



Shades of **Women**

A black silhouette of a woman's profile, facing right, positioned behind the word 'Women' in the main title.

an **AhmedabadMirror** initiative



Ahmedabad**Mirror**

PRESENTS

Shades of
Women



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Margaret Thatcher

If you want something said,
ask a man; if you want something
done, ask a woman.



FOREWORD



Anandiben Patel

Chief Minister, Gujarat

Art is born of the observation and investigation of the nature.”
It gives me immense pleasure to know that Ahmedabad Mirror has come up with a unique art show – ‘Shades of Women’ from March 3 to 8, 2015, at Amdavad ni Gufa, opposite Gujarat University, where 45 artists have collaborated with 45 children of various NGOs and schools to depict different hues of women.

The show is the first of its kind with a unique concept. Such activities can go a long way in achieving our dream of an egalitarian society and fostering equality.

I wish Ahmedabad Mirror, the artists and the young collaborators a very successful show.

With best compliments

Anandiben Patel

(Anandiben Patel)

Oprah Winfrey

Think like a queen. A queen is not afraid
to fail. Failure is another stepping
stone to greatness



CURATOR'S NOTE



Anil Relia

Director, Amdavad ni Gufa

I along with the visual art community of Ahmedabad, would like to heartily congratulate Ahmedabad Mirror for arranging this exhibition to commemorate Women's Day.

It has been a pleasure to work with my fellow artists to curate this wonderful exhibition. The artists also truly enjoyed their interaction with students, underprivileged as well as differently abled kids and illustrating their experience on canvas.

We appreciate the support, co-operation and inspiration we have received from Ahmedabad Mirror as well as from various non-profit organisations.

I hope all of you enjoy it as much as I have enjoyed being part of it.

Virginia Woolf

As a woman I have no country.
As a woman my country is the whole world



EDITOR'S NOTE



Deepal Trivedi

Editor, Ahmedabad Mirror

Ahmedabad Mirror reflects the ethos and aspirations of this wonderful city. Art O Nama is our tribute to the fascinating tradition and culture of Amdavad. This year's theme 'Shades of Women' explores the essence of womanhood through a unique collaboration.

Forty-five artists spent time with forty-five children understanding and exploring their idea of a woman. In the process, the bond between reality and art just got stronger. 'Shades of Women' is the result of this peerless consociation. From oppression to empowerment, the exhibition seamlessly takes us to various hues of womanhood – from woman as a commodity to a caregiver to an independent identity confident of expressing her sexuality the way she wants.

A big thank you to all the children for their honesty, collaboration and spontaneity and the artists for capturing their realistic vision with unmatched grace, elegance and patience. Special thanks to Anil Relia of Amdavad ni Gufa for his creative suggestions and Talha Sareshwala and BMW family for their magnanimity.

Ahmedabad Mirror hopes you will celebrate Art O Nama and appreciate our efforts.

Thank you

Coco Chanel

Women must tell men always that they are the strong ones.
They are the big, the strong, the wonderful.
In truth, women are the strong ones.
It is just my opinion, I am not a professor.



SPONSOR'S NOTE



Talha Sareshwala,
CEO and Managing Director,
BMW Parsoli Motors

BMW signifies luxury and style, while Ahmedabad Mirror reflects the ethos of the city. Both have character and have set standards for Amdavadis. We are glad to be associated with a paper that stands for values and has been relentlessly raising the common man's concerns and issues.

Through its various campaigns Ahmedabad Mirror has worked for the benefit of the citizens. For us, art is a way of life and we have always supported artistic endeavours.

It is a pleasure to join hands with Mirror for the art show, Art O Nama, a unique event which brings children and artists together on a platform to create artworks on the theme of 'Shades of Women'.

We wish Ahmedabad Mirror success in this one of its kind event that the city is looking forward to witness, for the first time.

Nilam Ajmeri

Student, Maktampura Primary School



The one incident that haunts me is the suffering of a pregnant woman, which I witnessed as a child. I believe, seeing her pain made me stronger as I grew up. That has inspired me to be a doctor one day, and work towards saving victims of violence.

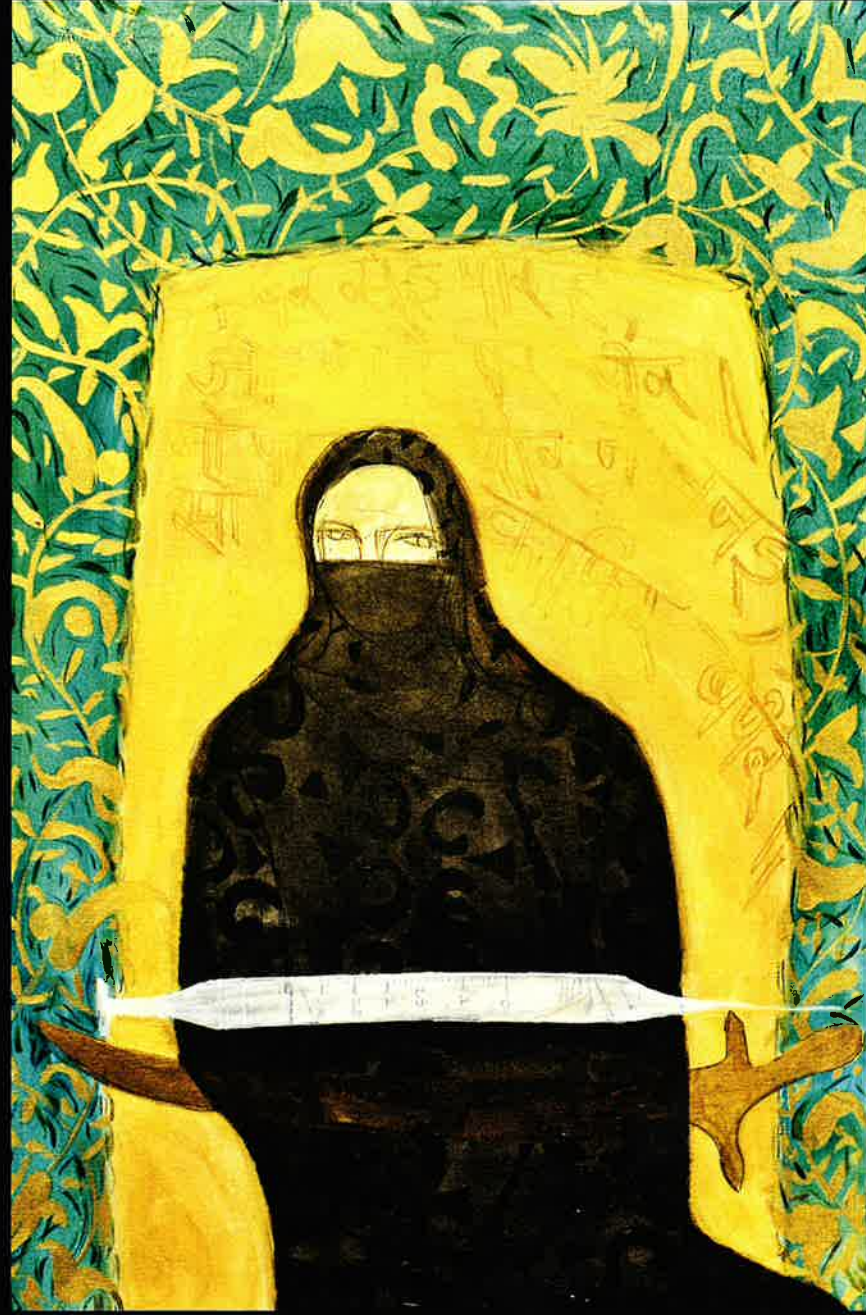
Aalap Shah

Artist



My painting portrays the painful memories of violence and sufferings of women as narrated by Nilam. The sword is a symbol of destruction and grief, while the (surgical) knife is a metaphor of constructive healing. The artwork conveys that witnessing a tragic incident, has inspired Nilam to learn to use the knife constructively to save lives.

Dard Se Dua



Deepak Makwana

Student, Pratham



*M*y mom (Manjulaben) is like a red rose. She always protects me from danger and encourages me to help the poor. I love the maggi she prepares for me. I help with household chores when she is unwell; I also look after the house when needed. My mother wants me to become an engineer, and I will be one!

Alka Shah

Artist



*M*other is the epitome of love and protecting her child is her duty. My painting shows that a mother, wherever she is, shields her baby from all evil and danger.

Shielding



ALKA SHAH

Niki Desai

Student, Sarkari Vasahat Prathmik Shala



I draw happiness and inspiration from stories that my mother narrates. My favourite tale is *Seven Brothers and One Sister*. The story revolves around a dead sister who resurrected from the ashes, thanks to the love of her seven brothers. I have learnt from this tale that one who reciprocates love and defeats death with love, is a woman.

Amit Ambalal

Artist



My painting tells the story of Sonuben – the protagonist of Niki's favourite story. It is about the love of brothers for their only sister. The story also features a buffalo and a dog as characters. The animals help the brothers re-unite with their lost sister. The artwork captures the process of story-telling that strengthens the bond between a mother and child.

Story of a Young Girl



AMIT AMBALAL

Akanksha Singh

Student, Anand Niketan, Satellite



JK Rowling has had a major influence in my life. There has never been a dull moment when reading *Harry Potter*. These books gave me the verve to pursue writing. For the first time, I cried after reading a book. The morbid pleasure, the fascination for the villainous character will remain etched in my mind. Rowling's unputdownable books taught me – 'Don't leave the ugly-looking guy for the good-looking guy'.

Anil Majmudar

Artist



Interacted with Akanksha who is heavily influenced by *Harry Potter* author, JK Rowling. She mentioned *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* in our interaction. She felt as if she is walking into that world as she read the description; she reads novels twice or thrice! So, I created an illusion of a bookshelf, and have shown how she is reading her favourite book and stepping into the magical world.

