

'Each one of us can make a difference'

...believes artist **Dhruvi Acharya**, whose ongoing exhibition is a plea to save the environment

Artist Dhruvi Acharya is candid from the start. "Expressing my thoughts through my paintings is a gift from God," she says, as she also stresses that all her paintings are always theme-based. The theme for her latest exhibition, 'One Life on Earth', currently on at Chemould Prescott Road, is the environment. "Going by the current world scenario and the impact of globalisation on the planet, I feel environmental pollution is a major concern. And we all have to do something about it collectively and individually, as each one of us can make a difference," says Dhruvi. Personal experiences (her closest relatives falling prey to environmental hazards) made her realise even more that it's time somebody raised an alarm. And that's how 'One Life on Earth' was born.

The fire burning within Dhruvi and her concern for the cause is more than evident through her detailed and layered paintings which use wry, dark humour and create a unique world where thoughts are visible as reality and the protagonists change shape, sprout plants, grow claws, and use 'breath packs' to survive. The imaginary world intricately woven by her opens up a range of psychological and visual dimensions in her work. Like her painting of a mock-advertisement selling oxygen and fresh-air: "This is exactly what is about to happen to the world. If we are sick, we can get the help of a doctor, if we are hungry we can eat food, but if



HEAL THE WORLD... Dhruvi Acharya

the air is polluted, can we buy it?" asks the artist.

One also notices the influence of comic characters in her works. "I like to use these characters to convey messages through my paintings," says Dhruvi, for whom painting has always been her first love. "As a child I would love to paint. Till date, I carry my drawing books wherever I go. As soon as a thought comes to my mind, I draw a rough sketch of it in my book. Then I begin my work on canvas." With digital technology taking over, doesn't she feel the need to use a computer? "The computer is a wonderful medium to bring images to life. But there's nothing as fulfilling as putting brush to canvas," the artist in Dhruvi signs off.

-VIVIN ESSITIBRO