

BAZAAR
THE JOY MANIFESTO

DHRUVI
ACHARYA

ARTIST

WOMEN
WE
LOVE

*Perceptive, prescient, and powerful — meet the indomitable forces
of women who rule our world*

I have known Dhruvi Acharya for close to 15 years. The first time we met, she came as a young artist with her portfolio to my little gallery, then at the Jehangir. I still remember a plastic folio that I flipped through and turned down at the time! Luckily, I don't need to say I have lived to regret it, because quite shortly after 'my rejection', Dhruvi had an exhibition at the

rented space of the Jehangir and I was completely blown away with her work. Viewing it "in the flesh", the layers she builds through paint, her abandoned use of colours, and the way she balances her figures within the canvas was a revelation. I ended up buying a few (small) works from that show. It was the first stage of firming up our future relationship, which has since been a great success and has resulted in several exhibitions together.

What I love about Dhruvi is that you get what you see with both the person and the work. The work is completely unique, borrowing techniques such as cartoon formats or caricature studies, but the making of her art remains her own concern. You get the same from the person. Dhruvi carries no pretensions. Her manner is direct, (sometimes I tease her as being too much so!). But she is also one of those artists who does not feel the need to speak about the work beyond what is there to see. The work carries the message without the added voice of the artist.

By Shireen Gandhi

