

Dil chhata hai

SHAILESH MULE

WHAT
Umbrella Art, an exhibition cum sale in aid of Concern India

WHERE
Artists' Centre, Kala Ghoda

WHEN
11 am to 7 pm, from today till July 13



IT'S RAINING ART: Artist Protima Sheth paints an umbrella at the Artists' Centre

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VIVID colours, landscapes, dancing girls, masks, and musical instruments are all part of this season's latest style statement — the hand-painted umbrella. At first glance the sea of umbrellas drying in the small room at the Artists' Centre is quite an unusual sight. Especially since it hasn't rained all day. As the paint dries you can see the detailed images painted on otherwise drab umbrellas. From Madhulika Johri's silver and red

dancing girls against a black background, to Protima Sheth's line work and miniatures, the myriad of shapes and colours are visually stimulating. The sight of these brightly coloured umbrellas on a grey, rainy day would definitely be uplifting.

Organised by Concern India Foundation, a two-day workshop brought together 36 of India's most prolific artists including Madhusudan Kumar, Subhas Awchat, Jehangir Jani, Anjana Mehra, Brinda Chudasama Miller, Sunil Padwal and Lalitha Lajmi using a rather unusual surface —

the umbrella. The result is about 60 umbrellas on view and for sale at the Artists' Centre.

Artist and secretary of the Artists' Centre, Madhusudan Kumar admits that though he hasn't used this surface before he believes it is unique in its widespread visibility. Yes, painted with waterproof acrylic paints, these umbrellas have more than just artistic value. Kumar has chosen to paint musical instruments on a white umbrella to spread the message of music. A classically trained sitar player himself, he believes strongly in the

power of music. Artist Puja Kshatriya, on the other hand, has chosen a more literal interpretation. By playing with bright colours, figures, and monsoon imagery she wants to dispel the bleakness that the monsoon brings.

Despite different artistic interpretations the artists are unanimous in their support for Concern India. They all believe that this is a great opportunity for artists to come out in full force and work towards a good cause. Maneka Shah, a member of the team that organised this workshop

says that the artists have been amazing in their support. "The artists are doing this as a complete donation and have been really enthusiastic. A lot of them have even come back to paint more umbrellas!" Another member of Concern India, Gopi Gandhi adds that these umbrellas will not only have practical value but will be a collector's item as well.

There will be around 60 umbrellas for sale from July 10 to July 13 at the Artists' Centre in Kala Ghoda. So what are you waiting for? What could be better than keeping dry in style?