



GROWTH BY DHRUVI ACHARYA

AN ALTERED REALITY

Born and raised in Mumbai, Dhruvi Acharya now settles back on Indian soil after a few years in New York and brings with her a new body of work that will be exhibited in Mumbai and Delhi. 'One Life on Earth' is an obvious statement on the current world environment—on the pollution, the violence and the discord, but just like the artist, the works are not overtly political. Instead of anger, she utilises a subtle and dark sense of humour to draw viewers into a world where thoughts are as visible as 'reality', and where the protagonists live and metamorphose by the logic of that world, where they change shape, sprout plants, grow claws, or use breath-packs to survive, creating a surreal landscape. Pollution is tackled in *Airfare*, where there is a war on for air between the haves and the have-nots: The haves are represented by mutated protagonists growing their own plants atop their heads and the have-nots by human beings carrying flower-breath-packs (as oxygen bags), clawing and armed to fight for air. As always, Acharya's work is whimsical and highly detailed, irrespective of the large formats she was worked with this time.

She says, "The paintings are based on my drawings, and my drawing books are like a daily journal, a chronicle of my thoughts, observations, emotions and experiences. I am interested in creating paintings that have a smooth physical surface but are visually and psychologically layered. My deep concerns for the environment, my undergraduate training in advertising, graphics and typography, my love for Indian miniatures, comic books and contemporary street art all have culminated into the body of work included in this show." Her love of comic books is evident in most of the works —*Airfare* is a futuristic comic-book view into times to come, while in *Float and Sink*, amoebic protagonists are bewildered to find themselves in a black and white world of comic-book violence.

'ONE LIFE ON EARTH' BY DHRUVI ACHARYA will be on display from 9th to 30th August at Chemould Prescott Road, Queens Mansion, 3rd floor, G. Talwatkar Marg, Fort, Mumbai—400 001. Tel. 022-2200 0211/12. The show will continue from 4th October to 1st November at Nature Morte, A - 1 Neeti Baug, New Delhi—110 049. Tel. 011-4174 0215.