

DEEPA KHANNA SOBTI

A Singaporean national of Indian origin, Deepa is a self-taught artist who holds an MBA degree with a finance major but gave up a decade long career in banking in 2000.

From a very early age, she was drawn to the natural love and beauty all around her. Yet Deepa was very curious to find the ultimate meaning of life and this curiosity led to a life-long investigation of the mind and its manifestations.

She began painting in 1999 and started writing poetry in 2012. Deepa writes an original poem for each painting and both are exhibited together.

Overall, her art and poetry make a strong suggestion to the viewer to investigate their present experience to realize what reality really is and to see that the world as it is currently understood, is merely a relative imaginary construct consisting mainly of thought. That even within that thought construct, there is no separation between the individual and the world he inhabits- paving the way for the 'Everything' and the 'Nothing' to shine through the mind. This is the reason her website is called – www.emptinessisfull.com

Deepa donates 75% profits for charitable causes ranging from facilities for unwell children, educational institutions for underprivileged children, housing for those in need, hospitalization for uninsured people, environmental conservation, old age homes, and centres for promoting spiritual growth.

Artist's statement:

The biggest inspiration for my work is nature and the processes of corrosion and erosion, which produce unbelievable abstractions and dramatic stories as the natural pigments, and materials blend and lose themselves in each other. I have always been fascinated by the amazing play of plants and trees in producing intensity, depth and spontaneous angular intersections.

I only use oil paints and a palette knife since it is held differently from a brush or a pen or pencil, which due to repetitive use, unconsciously move towards already learned shapes and forms from memory. The palette knife draws more on spontaneity and pushes me to steer away from all that is known.

I look for all overall balance and depth through a play of dark and light placement of colours, without any semblance of particularized form. My eyes seem to love the colour black which inevitably seems to find itself into almost all my paintings. I like to challenge my mind with more and more intricate colour and shape interactions while still striving for overall balance without succumbing to predictability and form.

Global Juried Awards and Selections

- Selected for Paris Salon d'Automne 2024
- Woman Art Essence Award, Labo Gallery, Berlin, April 2023
- Woman Art Award 2022, Presented by MUSA International along with UNICEF, Paris
- Contemporary Art Curator Magazine 2021 – Collector's Vision Int'l Art Award
- Shortlisted for the Wirksworth Art Festival Online Art Prize, UK
- Woman Art Award 2020 (MUSA International with UNESCO Italy)
- Palm Art Award Germany 2018. WHOIS Publisher Prize
- Special Mention for Excellence Art Museum Chianciano's Biennale, Italy 2018
- Second Chance Prize Palm-Art Award Germany 2017
- Special-Mention of Excellence award at London Biennale 2017
- Winner Royal Arts Prize London 2016
- Prize Jubilee of the Mercy 2016, Roma, Italy
- Winner of Honorary Mention, London International Creative Competition 2015
- Finalist, Art Gemini Prize London, 2014
- Recognition Prize, Palm Art Award, Germany, 2015
- Shortlisted for International Emerging Artist Award, Dubai 2016

International Confederation of Art Critics, London

Deepa Khanna Sobti is a prodigiously talented abstract expressionist artist whose depth of interpretation of reality is outstanding, and is expressed in both her art and her writing.

Deepa paints solely with a palette knife to give her paintings a more spontaneous and gestural feel that reminds us of the typically intuitive and emotional characteristics of Action Art, brought to the scenes by Jackson Pollock and Franz Kline, where art is an act rather than an object, a process rather than a product that touches the collective sense of an archetypal visual language.

The irregular patches of colour in her art works create a lyrical image, like a mosaic of flickering light. The densely layered paint is applied on the canvas and the palette knife creates intense areas of vivid colour, which are pure explosions of wonder that remind us of the Art Informel movement and Jean-Paul Riopelle in particular.

Sobti's compositions are powerful, meaningful, a symphony of flaming colours with a unique taste for harmony and balance. Her paintings are a never-ending journey from light to darkness and back; they vibrate like a symphony that generates substantiality and strength. They are a jubilation of pure emotion that overwhelm the viewer, captures his soul and brings him back to the real world; a world in which the meaning of nature and life are in unison with the power of the universe.

As Deepa herself says in one of her poems: "In one thought, this emptiness contains the entire universe", and she shares both with us so wonderfully and with such beauty that all we feel is the desire to live that universe. Sobti is an artist that leaves a mark in our consciousness and will surely have a deep impact on the contemporary art scene of today and tomorrow.

Karen Lapon

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