

AKHILESH

It was in February, 1986, during the Bharat Bhavan Biennial of Contemporary Indian Art, in the Roshanakar Museum of Bhopal. Five large paintings of AKHILESH were hanging in the main hall on a well lit white wall. They emitted strange resonances. The form articulation was precise, colours deep + refined + the space charged with mysterious presence. I stood watching these paintings in silence.

Later we met + talked. AKHILESH showed me a considerable body of work, paintings mostly on paper, sketches + prints which revealed his concept, his methods + his form perception. I discerned an inner world of tension + melancholy, latent energy wanting to release itself + above all a thought process guiding his démarche.

During the years that followed, he pursued a feverish quest + his work evolved taking new dimensions. The mind coordinated vision, technique + sensibility. In moments of the high elevation, the thinking mind recedes, giving place to intuition + direct perception. The known + unknown meet, in the flight of imagination, in total freedom, with all that it represents: exaltation, pleasure + pain + the inevitable risks. AKHILESH underwent a period of discipline + effort, summing up all his innate possibilities. The involvement with the pure painting elements - fundamental form requisites, became imperative. A conscious effort to attain simplicity + to reach the essential, gave his work greater intensity + strength.

At a time when Contemporary Indian Art is being largely recognised as a vital aspect of our culture, it is great happiness to see new energies joining the main stream. After years of hard + concentrated work, AKHILESH has evolved a personal concept as a painter + is undoubtedly making a significant contribution.

S. H. RAZA

Paris, 12th November, 1990