

## Sangeeta Gupta



*"To me abstract art is a means to reach the non-objective experiences that help shape the inner life. It is a witness to the fact that mans spiritual needs do not disappear even in times engulfed by gross materialism. I strive to express the poetic vision in my works."*

When Sangeeta Gupta is not painting, she stays actively involved in activities related to the emancipation of Indian women and has been working tirelessly with organizations like 'Women's Sahyog' and the 'All India Women's Education Fund Association'. She graduated with a Master's degree in Political Science, and has not had any formal training in the field of fine arts, but can still boast of more artistic achievements than most of her generation of professional painters. Apart from winning all India awards for drawing, her works occupy space on the walls of the country's most prestigious residences and offices, including those of the President and Prime Minister as well as the Governor of Karnataka.

In 1998, acclaimed art critic and painter, Santo Datta, wrote in a national daily about her work. He said, "Her pen-and-ink drawings of trees and fragments of landscapes have a miniaturist's devotion to live forms, in which she meticulously uses hatchets in very close sequence to bring out the volumes and forms and show deeper space on the flat surface. Sangeeta's mixed media works in pastel and watercolour-again fragments of landscapes or cityscapes-show a maturing eye for the total design and a youthful sensitivity to harmony of colors."

Sangeeta held her first solo show in 1995 in Kolkatta, which was inaugurated by none other than Mother Teresa, and has since then exhibited her work in group and one person shows almost every year. This artist has also shown her work abroad, in countries like Austria, Germany and the United Kingdom. This multifaceted lady also dabbles in several other fields like photography, and she has taken part in national exhibitions of photography in 1999 and 2001, New Delhi. She has also published four volumes of poems and one collection of short stories that she authored and has been the editor of the Women's Sahyog annual for two of its issues.

The artist says about her work, *"For about three decades notions of Time, Space and Light have preoccupied me. My paintings and drawings proceed from my inner world of memories and dreams. I am not sure if I can express through words the modes of my journey. The connections of my inner world with all mundane experiences is not easy to explain."* *"However, on many occasions, I realize there is no compartment between the two and that perhaps brings into being incoherent visions in the idiom of colors and shapes."*

*"My recent paintings make me observe a number of shades and a series of conclusion converging at different points of the space. Critics have been discovering conflicts and rhythm of nature in my expression of infinity of life in even the most contingent situations of the earth I have nothing to offer as a judgment, I take it as a temporal perception of my Time Zone, which has been continuously changing ever since I was born."*

*"Some of my works have limited strokes of colours and a limited range too, but they have possibly added wider dimensions to my themes. I was inspired by the untrained tribal painters to whom painting has never been an organized and regular act of life. Besides, children at games in remote villages have been the source of ideas for my canvas. I find myself inclined to paint mostly without a preparedness. To my inner self and elsewhere, nature is a phenomenon that creates and destroys time and space without a halt."*