

# Environmental metamorphosis

BY HASSAN M. KAMAL

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In this age of commercialisation, everything that exists in nature seems like it can be bought, packaged and processed. Dhruvi Acharya, in her new art work showcases just that. Titled "One Life on Earth", her art imagines what the future would be like if fresh air will be available for sale as well — packaged in colourful bags — with numerous kinds of smells to choose from.

From lavender to rose to cardamom, anything you like. The artist takes on the current situation of the environment and the increasing pollution in a light-hearted, almost humorous manner. "In many parts of the country people have to walk hundreds



of kilometres to get drinking water. While drinking water has always been available for free, today one has to buy it. Not only that, we have air-conditioners, private parks, exclusive salons etc. If this continues with increasing pollution, very soon



Paintings by Dhruvi Acharya

we will be buying fresh air!" she says.

Dhruvi works alone on her creations and as she labours tirelessly on her canvasses, the end result is a breathtaking landscape of the people who inhabit her world. She has created a unique world where her protagonists metamorphose by the logic of that world, changing shapes as they expand, float, sprout plants, grow claws, and use "breath packs" to survive.

She says, "I have shown people growing plants from their bodies that provide fresh air to the holders themselves. And those who can't, fight those who can. I am not trying to take any stand here. As an artist I just felt the need express myself. If the current violence and environmental degradation continues, the future will not be good."

Her paintings show from August 9 at Chemould Prescott Road Art Gallery, Fort.