to the globalisation-express, which is travelling in exactly the opposite direction.

The inner search is naturally always meant for the being itself, the soul, if one wants. Austria with its specific soul, and its specific way of approaching it, is – as the cradle of psychoanalysis – a worthy partner in this exhibition of the search-systems.

A comparison of the forms of approach should be conveyed, not more – but also not less. Because, in using Viktor Frankl's words: Art has to keep the door open, that door which leads out of the kingdom of restriction, literally out into freedom.

Opening

Wednesday, 9th December 1998, 6 pm

National Gallery of Modern Art
Sir C. J. Public Hall
M.G. Road, Mumbai 400 032

INAUGURATION

Followed by VIDEO FILM on "THE SEARCH WITHIN"
(Austrian Broadcasting Corporation)
with simultaneous translation by Girish Shahane

The Search Between

WERNER DORNIK

Curator

Extended journeys in America, Europe and Asia form the background experience to this project between India and Austria.

Exhibitions in both countries, a symposium, a painting competition for youths in Austria and a documentary film, should give a comparative but not evaluating view of eastern and western contemporary art.

In "The Search Within", it is the universal questioning of material and ideal pre-conditions which determine the production and reception of the paintings here and there, not the cultural differences.

Initial ideas on the project evolved in 1994. Meetings with artists and theorists from art, science and philosophy in India as well as Austria came about in 1996, as the first concrete working steps. The idea was to show a wide spectrum of painting, whilst retaining an overall art perspective, and leaving room for a relative way of looking.

The choice of artists, who were mainly dictated by "coincidence" rather than guiding principles, offers not a systematic review of contemporary artwork in both countries, but brings together artistic personalities from 3 generations with very varied styles.

The "artist-pairs" evolved through the remarkable similarities existing in the chosen artists from East and West, in their subjects, painting-styles, and their view of the world. These parallels, apparently inexplicable in the global art-market, as well as the question of a "soul" existing in paintings, led to "The Search Within".

Artists coming from different social backgrounds, are religious or not, and describe a variety of human being, their pictures like thoughts as answers and questions, should be inviting to "The Search Within" – may be also to "The Search Between".

On the exhibition “The Search Within”

JOHN BERGER

Art-Journalist / Filmmaker

May be it's good to record long silences, because then we stop thinking about words for a moment and we think about being and we can also start looking. So we could look at that, for example. What is this?

It is a sculpture made of paper, it is like a garment, it is also like a pair of wings; above all, when you look at it



Bharati Kapadia – Slough – 65"x 27"

you have the sense of something having been worn, in all the senses of the word worn, covering a body and being used and used.

So it contains experience and when you bring works together with their artists you bring together an incredible density of experience. And that experience has an energy which then begins to be redistributed, not by any systematic law, but by spontaneous interaction. That needs a lot of organising, because it serves nothing directly and that is why it's marvellous. Any sort of organising to find the means and the possibilities of doing that, to have this really in a completely opposite way to what one normally understands by the term today "a free exchange".

But this time it's a free exchange between imaginations and between lives lived, between things that have been worn often with pain, sometimes with hope.

CATALOGUE-BOOK

"THE SEARCH WITHIN"

FORMAT: 23,5 cm x 30,5 cm, Hardcover

LENGTH: 160 pages

ILLUSTRATIONS:

colour 91 / black and white 25

TEXTS:

all Artists, Prof. Burghart Schmidt,
John Berger, Dr. Alexander Urosevic,
Director of the NGMA Dr. Anjali Sen,
the State Presidents K.R. Narayanan
& Dr. Thomas Klestil and other Diplomats

PRICE: 1.200 Rupees

PRINTED: in Austria

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OF MODERN ART MUMBAI

Sir C. J. Public Hall,

M.G. Road, Mumbai 400 032

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"The Search Within" possible.

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and County Governments of Austria sponsored this
project.

... and a special thanks to the artists and all other people involved
in this project.

Werner Dornik

