

# Comics.. but seriously

Dhruvi Acharya's exhibition, *One Life on Earth*, opens at the Chemould Prescott on Wednesday

■ Jigna Padhiar

She has that knack for making serious issues accessible through her canvases done overtly in a fun style. Her new exhibition — *One Life on Earth* — tackles the issues of pollution and violence.

"We have only one life on earth and we are ruining it," says **Dhruvi Acharya** whose exhibition opens at the Chemould Prescott on Wednesday.

## Animation inspires

She first thought of the exhibition while running the city marathon two years ago, "After three hours, I was breathless," she narrates. "That got me thinking — what if there was no air?"

All her paintings in this series hint at the lack of fresh air and the health hazards due to pollution. The one titled *Air-Fair* depicts mock advertisements selling

oxygen and fresh air.

Acharya's paintings show figures with word bubbles. Having grown up reading *Amar Chitra Katha* and being a mother of two kids, who read *Tintin* and *Superman*, her work is influenced by comic strips.



STRAIGHT FROM THE ART: Dhruvi Acharya

## Thoughts on paper

"My paintings are not obviously political because of the style in which I paint. They are like comics, but the content is serious," she states.

Trained in painting, advertising and graphics, she is inspired by Indian miniature paintings, contemporary street art and Japanese paintings as well.

"I usually keep a sketchbook with me all the time. I keep sketching with my imagination and these get translated into paintings," explains Acharya as she awaits the opening of the exhibition.

The exhibition will be on view until August 30 before it travels to Delhi.