

A whiff of **fresh air!**

Art's
sake

Dhruvi's diary

■ In 2006, Dhruvi was awarded the Aditya Birla Kala Kiran Puraskar and was also nominated for the Joan Mitchell Foundation Award (USA).

■ Her paintings have been shown in The Queen of Art (New York) and Spazio Oberdan (Milan)



→ Artist Dhruvi Acharya

DHRUVI ACHARYA's paintings carry a socially-relevant message

Ismat Tahseen

t_ismat@dnaindia.net

THE statement that life imitates art, couldn't be more further from the truth when it comes to artist Dhruvi Acharya. Her new collection of acrylic on canvas has come about as a result of her own experience—a bitter, but thought-provoking one.

"During the Mumbai Marathon last year, I was training in the early hours one morning when I got completely breathless. It was a frightful experience. It led me to think of the pollution in the atmosphere," she recalls.

What followed was the extended vision of a world without any air. That's right, Dhruvi's canvases portray comic-like characters that actually inhabit a world where

there is no air, where they must carry their own oxygen backpacks and grow their own plants strapped to their backs.

In another there is a mock-advertisement 'selling' oxygen, while in another the war for air is between the 'haves' and 'have-nots'.

The exhibition, her fourth solo show in the city has hardly begun and most works, priced at a couple of lakhs, have been sold out. "It's a terrific encouragement," says the artist. "But more than anything I want it to make people sit up and think of the surroundings."

Dhruvi's better half, director Manish Acharya (of *Loins of Punjab* fame) is her strongest critic.

"But he also says it's the best work I have done till date," she laughs.