Untitled



Muhammad Sarfaraz

Student, Shree Natwarlal Shah Sarvjanik Vidyalay



I feel angry and upset when I witness cruelty inflicted on women. I believe, women – like my sister and mother – are sources of love and happiness. But when I see them suffer, it affects me a lot. Why can't they be treated equally and why should their freedom be curtailed?

Anushree Jajadia

Artist



My painting portrays the excruciating pain felt by women who are victims of domestic violence. I couldn't agree less with Sarfaraz when he questioned why women's priorities always take a back-seat. Why does she have to suffer? My painting is an appeal to society to alter their perception of women.

Unfortunate Shades



ANUSHREE JAJADIA

Babu

Inmate, Observation Home, Khanpur



I have vague memories of my mother. Now, I have no wish to meet my parents. After being at the Observation Home for eight years, my attachment to this place is complete. I like my teacher who has helped me whenever I have had difficulty in learning or understanding my subjects. I look forward to attending her class every day. There is something about her teaching that gives me the belief to dream big. I would like to become a police officer when I grow up. That would give me power.

Arvind Patel

Artist



I met Babu at the Observation Home, an 11th class student. I loved interacting with him. What I found interesting in the conversation is that he had no memories – clear ones – of his family. When I asked him if he ever wanted to meet his parents, he surprisingly refused. When I probed further, he let me into a few hazy memories of the past, which he spent as a young child with his mother. I have depicted these memories in the painting.

Untitled



Arvind
2015

ARVIND PATEL

Vishrut Shah

Student, The Riverside School



Woman for me is one who is multi-dimensional. When I hear the word 'woman', I visualise a girl in my class named Ravi who has a bat in one hand, a book in the other. She also has lots of shopping bags and is dressed up in school uniform and sports shoes.

Bansi Khatri

Artist



My painting portrays an image of a woman who excels in every field. She has multiple roles to play. I have symbolically shown a flag, a first-aid box, a lunch box, a school bag and a table tennis racquet in her hands.

Shakti



Shivani Parmar

Student, Pratham



My mother takes care of family and does all the household work. My father works as a compounder at Dr Prachi's clinic. My mother and Dr Prachi are my role models. I wish to become a doctor and serve others like my mom. I have learnt from my mother that love is sharing what you have.

Bhairavi Modi

Artist



My painting is an effort to capture what I saw when I visited Shivani's house. When I first met her, I learnt that her dream is to become a doctor. On a visit to her home, I was moved to see that even though they did not have enough food to eat, they definitely shared some of it with street dogs. I saw her mother tending to an ailing dog, who was treated as a member of their family.

Dr Shivani with her Mother



BHAIRAVI MODI

Bharat Panchal

Artist



The artist has created this work using his vivid imagination of a visually impaired girl. He has woven a story and showcased the relationship between Avni and her mother, who always takes care of her like a fairy.

My muse is a sightless girl Avni. She has never seen colours, but she can feel them. Her mother's love has filled her life with brightness. She learns to read and is happy in her imaginary world. Apprehension that the real world may be far-fetched from her dreamworld troubles her at times. Her mother's support encourages her to move forward in life.

Avni



BHARAT PANCHAL

Nazmin Pathan

Student, Municipal School, Maktampur



My mother is my role model. She singlehandedly raised me and my two sisters after my father died. She does odd household jobs and tailoring job-work. She also cooks and cleans. All of us teach 20 kids how to read and write in our neighbourhood.

Bharat Patani

Artist



The subject of my painting is the relationship between mother and daughter. Nazmin follows in the footsteps of her mother and aims to become as strong as her. Her mother works hard to raise three daughters. It is commendable that Nazmin and her sisters are pursuing studies and also helping spread literacy.

Mother and Child



Shrutilata Singh

Student, Blind People's Association



My most happy moments are when someone I interact with, understands what I mean. I love to read and write; I aim to become a motivational writer. I want to ask others that if I am able to work towards achieving my dreams, why can't you? We all have two options - 'Sit back and cry' or 'Come out and act'.

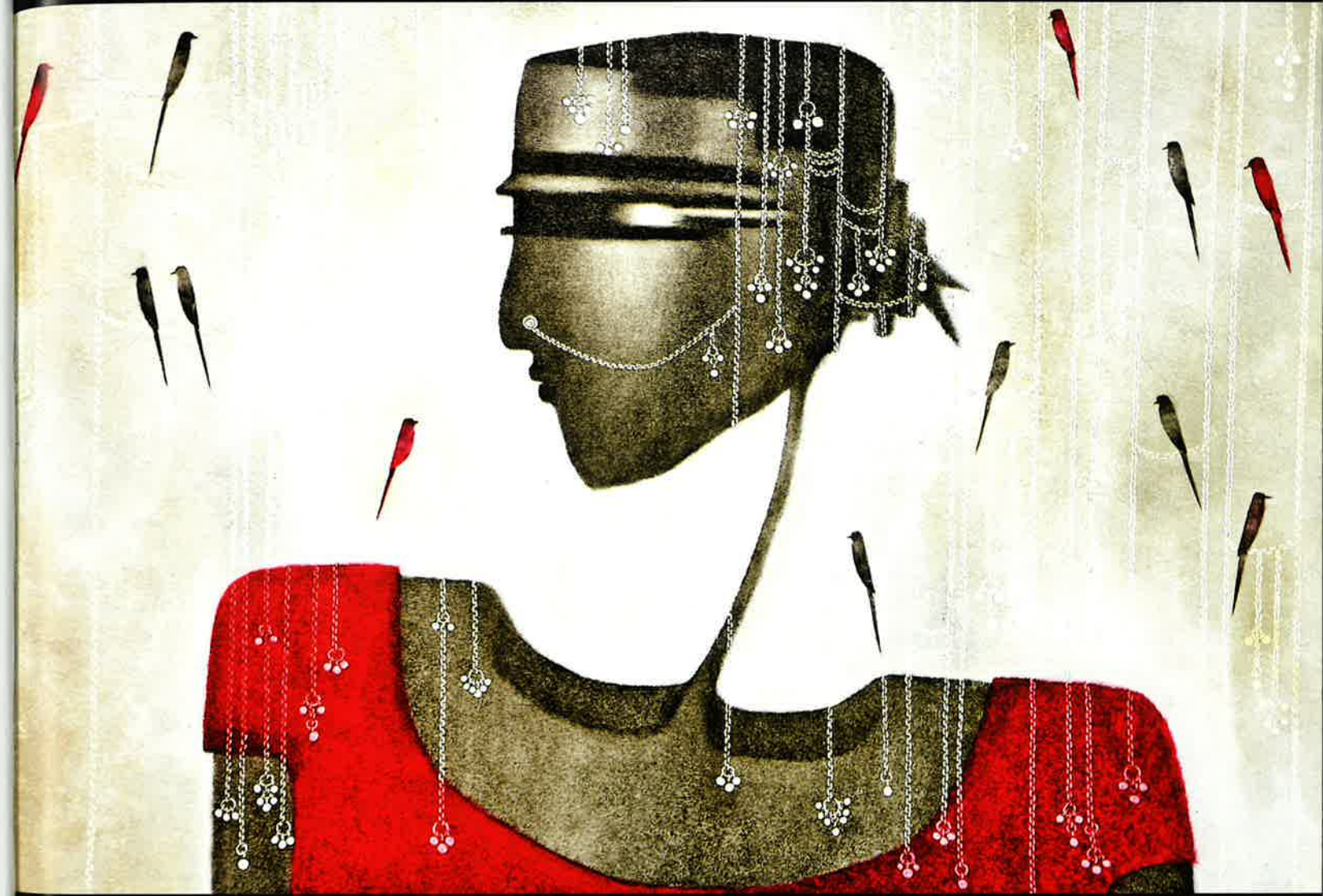
Bharti Prajapati

Artist



Her body may be in captivity, but Shrutilata is ready to fly. My painting shows that she is able to eliminate negativity and pessimism, despite being deaf and blind. The ornamental chains represent her bodily state; while the birds are a symbol of her powerful expression, concept of freedom, optimism and positivity.

Flight



BHARTI PRAJAPATI

Deepika Rathod

Student, Blind People's Association



Due to accidental retinal detachment, I lost my vision when I was 14 years old. Surgical intervention, too, failed. And I had lost faith in myself and life. Friends and teachers I met at BPA supported me to gain self-confidence. I wanted to become a doctor, but, now I handle the physiotherapy section here and treat incapacitated children.

