



3 questions

dhruvi acharya, artist

SHE HAS BEEN FETED FOR HER ORIGINAL AND THOUGHT-PROVOKING WORKS. HER FIRST EXHIBITION AFTER TWO YEARS, *ONE LIFE ON EARTH* EXAMINES ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE AND GLOBALISATION IN A WHIMSICAL BUT POWERFUL MANNER

ELLE: What inspired you to work on *One Life on Earth*?

Dhruvi Acharya: I draw every day – my drawing books are like a journal where I reflect on my life and the world around me. Last year, I had a bout of asthmatic breathlessness and my father was diagnosed with a lung problem that's aggravated by air pollution. And then I observed that others also suffer from air pollution-related problems. So I envisioned a future in which we live in a world with no air and devoid of greenery. This environment causes the

protagonists of my stories to metamorphose; they change shape, float, sprout plants, grow claws, and use 'breath-packs' to survive. *One Life on Earth* has references to the globalisation of violence and discord in our world.

ELLE: Were there any new, strong influences?

DA: I think this show has brought together my various concerns and interests – the environment, comic books, Indian miniatures, typography and advertising.

ELLE: Your art has a touch of the comic to it. Could you talk about that a little?

DA: I love the humour and the graphics of comic books – they are a great way to tell stories and address issues in a non-didactic way. As a child I was obsessed by Indian comic books, only to realise, as an adult, that in those books the women were often scantily-clad objects of desire. This led me to use comic books in my work in order to comment on (un)acceptable perceptions of women in our society. I am also very perturbed by the depiction of violence in comic books, and reflect on that in my work.

One Life on Earth, from 6th to 30th August at Chemould Prescott Road, Queens Mansion, G Talwatkar Marg, Fort, Mumbai 01. Inquiries, (022) 22000211



Mira Corporation, Okhla crossing, Mathura Road, New Delhi 65. Inquiries, (011) 42603167

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