



## DHRUVI ACHARYA, ARTIST

**Dream Job:** "I think of myself as a visual storyteller. And I tell my stories with paint." This month Dhruvi Acharya's "stories" are on display in an exhibition of paintings at Mumbai's Gallery Chemould. Entitled *Figment*, for this show her canvas deals with "being alone in a crowd". After majoring in illustration with a diploma in Fine Arts at Mumbai's Sophia Polytechnic, she got her MFA in painting from the Maryland Institute College Of Art, Baltimore. She's had solo and group shows in India and the US, and her work can be found in private and corporate collections. And her clientele is so faithful that recently she was surprised when one of her paintings was bought when she had barely begun it! As she explores her roles as artist and mother, her inspiration from the styles of Indian miniature paintings and modern comics are evident. For example, themes like solitude are tackled with thought bubbles. And since her work, like her demure personality, is largely meditative, she agrees that it's one of the most stress-free jobs on earth!

**Fixed Capital:** Art materials. "Make sure they're good quality so your work lasts longer."

**Perks:** "Flexible hours (I can schedule it around my kids), doing what I truly love and nobody ever tells me what to do."

**Net Loss:** "Money isn't guaranteed in this line. And when I do sell a painting, I feel like I'm giving away a part of myself, never to see it again."

**Net Profit:** "The last thing I remember getting myself was a computer, scanner and printer to put up prints on my website."

**Future Projection:** "Improving my technique, having shows in other cities like London and Los Angeles."

**Investment Advice:** "The trick is not to paint for money. Be true to your work and yourself."

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