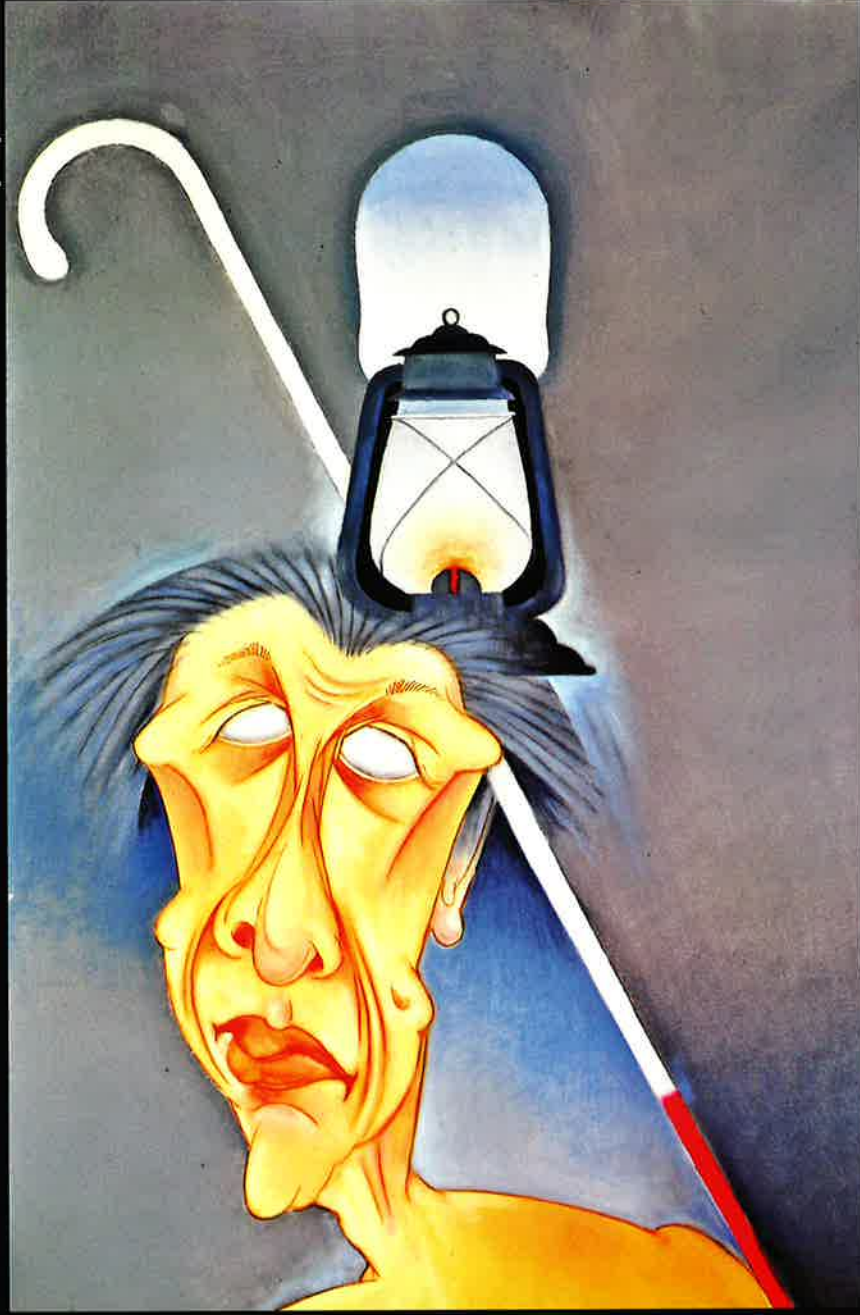
C D Mistry

Artist



My artwork captures the story of this self-reliant and dedicated girl, who has overcome her disability and devoted herself to supporting kids suffering from multiple disabilities. The white aid stick is a symbol of support.

Support



C. D. MISTRY

Falgun Parmar

Student, Manav Sadhna



T woman I love the most is my younger sister, Fanika. She aspires to become a computer engineer and I wish to see her flourish. When I see that society has laid down boundaries for women, I am pained. I want to see my sister free and independent.

Chaula Doshi

Artist



Subject of my painting is a brother's love for his sister. As he deeply loves his little sibling, he is also able to feel the strength of her aspirations. She wishes to become an engineer while he loves to dance. Conventionally, dance is linked with women and scholarly pursuits are believed to be men's forte. The boy wishes to break the mould of convention for his sister and set her free to choose her own path.

Why Boundaries for Girls?



Vani Agrawal

Student, The Riverside School



*M*y mother is my role model. She is love and care personified. I have learned two important phrases from her – ‘Never give up’ and ‘Yes, I can’. Given an opportunity, I want to help bring the potential of women to the forefront.

Dinesh Patani

Artist



*M*y painting demonstrates a woman with her daughter. I have portrayed emotions of pathos and stress on the woman's face, while the child, yet unaware of her mother's responsibilities, is enthusiastic, happy and chirpy.

Mother



DINESH PATANI

Kishan Purohit

Student, Blind People's Association



I draw inspiration from my elder sister, Gauri. She singlehandedly raised three children and did not give up on her alcoholic husband. Her struggle and dedication inspires me to work hard in life and deal with it, come what may.

Haku Shah

Artist



*M*y painting shows that women are sources of power and energy. Their existence is instrumental and ornamental. While interacting with Kishan, what appealed to me most was this statement – A father's demise or absence doesn't hamper the development of a child, but losing a mother can be devastating.

Women: Pillar of Strength



HAKU SHAH

Bhumika

Student, Delhi Public School



I wish women are exposed to the realities of the world. They attain the highest position of power. Each woman has unique abilities, talent, skills and potential. I wish they get enough space to flourish.

Harshil Patel

Artist



*M*y art installation is an interpretation of Bhumika's views and reflects my perception of the spirit of the young generation. The taste and outlook characteristic of the current phase is subject of my artwork. The work is a metaphor for new spirit, new cult of technological advancement, optimism and new urge of exposing one's self to novel experiences.

Shifting Zeitgeists



Payal Parmar

Student, Manav Sadhna



Woman is a synonym of power. She is gifted with a natural ability to deal with the worst catastrophes in life. I think, we should feel that being a woman itself is something 'Big' and never feel small or inferior to anyone.

Hasmukh Patel

Artist



My painting shows there is a common element that binds all women. Be it idols like warrior queen Laxmibai, former prime minister Indira Gandhi or commoners like a vegetable vendor or a domestic help, they all are equally dedicated to their work. The ability to live for others, to shower love, and having the strength to sustain societal pressures are virtues of women that are sometimes beyond the comprehension of men.

Stree



HASMUKH PATEL

Falguni Patel

Student, Blind People's Association



Though I'm sightless, my mother Manjula perceives what I want to convey by merely looking into my eyes. My elder sister, Bhavna, and my mother are to me what a shadow of a tree would be for a wanderer. I want to become like a tree and help others.

Jamil Ahmed Khan

Artist



My collage showcases the rapport of this young visually challenged therapist with her mother and sister. It is this relationship that gives her inner strength. I have selected a light pink background as it is the colour of her choice.

Collage of Life



JAMIL AHMED KHAN

Sakshi

Student, DPS Bopal



Although I don't believe in it, society has some set definitions of a woman. The conventional description talks of a perfect, beautiful woman, free of blemishes. But I think beauty is not just about appearance. One should peek into the inner self to see the real beauty.

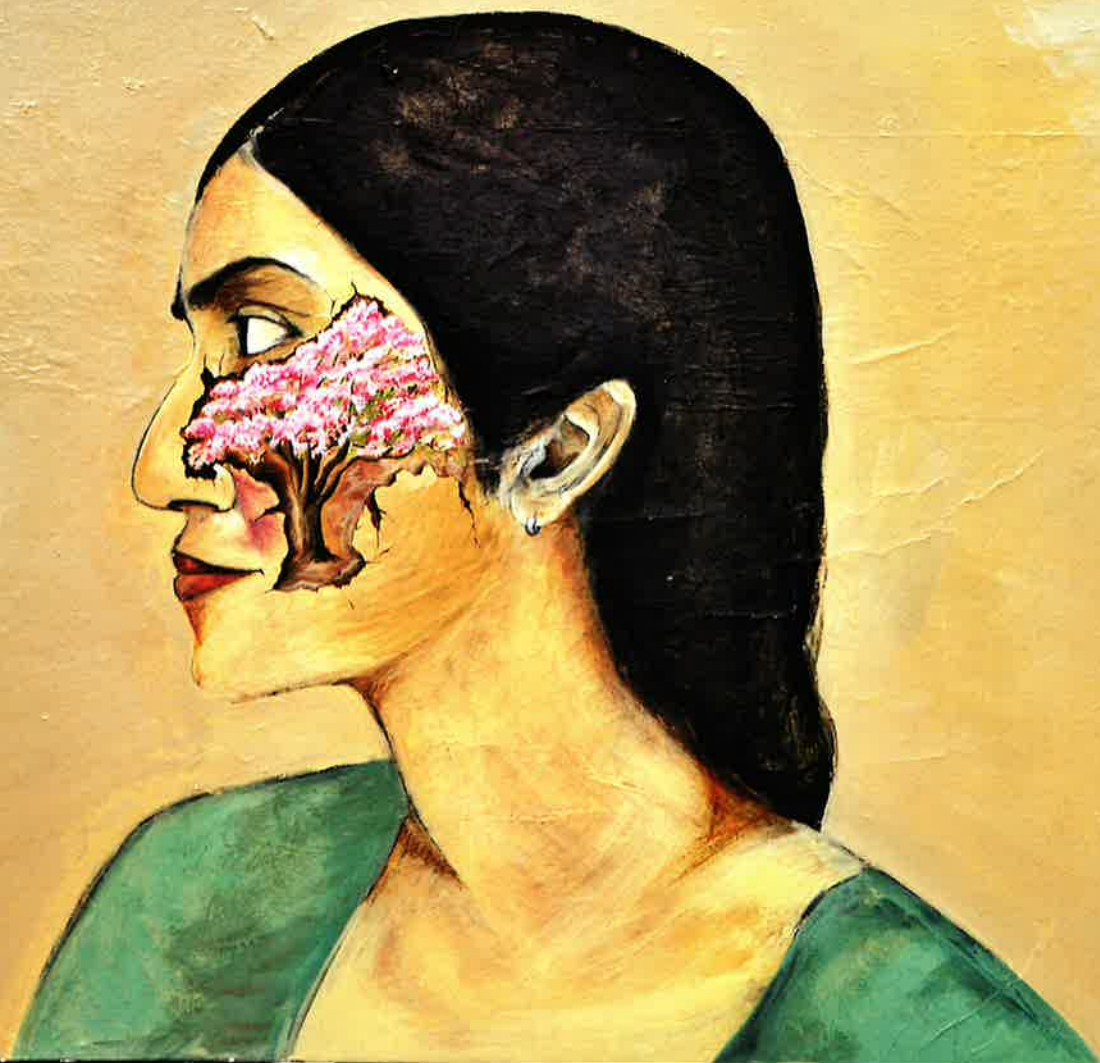
Jigna Gaudana

Artist



When I met Sakshi, I asked her: 'What is a woman?' She gave me the oft-repeated definition of a girl: she should fit the bill. However, she doesn't believe in it. That's what struck a chord with me. I, too, believe that beauty is skin-deep. Women should be free from traditional norms. So, I created a self-portrait where I've painted a beautiful, blooming tree beneath the scars.

