



COLOURS OF LIFE: (L to R) Art works by artists Dhruvi Acharya (first and third), Simrin Mehra Aggarwal and Paula Sengupta

The art exhibition titled *Intimate Lives* attempts to examine a gamut of emotions that inform and enrich the work of different artists' lives. Eight women artists — Mithu Sen, Simrin Mehra Aggarwal, Tanujaa Rane Hambarthkar, Sarika Mehta, Ayisha Abraham, Dhruvi Acharya, Paula Sengupta and Vidya Kamat — have come together and expressed their thoughts on canvas while some have dwelled on personal issues, others have dealt with sexuality and gender issues through their visually and aesthetically striking work. "Each of the eight artists

# Intimate strokes

have straddled the mediums of painting, photography, installation with the emphasis of their work reflecting process — the making and the doing," says Anupa Mehta, writer and art consultant who has curated this exhibition. Says Dhruvi Acharya, "I have expressed a woman's anticipation when she goes to meet a guy, the budding familiarity with a person and when a relationship doesn't

work out — I have even dealt with pain, suffering and heartbreak that are a natural consequence." The 37-year-old's eight water colour paintings don't follow a linear narrative but only deal with the emotional facets of a woman's personal life. Says Simrin Mehra Aggarwal, "I have depicted how one's private and public life come together to form a cohesive whole. I have divided a man's face into multiple machine parts or similar to

work out — I have even dealt with pain, suffering and heartbreak that are a natural consequence." The 37-year-old's eight water colour paintings don't follow a linear narrative but only deal with the emotional facets of

a hand-wound watch's mechanisms." On closer scrutiny of the acrylic on canvas, ancient symbols, personal and mechanical motifs come to the fore. I have also drawn a hybrid human form with branches sprouting from the person's head indolent of how a person's character is being transformed, says the 29-year-old Delhi-based artist. Every artist has exhibited their work along with a sketchbook, a diary and a pillow case on which they have worked on which is displayed alongside their work. "With its frank and unabashed disclosures, the show reverses notions of

privacy — it's a very candid discussion on art practice, gender issues and the feminine self," ends Anupa. *Intimate Lives* exhibition is on till July 27 at Tao Art Gallery (The View).

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**Anupa Mehta**  
Art consultant