

PHOTOS: KUNAL PATIL/HT



A window for the artist



STUDIO PATROL

ARTIST: DHRUVI ACHARYA

STUDIO LOCATION: WARDEN ROAD

IMPRESSIONS: A SMALLISH ROOM WITH A SMATTERING OF DRAWING SHEETS, CANVASES AND PAINTS, NOT TO FORGET SOME MUSIC BY COLDPLAY

Last year you did a solo show, *Two Plus Two Equals*, at Chemould Art Gallery. What are you currently working on?

I am preparing for a solo show at Nature Morte, Delhi, in 2008. They have been inspired by comics and like my previous works, these too will have female protagonists.

In addition to this I am also participating in several international art fairs.

Since you have a stand-alone studio, do you share your workspace with your filmmaker husband Manish Acharya?

No, I don't need to. Our workspaces are sep-

arate. My studio is just a flight up from where we live.

We have converted one of the rooms in this flat into his office and the other into my studio.

How long have you been using this studio?

Ever since I came down from New York.. that was three years ago.

What is the one thing you can't do without in your studio?

The window (*laughs*). Well, I remember the studio in which I used to work in when I was in graduate school in Baltimore didn't have a window.

As a result, I had to take frequent breaks. I used to feel claustrophobic. No such trouble with this studio.

So, you are content with your present studio?

I would love to have a larger studio for myself.

But I am not willing to commute. This space, though small, allows me to work at my own convenience.

Surely, you use this space to throw parties?

I don't like to entertain people here. Though I do throw house parties.. but that happens downstairs.

How many hours do you spend working at your studio?

I work for at least 8-10 hours. Usually it's 8 am to 2 pm, after which I go downstairs to attend to my children. That's also the time I check my e-mails, and work on the computer.

Then, I'm back at the studio at 9 pm and stay there till about 1 am.

Where do you draw your inspiration from?

Well, from various things. Life and experiences are my main source.

What do you think of art as investment?

I have never bought art as an investment but each to his own!



Do you collect?

Yes, I do. I have works by Ryan McGinness, Tanujaa Rane and Laurina Paperina.

But I bought them because I fell in love with them. I don't think of them as investments.

Which fellow artists' work do you envy?

I don't really envy anyone's work. But I do love works by Margaret Kilgallen and Lari Pittman. I do envy musicians, though!

Finally, what according to you has been your best work?

I may have a favourite in each collection but it is hard to pick one "best work". I still have a lot to learn and explore.

As told to Reema Gehi