Untitled



JIGNA GAUDANA

Rahul

Inmate, Observation Home, Khanpur



I like to paint and sketch. I have even won awards for my paintings. My teacher inspires me to paint and that is an outlet for me. I don't remember my mother, but have very fond memories of my sister which I always cherish. I want to continue painting and grow up to be an artist.

Jitu Oghani

Artist



I met Rahul at the Observation Home. He wasn't able to express himself properly. I realised it was his step-mother taking his mother's place that created a problem in his life. When asked about his sister, Rahul turned mild and talked of his fond memories of her. Also, there was a teacher who seemed to have a positive impact on him. Rahul paints and sketches well, too. He inspired me to work on 'woman' as a subject, something I have never done before. My painting shows a contemporary, modern woman – an art buyer – who plays multiple roles in society today.

Urban Woman (Art Buyer)



Jayesh Shah

Student, Prakash School for Mentally Retarded



Jayesh suffers from cerebral palsy, besides being mentally challenged. With a smile that constantly laces his face, Jayesh sang *mata ke bhajan* for us. For someone who has never seen his mother, and is taken care of by his elder sister, he only knows Goddess Amba as his mom. He sings beautifully in the praise of the goddess.

Karl Antao

Artist



Whenver he sings Her *aarti*, Jayesh is reborn! He is riding on Maa's luck and that is what I have translated into the painting. I've painted Jayesh's face with Goddess Amba in the backdrop as his limbs. And Her face is over his head, as if she is looking over him and taking care of him.

Maa is My Hands and Legs



Nonu Suvalka

Patient, Gujarat Cancer Research Institute



Little Nonu has a family of four. Her father is not supportive and left them when he came to know of Nonu's cancer. Her mom earns money by sewing frocks and all savings go towards her treatment at a private hospital. Nonu also expressed her fear of the needle.

Masoom Khambhayta

Artist



Masoom's mother does everything for her. And since her father doesn't live with them, her mother has to earn a living. She is a tailor and also stitches new frocks for Nonu, which she absolutely loves wearing. I was inspired by this. My painting shows her mom stitching and Nonu in the backdrop dancing in front of the mirror, wearing her new frock.

The New Frock



MASOOM KHAMBHAYTA

Kiran Gupta

Student, MPMH Arts and Commerce College



I keenly observe birds and mosques in my surroundings. When someone says the word 'woman', I think of *burkha*-clad women whom I witness in market places. Like birds, these women flock to mosques, but never enter it.

Mahendra Kadia

Artist



My painting captures the keen sense of curiosity in women to see the interiors of a mosque. It also depicts the questions that arise in Kiran's mind. Her expression was sharp and questioned the fundamentals of religions that banish entry or sight of women.

Unveil



Mahendra Kadia.

Vishal

Student, Manav Sadhna



My *dadi* is my world. She doesn't live with us, and I look forward to visit her whenever I am free.

Whenever she goes to the market, she always gets something for me. I love the *sukhadi* she prepares, it's my favourite. It is always a joy to be with her and there is never a dull moment whenever I am with her.

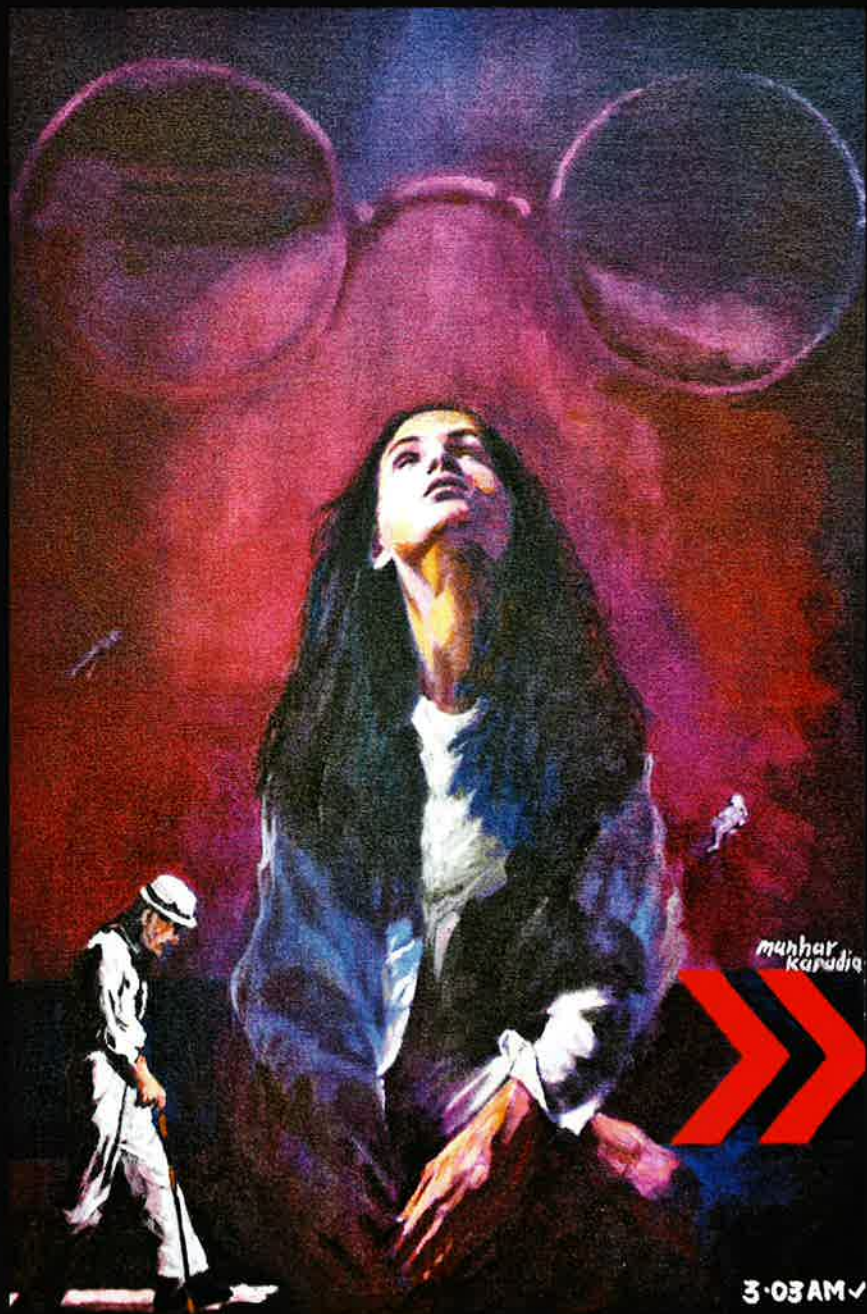
Manhar Kapadia

Artist



Vishal remembers her grandmother's young 'vision', and of her once beautiful, long hair. I have depicted a young woman (his *dadi*) in the painting, but with wrinkles on her hands. Also, I have shown an old man with a walking stick and Mahatma Gandhi's spectacles at the top, as if he is looking over us. I believe any human who chooses to tread the path shown by Gandhiji, will lead a beautiful life.

Mukti



manhar
kapadia



MANHAR KAPADIA

3:03AM ✓

Aboli Goghari

Student, Ahmedabad International School



Oh, I have multiple women in my life who have influenced me. First is my mom, of course, for her sheer willpower. Even if I make undue demands, she fulfils them. The second reason is for her strength to push through odds. I have two friends Sanaya and Suditi, whom I love for their maturity and level of understanding of the world. Then, there's my aunt – the way she plans, executes and implements is very inspiring. I also love Emma Watson, the way she carries herself and the fact that she is comfortable in her skin.

Megha Vyas

Artist



I have showcased western features since Aboli seems to be influenced by western culture. Also, I have used wild orchids because wild things do not need particular nurturing. These grow on their own. Aboli has the ideology of being raw, self-nurturing and being independent. The bird in the painting symbolises independence. I have mostly used earthy colours – green (eyes) suggests calmness. The mysterious little smile is a mark of confidence.

...And Wild is Self-Sufficient



MEGHA VYAS

Palak Patel

Student, Samvedna



My granny is my life. I love to run into her arms after school. Our day begins with a visit to the temple and ends with a visit to the temple. She feeds me with the choicest of delicacies and tells me beautiful bedtime stories. During vacations I visit my aunt's place with her. When I grow up, I want to open an institute for underprivileged kids.

