

ART

A tradition revived

Sujata Bajaj

Jehangir Art Gallery

By Rinki Bhattacharya

"Energy", 1989, Monotype, 76 x 57 cms - a brief description of Sujata Bajaj's current series.

Here Sujata revives an old tradition in a new, appealing manner. It is a little over 100 years back when Degas discovered the monotype. Sujata turned to monotype, discovering its infinite potentials while in Paris.

Scrolls, a piece of twisted rope, other incidental objects moving against bright areas of flat pigment are co-ordinated with the colour though they do not contain it. In this style - all the objects she uses, a piece of rope that recurls often, or parts of scroll, and abstract images represent a surprising view of the world around, fragmented, yet held together by an invisible chord.

Her works show how compelling a work can be, realized with the most economic means. The shapes, on her

monotype - often perplexingly strung, move as though by the wind, creating surprising, ingenious patterns in the slowly shifting juxtaposition of their different parts. They float in a magical space - created by vast emptiness where each imprint becomes its own master - and flirts with the surrounding space, in their respective rhythms.

Her sense of colour must be specially mentioned - in fact, colour acquires a distinct meaning in these works. They acquire meaning and depth. Her visuals are therefore incidental.

Painter S.H. Reza composed an elegant & pictorial verse on Sujata's monotype, that deserves being quoted:

"Extension of awareness
suspense.

The metal plate in gestation
receptive white space, a receptacle.

And an emerging, condensed,
radiant
is released as
ENERGY."