

A small piece of art

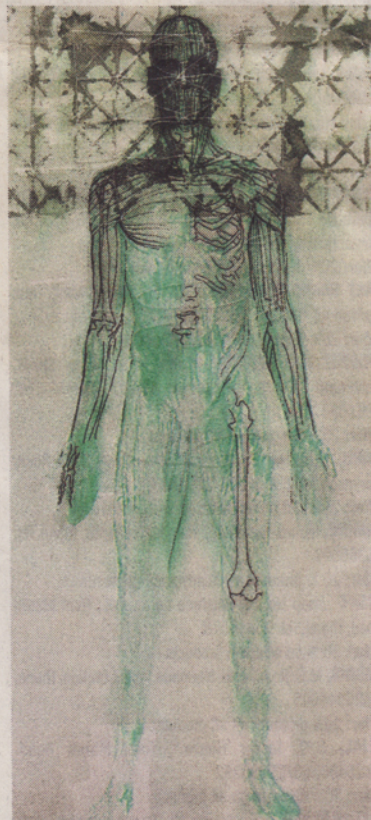
A miniature format show cuts creativity down to size, finds **Ramya Sarma**

After a veritable flood of works that are larger than life and fill a gallery or two, all with the aim of making a profound point of some sort, it comes as a bit of a surprise to see art that is small, almost classically miniature. *The Miniature Format Show 2008* at the SansTache gallery is a collection of pieces by a number of familiar names that have channelled their creativity into a size perhaps more fitting to the space available in the average Mumbai home today. The show is in three parts over a two-month period, spaced to accommodate the panoply of works and the range of formats on display.

Part I includes the work of Dhruvi Acharya, Jenny Bhatt, Dileep Sharma, Pratul Dash and others. Bose Krishnamachari makes an appearance with *Twins/Music Of The Cubes*, two works that burst with red and graphic cut-outs. Sunil Padwal's semi-skeletal being floats on the wall above *Andal*, a tangle of wiring and ritual vessels by Valsan Koorma Kolleri. And Archana Hande's ironic humour makes a statement in the contemporaneously titled *www.arrangeyourmarriage.com*, the 'For Sale, available in different sizes' stamp a commentary on modern life. Wilson D'Souza's *Rumours* is a delightful set of nine heads, each with a distinct expression, the people they are part of, perhaps waiting for a bus, meeting at a party or looking for some new gossip.

The second part of the show will frame artists like Akbar Padamsee, Chintan Upadhyay, Kahini Ar Merchant, Navjot Altaf and P Mansaram. In Part III, Jehangir Jani with his vaguely frightening heads, Prabhakar Kolte with his take on the everyday in miniature and Jinsook Shinde with her Miyake-like folds add to a roster of impressive artists.

The Miniature Format Show 2008, SansTache Art Gallery. Part I, till February 16; Part II, February 21-March 8; Part III, March 13-April 3



■ *Untitled* (above) by Sunil Padwal;
(below) by Dhruvi Acharya