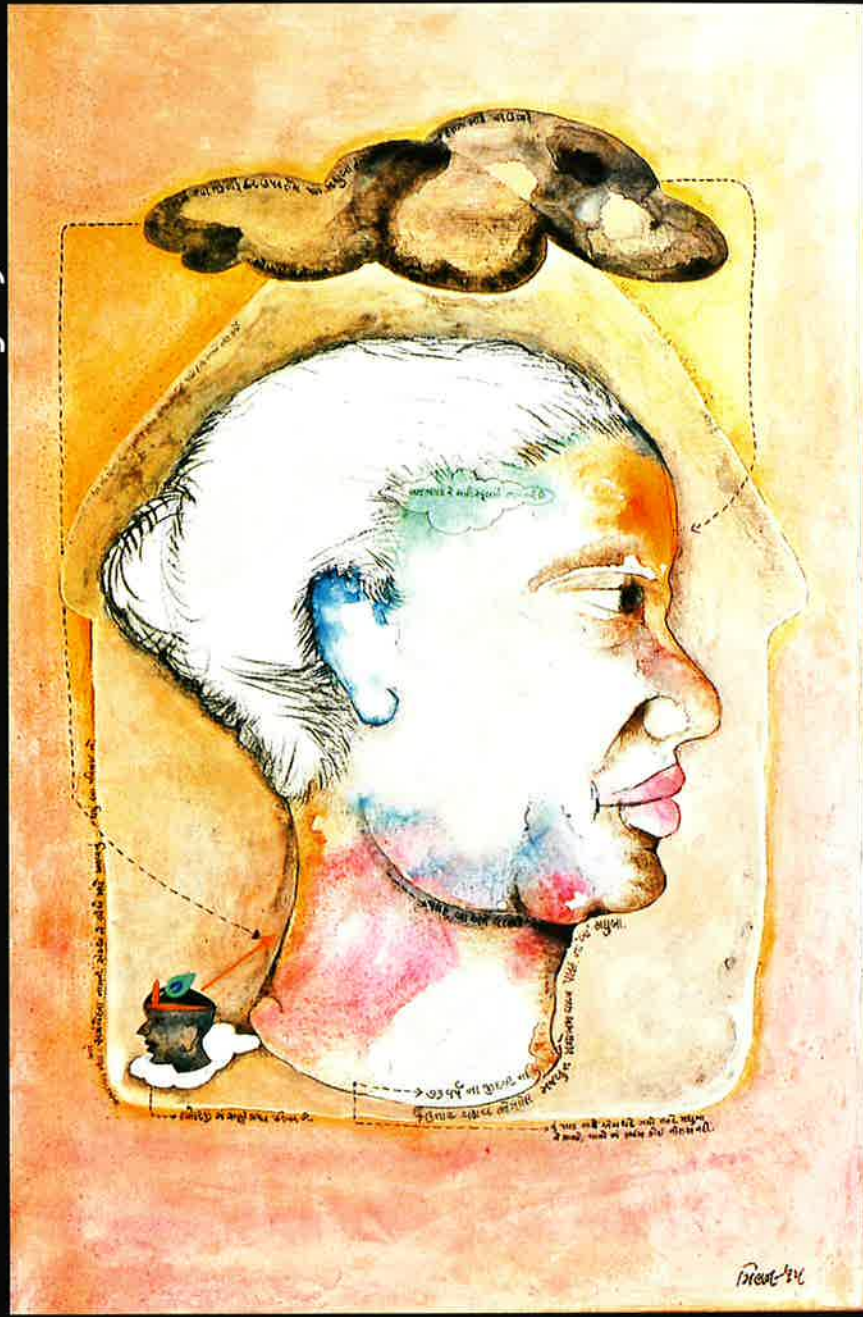
Milan Desai

Artist



I met Palak and her Madhuba who has influenced Palak the most. She is such a strong woman who has seen many struggles in life, and is still positive. She is not cynical about life and her only aim is to keep her kin safe. Madhuba is strong-willed and wants to keep her family secure. So, I've painted her face with her wishes written on the boundaries.

Ajay Shakti



Murada Sumra

Student, Blind People's Association



I see virtues of Sati, Ansuya, Sita and valour of warrior queen Laxmibai in my mother. She works as a farm labourer and raises five of us. We lost our father two years ago. My mom dressed up beautifully before she was a widow.

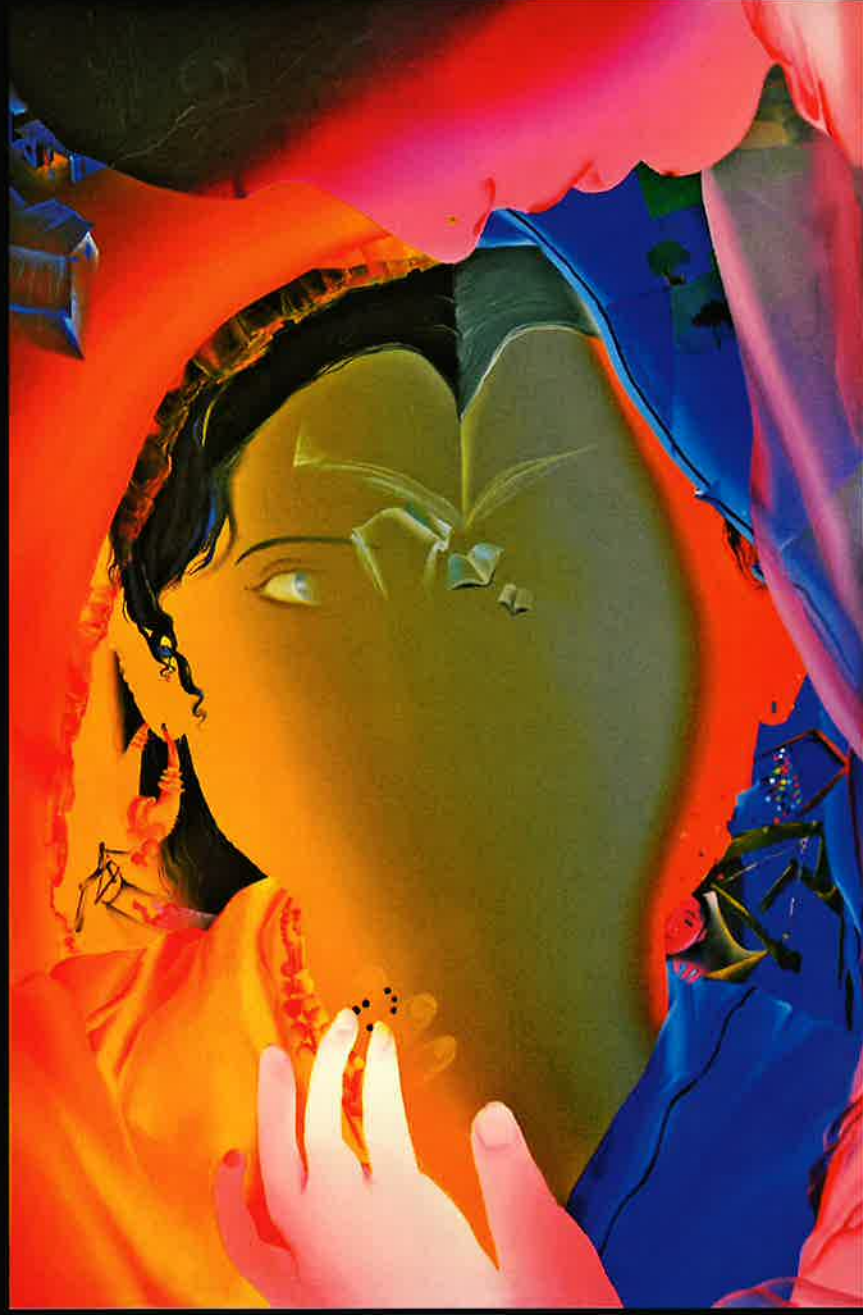
Nabibakhsh Mansoori

Artist



*M*y artwork depicts three phases of Murada's mother's life. First segment shows oranges and yellows which signify the happy phase of her married life. The second segment depicting present life is in grey, which is full of responsibility. And the last segment shows optimism in shades of pink and purple. She is hopeful for Murada's future and therefore works hard and makes her study.

Murada



NABIBAKHSH MANSOORI

Namira Khalifa

Student, Ankur School



My mother (Firdaus) and my sister are people I look up to and trust the most. Though I share most of my feelings and secrets with my sister and have lots of fun with her, I want to be like my mother when I grow up. She always tells me, '*Jitna bhi ho, us mein khush raho.*' Mom is usually seen in *salwar-kameez* in pastel shades. My *nani* is also one strong woman I appreciate and adore. They do everything for me.

Nagji Prajapati

Artist



I have talked of the freedom of a woman. She is bogged down by societal boundaries, but it is time she is set free. This is a portrait of a village woman and there are birds in the backdrop that depict freedom from pressure.

Freedom



NAGJI PRAJAPATI

自由是每個人都想要的，但並不是每個人都能擁有。自由是每個人都想要的，但並不是每個人都能擁有。

Anjali Gupta

Student, Pandit Nehru Vidyalay, Behrampur



My family's life depends on my mother. My father is an autorickshaw driver, but it is my mother who shoulders maximum responsibility. She cooks, cleans and sells vegetables. She is illiterate, but ensures I study well. She is the centre of my life.

Natu Mistry

Artist



My painting shows the life of Anjali's mother. Her mother represents a woman living in a slum area. These women sustain the cycle of life. They co-shoulder economic responsibilities and also take care of daily chores. Families depend on them.

Cycle of Life



NATU
MISTRY '15

Mansi Desai

Student, Sarkari Vasahat Prathamik Shala



One who dances, wears a beautiful *sari* and brings cheer to a festival is a woman. One who shops, wears jeans and is curious about going around is a girl. My dream is to become a nurse and be self-reliant. I do not want to be a caricature of the societal definition of a woman.

