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When past meets the present

Updated on: 27 November,2021 08:30 AM IST | Mumbai
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Artist Varunika Saraf's ongoing exhibition hits aspects of human nature and the Indian condition in a visceral fashion



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and makes a poignant statement on the current state of mind of the nation and people. This

collection is largely evocative of the times we live in, and the events leading to this point in time. It's a recognition of our time in history and taking stock of where we are as a people," Saraf tells us

while leading us on a walkthrough. The body of work titled Caput Mortuum takes its name from the use of synthetic iron pigment caput mortuum, which resembles the colour of dried blood. "All my works have always had a socio-political concern. I don't see my art to be distinctive from what I think or feel and every artist responds to the conditions of the present. This body of work is a representation of what I feel," she adds about her inspirations behind the show.

Saraf's interest in miniature painting emerged from her curiosity about the art form, its artists and their techniques. Her background as an art historian apart from being an artist helps inform her practice and allows for eclectic influences. Works like Portents II and Voices in the Night are examples in the exhibition that portray her varied influences. The latter is a contemporary interpretation of Augsburg Wunderzeichenbuch or the Book of Miraculous Signs. "I have this innate obsession to paint every day, and if I don't do that, what do I do? What am I about? Art is a deep and intricate part of who I am," she admits.

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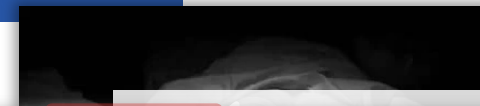


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Even though miniature art informs her work, she refuses to be boxed into the traditions of the art form and her art often breaks the mould of set ways. Saraf feels that there is a sense of permanence

when she paints and credits the Chemould team for being instrumental in understanding what she wanted to express, leading to this collaboration.

“Art for me is a lucid process. There is no right or wrong way to approach art, it has a lot to do with the personality of the artist. Finding the truth in art is what has been my prime motivation and I know no other way,” Saraf explains.

Till December 30; 10 am to 6 pm

At Chemould Prescott Road Gallery, Fort.

Free

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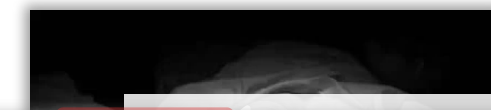
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