



THE RAVEN-HAIRED, brown-eyed beauty adorning our cover is Rasna Singh. Eighteen-year-old Rasna, Bombay, recently, is full of youthful confidence. Studying at the J. J. School of Arts, she has quite mature views for one so young.

A typical extrovert, bubbling with enthusiasm, she has one ambition — "Success. Success all round" she says... She has done modelling, loves to read books ('all kinds') and is fond of swimming. Her motto is to 'live it up!' "Youth is a stage of preparation for the future and one has to make the best use of it," she remarks, her bright eyes sparkling with joie de vivre. Rasna will go places, we feel, with her abundant confidence and delightful charm.

femina

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DR. Mrs. Kusum Wankar, a dedicated social worker of Vidharbha was instrumental in establishing the 'Nandanwan' school for mentally handicapped children in Nagpur. The school caters to the needs of mentally retarded children in all of the Madhya Pradesh area, as it is the only school of this kind in this region.

Mrs. Wankar has done much to run this school along scientific lines. To gather experience in this field, she recently made an eight-week tour of the United States of America where she observed training and rehabilitation programmes of several well-known schools and sheltered workshops for mentally retarded children.

Recently, 'Nandanwan' came under the Demonstration Project for rehabilitation of the mentally retarded. The scheme has the collaboration of the Vocational Rehabilitation Administration of the U.S. Government. The school's selection for this project is a unique distinction to Nagpur. Mrs. Wankar will be the principal research officer for the five-year project.

**the
woman's
world**

Below: Janine Mongillat ... debut in Bombay



Besides looking after the work of 'Nandanwan', Mrs. Wankar is the residential medical officer in charge of the maternity home run by the Matru Seva Sangh, Nagpur. She is also the medical superintendent of the Auxiliary Nursing and Midwives Teaching Institution started by the Sangh.

Off and on she is also required to visit the various branches of the Matru Seva Sangh, all over Vidharbha. Despite this busy schedule of work, Mrs. Wankar finds time to prepare delicious dishes for her husband, Mr. Vasant Wankar, a well known orthopaedic surgeon in the Govt. Medical College, Nagpur.

Mrs. Wankar first studied at the Fergusson College, Poona. Later she joined the Grant Medical College, Bombay for her M.B.B.S. and was the recipient of the Dufferin scholarship.

For more than 20 years, Mrs.

Wankar has been working with the Matru Seva Sangh. Still this untiring worker's slogan is: "Give us work and we are ready to carry it out."

ARTIST

A painter of considerable national acclaim in France Janine Mongillat makes her debut in Bombay's art circles with her one-woman exhibition of collage at the Chemould Art Gallery this week.

She is the wife of the internationally-famed Indian painter, Haider Raza and this happens to be her first visit to her husband's native country.

Janine's artistic development began since she enrolled as an art student at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts in Paris where she obtained her diploma after five years of intensive artistic study and training. Her paintings at that time were very figurative. She held shows of her work at the art school and salons like the Ecole des Paris and Salon des Realites Nouvelles. Her first major one-woman ex-



Above: Swaran Kamra ... handicrafts for export

Above right: Usha Bhalla ... second one-woman show

Right: Kusum Wankar ... the cause of the retarded

hibition was in 1956 at the Maison des Beaux Arts in Paris. Following this, Janine crossed French borders to hold group shows in Germany, Italy and the United States.

An important event that established Janine as a painter of national fame was the "Le Prix Henri Manguin" award which is given annually by a group of art-critics in Paris. Then again, in 1967, she was awarded a prize at the Biennale de Menton and had the honour of holding an exhibition of her work at Saint-Paul de Vence near Nice, one of Europe's most well-known and important art centres.

Janine's paintings have undergone a gradual artistic evolution. From her earlier figurative paintings, she took a gradual but deep turn towards the abstract. Today she concentrates her talents on oil paintings (on canvas) and on collage. In the latter particularly, she reveals a very personal style.

PAINTER

MARRIAGE and a family to look after, have not deterred Mrs. Usha Bhalla from indulging in her early passion for the arts — painting in particular. Inspired by all forms of art, even during her school days in Simla, she took to painting with a true artist's fervour.

Graduating in painting from the Punjab University, she went on a scholarship to London where for the first time her work was exhibited in group shows.

Her paintings are mainly figuratives and landscapes. Impressionists have influenced her the most, she claims, and her first exhibition in Bombay in 1966, evoked good response. This week, she holds her second show at the Taj Art Gallery, Bombay.

Mrs. Bhalla also loves to hand-paint saris and to try her artistic hands at interior decoration.

HANDICRAFTS EXPERT

SWARAN Kamra is the name of an enterprising woman who has turned a hobby into a successful business venture.

Swaran manufactures beautiful



articles that are ideal as gifts for a luxury-loving woman—stone embossed slippers and belts, zari embroidered lipstick cases, jute and leather bags, tiny ornamental hand mirrors, dainty letter folders and jewel cases.

Since she was interested in handicrafts, she took a two-year course in the subject at Nirmala Niketan and later held an exhibition of her work. This was such a success that she decided to take up handicrafts as a profession.

For more than a year her workshop—Atul Arts and Crafts—has been supplying its products to local parties for export. Now government agencies also sell her articles in France, Canada and the U.K. A hundred of her items were included in an exhibition held in Japan, and at Bombay's International Tourist Fair her stall drew large crowds.

Swaran is too busy raising her business to give a thought to marriage. "I'd like to have my own boutique one day," she says.