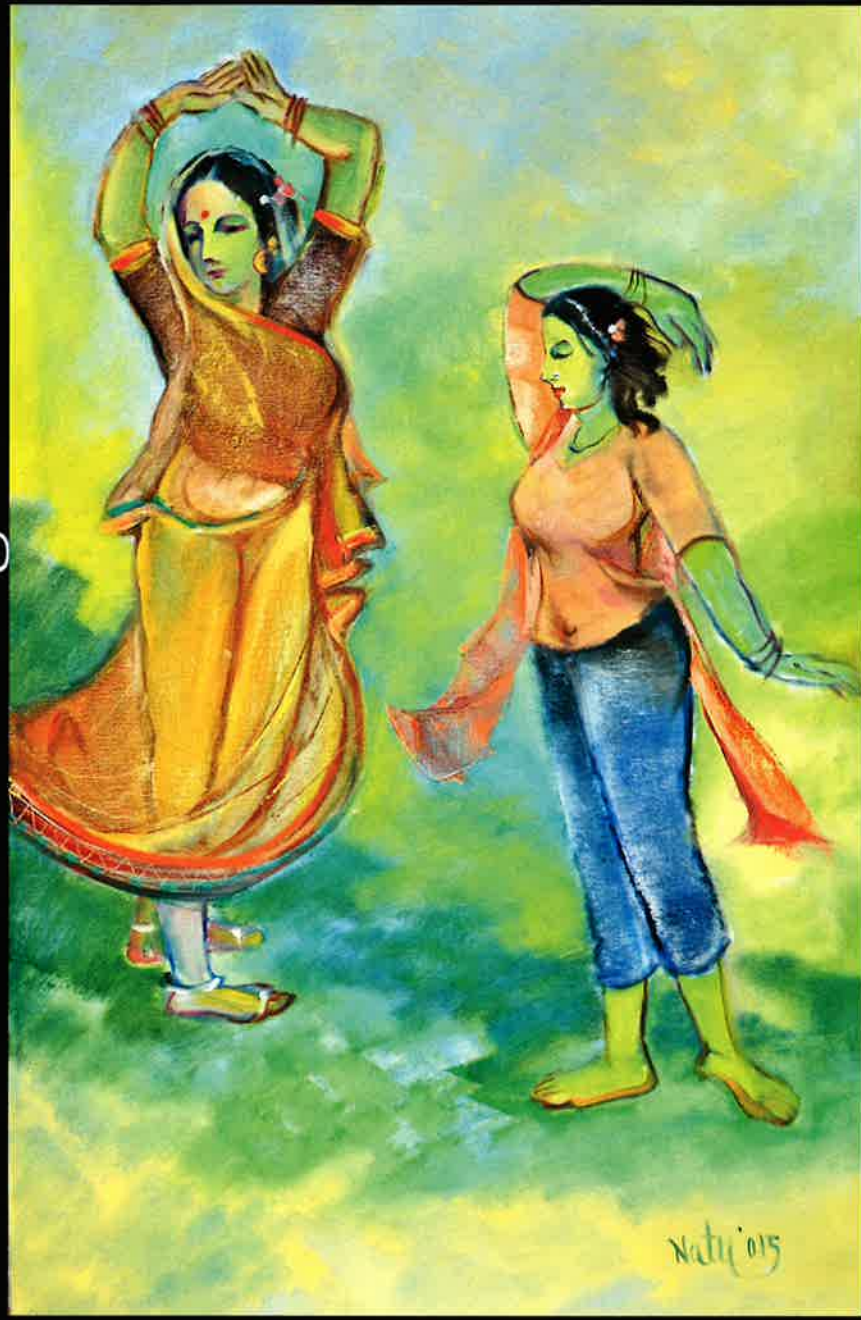
Natu Parikh

Artist



My painting elaborates Mansi's definition of a traditional and progressive woman. She loves to dance, but prefers to wear modern outfits. She doesn't want to be restricted to daily chores of cooking and cleaning. She strives to come out of the four walls.

Progressive Women



Rajat Patel

Student, Blind People's Association



*M*y mother Nita is my source of strength. She always comforted me when other children made fun of me for being sightless; she believed in me when my father doubted my abilities to be self-reliant.

Navin Dhagat

Artist



*M*y painting portrays how young Rajat has been able to overcome his disability with his mother's warmth and support. I was moved when I learnt that Rajat was among the top five in class 10 board exams in 2010. His mother bought him a laptop and asked him to study harder. She sent him to roam freely in farms, while she laboured. It is the mother's confidence in the child that helped him to grow.

Hoonf (Warmth)



N.A. Dhagat
2015

NAVIN DHAGAT

Gaurvi Narang

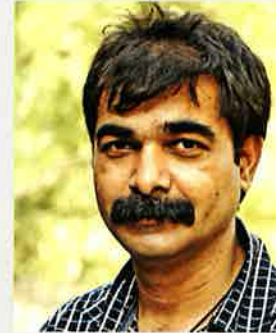
Student, Anand Niketan, Satellite



In my weak moments, I have always turned to my maternal grandmother for advice. What I liked about her was her devotion to family. Despite having a degree in law, she never chose to work. Hindi was a tough subject for me when I was young. It was my granny who helped me overcome my fear of the language. Today, Hindi is one of my favourite subjects. The taste of her delicious donuts is something that is etched in my mind.

Nilesh Suthar

Artist



I have depicted the girl's dream in the painting. The most influential woman in her life is her grandmother, who teaches her and increases her knowledge. She remembers the days spent at her granny's house, especially the sight of her in yellow *sari*. Gaurvi is extremely attached to her grandmother.

Untitled



NILESH SUTHAR

Dhruvi Shah

Student, St Kabir, Drive-In



My mother is my inspiration. She serves my family, takes out time for me to understand my problems and helps me deal with difficulties. My mother is to me, what Mother Teresa is to the world.

Pulkit Prajapati

Artist



My painting demonstrates her emotions for her mother. The memory of her mom is the subject of poetic expression on the canvas. Dry flowers are used metaphorically to convey her tender emotions.

Nostalgia

Dear Mom

This letter I am writing from my heart. You are spontaneous song of my heart of happiness, comfort and being. I may sometime forget the words but always remember the tune. No other gift in the world will be more special than the gift of mother. I am really too glad to have you mom, you are the best friend and best mother ever. You are my friend, my spirit, my influence to words success. There is no replacement of you. Thanks for being there for me, for loving me, for taking care of me. We may argue a lot, I may things when we do but always remember that I love you. I will always do. I might have

Lakshmi Vankhede

Patient, Gujarat Cancer Research Institute



Lakshmi talked of her siblings and her family in general. From her talks, we could understand that she misses her childhood days. She is a Surat-based girl and is here for treatment. She mentioned that she likes to create henna designs (*mehndi*) on her sister's palms. Lakshmi comes across as a funny and mischievous kid.

Purvi Parmar

Artist



On meeting Lakshmi, I understood how much she misses her 'normal' life. Of her four siblings, she is extremely close to one of her sisters. *Uske saath woh sabse zyada masti karti hai.*

Veeti Gayela Divaso



PURVI PARMAR

Sahdev Desai

Patient, Polio Foundation



Sahdev Desai is a 14-year-old boy with cerebral palsy. He walks with the help of a stick holding on to it with both hands. Like all boys of his age, Sahdev is fond of cricket and other such games.

Rajesh Sagara

Artist



I met Sahdev who suffers from a mental disorder. On meeting him, I realised that such patients are happy with their lives, unlike us. The human body feels happiness and pain, and all of it is connected to the brain. Hence, the brain becomes the prime focus in the painting.

Act of Being Allied



RAJESH SAGARA

Arbaaz

Student, BM Institute of Mental Health



My mother does a lot of work. She takes care of the family, cooks, goes out to buy vegetables, ration, clothes and other household articles. I help her whenever I can, in the kitchen and outside. I run out to buy something that she has forgotten or we run short of. She is my hero.

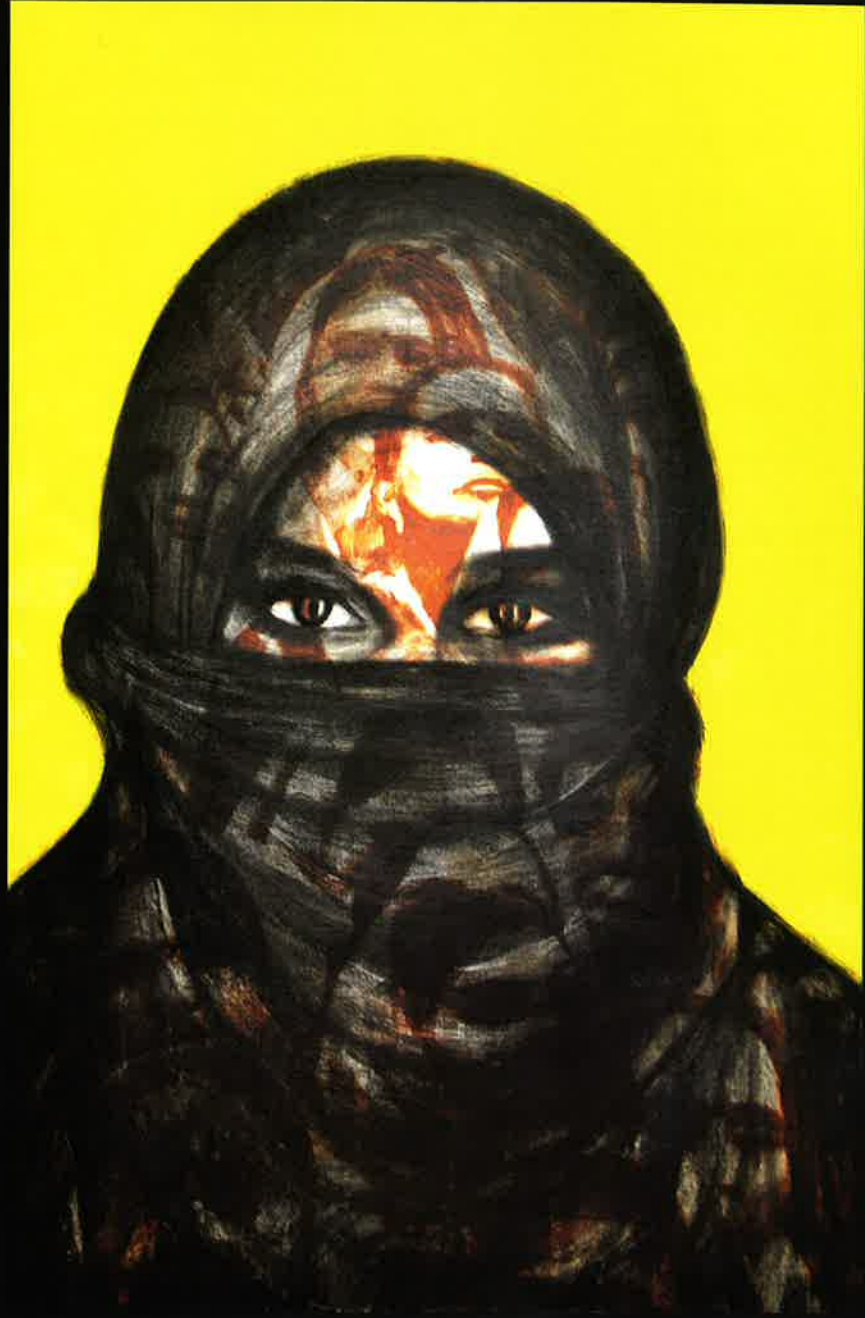
Rakesh Patel

Artist



My work is an interpretation of a Muslim boy who holds utmost respect for every woman. He has experienced the unconditional love from the sole woman in his life – his mother. Arbaaz reaches out to his mother to help her in every little way he can. This inspired me to paint a woman wearing a *burkha*, where only her eyes speak. Arbaaz is an inspiration in a world where there seems to be hardly any respect for women. To him his mother is a hero: she multi-tasks and is full of energy even when overworked.

Unconditional Love



RAKESH PATEL

Shifa Vora

Student, BM Institute of Mental Health



*M*y favourite person is my teacher. She not only teaches me all the good things in life, but also listens to me patiently, lends me an ear. I share all my feelings with her.

Roma Patel

Artist



I wanted to reflect Shifa's feelings for her favourite teacher. She is inspired by her and truly idolises her in every aspect. I could see the love in her eyes, and that's why focused more on showcasing it. Her teacher is not just her teacher, but also a friend with whom she shares everything about life.

My Teacher



ROMA PATEL

Nilesh Rathod

Student, Samvedna



The most influential woman in my life is my friend, Fatima. She is free-minded, tomboyish, a *bindaas* character; and that is what I love about her the most. Her never-say-die attitude is the most amazing thing about her. Also, if she makes a mistake, she promises not to repeat it. I always liked when she wore red and have gifted her a red t-shirt and a pair of black jeans on her birthday. For me, she is like a red rose.

Ronak Sopariwala

Artist



I love using symbols in my paintings. And I had an interesting interaction with 17-year-old Nilesh Rathod, who described his friend Fatima, a funny, playful girl who will soon be married off to someone else. A fish is playful and vivacious like a girl and hence, I have used it as a symbol. It can only survive in water – that is its boundary in life. Similarly, a woman has many a boundary drawn by society. My fish can be seen out of water, in the clear blue sky, with a red rose in its mouth (since Nilesh loves the colour), showing that a woman wants to break free of all the shackles in life.

Red Means Freedom, Woman Needs Red



RONAK SOPARIWALA

Asha

Student, Manav Sadhna



*M*y *mami* (aunty) has always left a lasting impression on me. She always likes to dress up which inspires me to turn out beautifully on occasions. Her dishes are always a treat. What I love about her is her liveliness. She never ceases to motivate me. Every birthday she sends across a beautiful gift for me.

Ruby Jagrut

Artist



I met this energetic and bright girl, Asha, who talked about her *mami*, Varsha, who according to her is the most well-dressed member in the family. Hence, the title 'Asha ni Varsha', which also translates as 'rain of hope'. Asha also expressed her desire to be a fashion designer (depicted by the hangers in the painting). As I was walking towards this Manav Sadhna centre, there was mud all around, and then I saw this beautiful girl. It reminded me of how a lotus blooms in the muck.

Asha ni Varsha



RUBY JAGRUT

Dishali Shah

Patient, Polio Foundation



Dishali Shah is an 11-year-old suffering from cerebral palsy. She is very expressive, although her speech is unclear and people may not understand what she is trying to say. Like young kids of her age, Dishali is fond of playing, music and dancing.

Sharmila Sagara

Artist



I have talked of harmony and disharmony through my painting. After meeting Dishali, I came to the conclusion that even if our human body is in sync, disharmony can destroy everything. The body is connected – depicted by the shiny elements – but it is still dismantled. Dishali, however, is bright and cheerful. Her condition doesn't seem to bother her, even though her life is in jeopardy.

Harmony in Dissosance



SHARMILA SAGARA

Suraj Patnayak

Student, Blind People's Association



Suraj had eyesight till he was 21. An operation cost him his eyes. My mother and sister, *emni chhabi maari najare ankaayali chhe*. It was, of course, disappointing for all of us when I lost sight. They both encourage and support me. Whenever I feel bogged down, I call up mom and feel much better. My sister, Shashmita, is 23 years old and married. She took a lot of care and made lovely food, too. Whenever I used to see a starry night, I felt I was with my sister.

Shweta Parikh

Artist



Taking a cue from his relationship with his sister, I have shown how she leads him from darkness to light. The lower half of the painting depicts the travails faced by a human being in his life. I believe, a helping hand is all a person needs to lift himself. That's what the work shows.

Upliftment



SHWETA PARIKH

Jagrut Bhatt

Student, Prakash School for Mentally Retarded



Twenty-year-old Jagrut Bhatt is a huge Shah Rukh Khan fan. He sang 'Suraj hua madham' for us and *Kabhie Khushi Kabhie Gham* is his favourite film. He has a behavioural problem with his mother, who looks after him the most. However, on asking who is Maa for him, he said '*Maa toh bhagwan chhe*'.

Sonia Shukla

Artist



Orange, red and yellow are the colours the mentally challenged child mentioned during my interaction with him and his fellow inmates. And I chose to use these colours in the painting. When you hear the word 'Maa', you think of Goddess Ambe. It shows the spiritual connection these children have with the goddess. That is what I've translated onto the canvas.

Anand Tandav



SONIA SHUKLA

Neha Patel

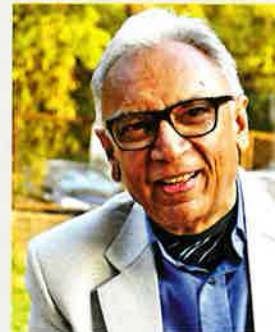
Student, Navrang School



My mother (Veenaben) is my ideal woman, who always motivates me. Both my parents ensure that I am independent and takes control of any situation all by myself. Mom is into *puja-paath*, and I have never seen her angry. The most encouraging line she tells me: '*Hamesha 100 per cent try karvaano, baaki bhagwan upar chhodi devaanu.*' I always keep that in mind. The other inspirational women in my life would be my *dadi* because of the way she raised her children after my grandfather passed away. I'm also deeply inspired by Pakistani activist Malala Yousafzai.

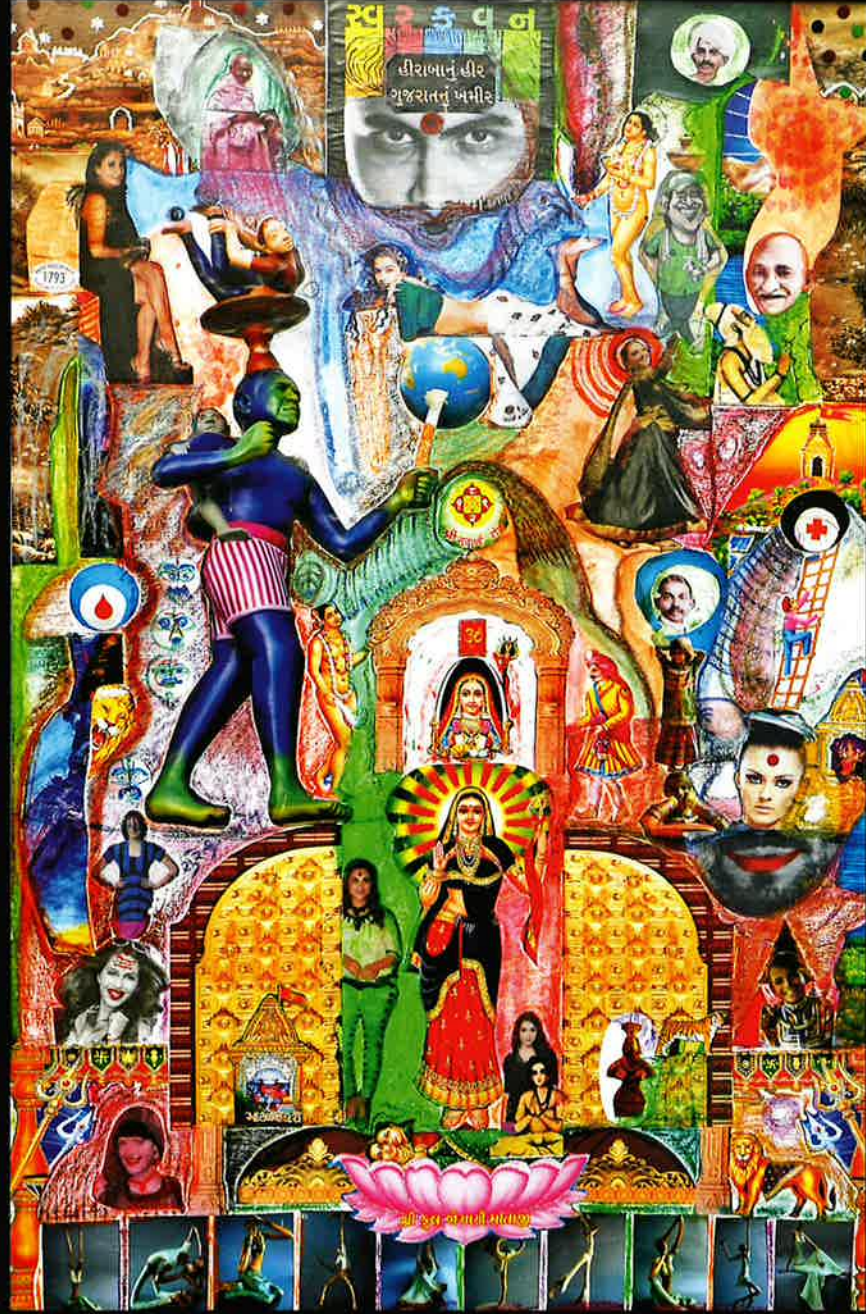
Surendra Patel

Artist



This collage depicts women power. It shows women and the varied roles they display in a lifetime. I've titled my work 'Unanswered' because *inka koi jawab nahi hota* (women are unique, incomparable, matchless!). I have used Mataji (Ambe Maa) as reference. The difference between women of earlier times and those of today is that now they can easily multi-task.

Unanswered



SURENDRA PATEL

Janushree Modi

Student, St Kabir, Drive-In



My role models are three warriors – gang-rape victim Kainat Soomro of Pakistan, refugee Mezon Malala of Syria and rebel Amina Lawal of Nigeria. These women fought for what they believed in, they did not succumb to societal pressures. I want to become like them.

Vipul Prajapati

Artist



My painting captures Janushree's views and vision of a woman. She appreciates the free spirit of women who fought their personal wars against domineering social forces. For her those who struggle for what they stand for, are real women.

Her Vision is her Hope



VIPUL PRAJAPATI

Asha Rathod

Student, Blind People's Association



My heart is filled with enthusiasm and positivity when my eldest sister Nita hugs me tightly. She earns, takes care of household work and helps my other three younger sisters, too. She is pillar of strength for me and my family.

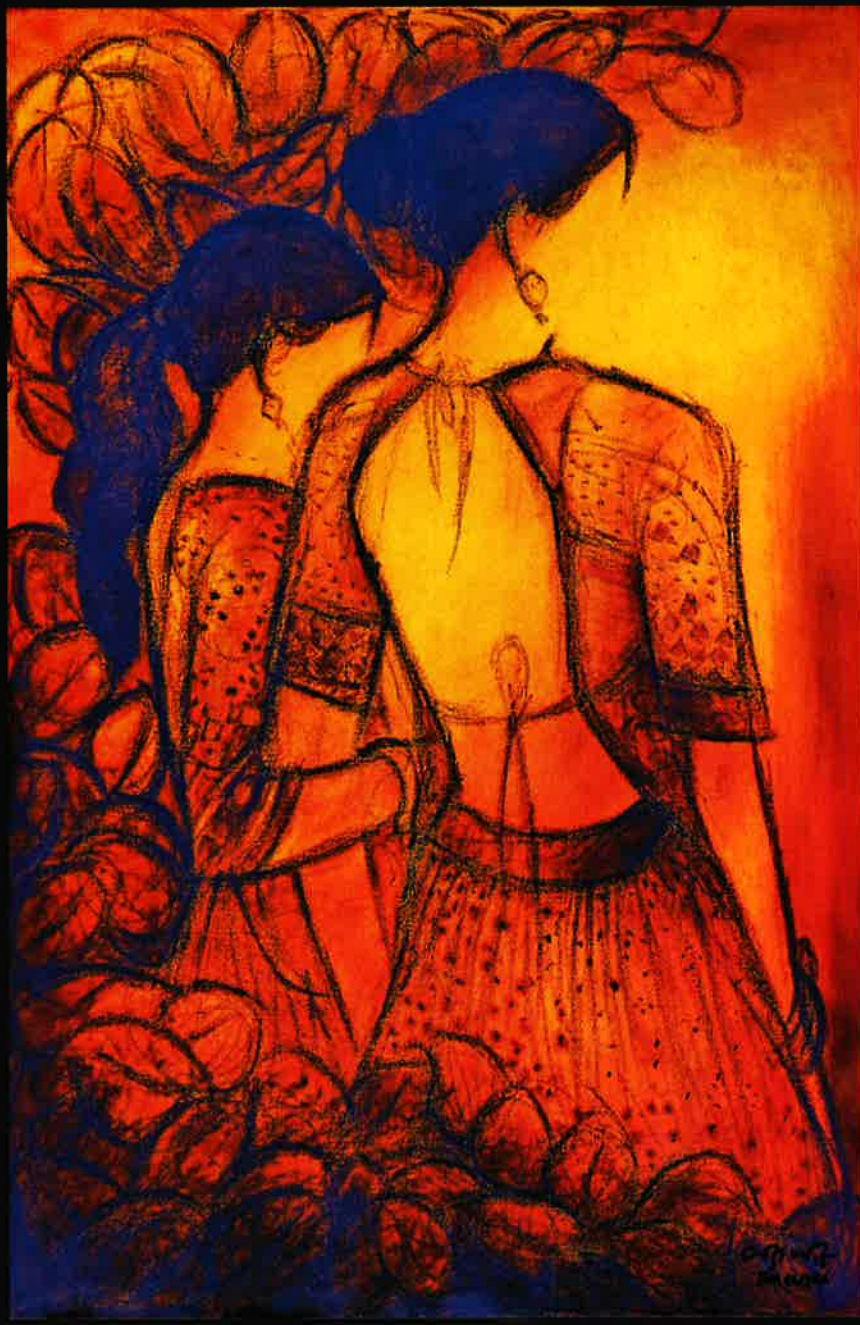
Vrindavan Solanki

Artist



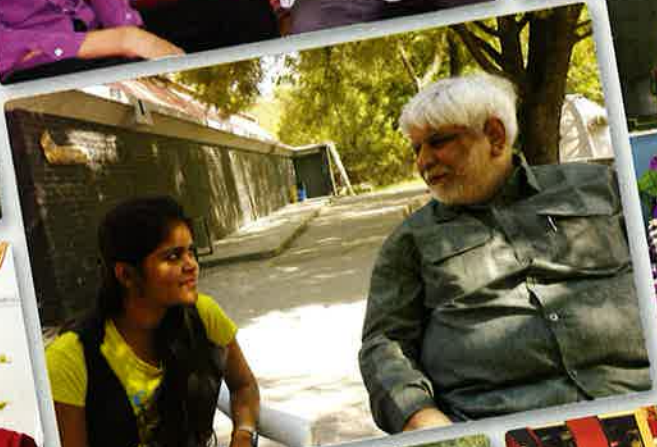
The subject of my artwork is 'Bond of sisters'. Remembering her elder sister brought rare expressions of pleasure and pathos on Asha's face. I dedicate my artwork to her memory of a tight hug that her sister gave her whenever she dropped Asha off at the institution after Diwali holidays.

Mari Moti Bahen




VRINDAVAN SOLANKI

Behind-the-Scenes



None makes it alone to the top... Thank You, Team Art O Nama!



What does it take to put together such a great show? A great idea, a great theme and most importantly – a great team. Conceptualised in December, **Ahmedabad Mirror's Art Show**, titled **Art O Nama**, decided to go beyond the artworks, by making an emotional connect with Amdavadis. And what better way than involving children! After brainstorming with the Team and Anil Relia, Director, Amdavad ni Gufa, we created a concept where each artist interacted with differently abled and normal kids from different NGOs, and asked them to describe the woman/women who made a lasting impression in their life.

TALES TO REMEMBER

We were shaken and stirred, moved to tears at times during the interactions with the children, and so were the artists. There was a glint in their eyes as they talked of the woman who has made a last impression in their lives. For some, it is their mother, while for others it is their sister, aunt, teacher, even their female friend. We moved across the city to different NGOs with the artists and sat through for hours, listening to children's stories. Inspired by these tales, the artists went to their studios to create their vision of The Woman.

And the result is for all of you to see. It has been a roller-coaster ride – one that we have absolutely loved, and despite having so many hurdles on the way, we have this show and this amazing catalogue, which shows the journey of each artist and child together.

As for us, this is an experience we won't forget in a long time. With a show to remember, we want to thank Ahmedabad.

The parting shot: Well, we are lost in artistic trance!

INDEX

A

Aalap Shah	1
Alka Shah.....	2
Amit Ambalal	3
Anil Majmudar	4
Anushree Jajadia	5
Arvind Patel	6

B

Bansi Khatri	7
Bhairavi Modi	8
Bharat Panchal	9
Bharat Patani	10
Bharti Prajapati	11

C

CD Mistry	12
Chaula Doshi	13

D

Dinesh Patani	14
---------------------	----

H

Haku Shah	15
Harshil Patel	16
Hasmukh Patel	17

J

Jamil Ahmed Khan	18
Jigna Gaudana	19
Jitu Oghani	20

K

Karl Antao	21
------------------	----

M

Masoom Khambhayta	22
Mahendra Kadia	23
Manhar Kapadia	24
Megha Vyas	25
Milan Desai	26

N

Nabibakhsh Mansoori	27
Nagji Prajapati	28
Natu Mistry	29
Natu Parikh	30
Navin Dhagat	31
Nilesh Suthar	32

P

Pulkit Prajapati	33
Purvi Parmar	34

R

Rajesh Sagara	35
Rakesh Patel	36
Roma Patel	37
Ronak Sopariwala	38
Ruby Jagrut	39

S

Sharmila Sagara	40
Shweta Parikh	41
Sonia Shukla	42
Surendra Patel	43

V

Vipul Prajapati	44
Vrindavan Solanki	45



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