

Tracing a line

ART Two artists discover the essence of ethereality

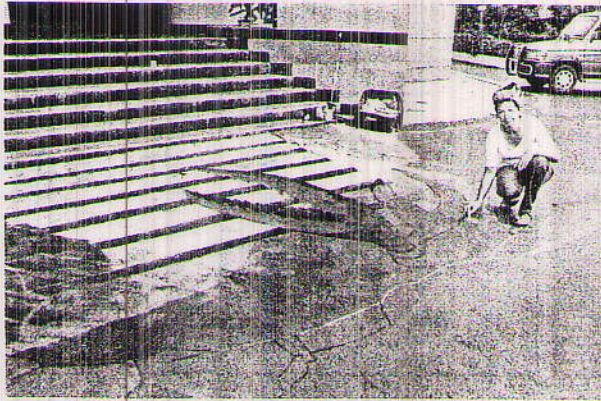
Art is a line in sand. Art is eternal. Both these adages were proved on Tuesday as two artists in two different venues in two unrelated events discovered.

On the steps of the DST Auditorium forecourt sat Tracy Lee Stum of Philadelphia philosophically watching the pattering rain erase her three dimensional street painting drop by drop till the rising water lifted the layer of chalk pastel colours and swept it away. Only a deep trace remained. Swept away was a day's work where Tracy used the steps of the Auditorium to create perspective art where two sets of monster orange crab claws appear to rise out of the ground and are waiting to clasp at anyone unsuspectingly stepping down the stairs.

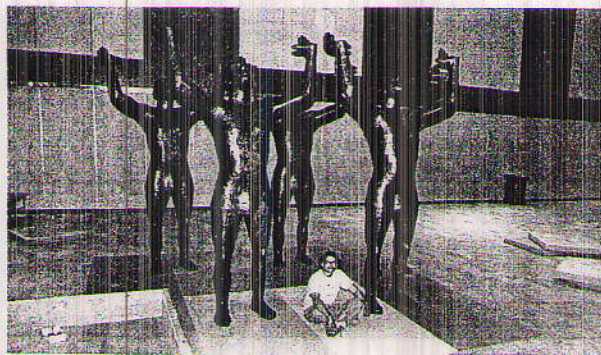
On the flat unsmooth surface of the asphalt, where the steps ended, Tracy managed to create virtual steps. Lower down, were the huge claws. A play of light and colour that tease the eye of the viewer to evoke the spatial existence of the claws and steps. Earlier, over the past two days, using boxes of pastel crayons, Tracy managed to teach the rudimentary skills of her art to two batches of 40 students.

What in the name of almighty god is this? Art? Sculpture?

As you enter the hall no 4 of HICC, on a canvas stretching for about 50 feet and rising to a height of 12 feet, is a painting which sprouts dry branches with blue ticker. From a distance you can read some alphabet: Green give a chance. Elsewhere inside the



BEFORE RAIN Tracy Lee Stum gives the finishing touches to her 3-D pavement sketch



SIZE DOES MATTER C. Manohar gives an element of scale to his installation art **PHOTOS: SERISH NANISETTI**

huge hall, an army of workers doesn't seem to weigh a ton and set it down on a pink box. "No, no. Remove the boxes. There are three more statues and set them up in a circle. No asymmetrically," says Manohar Chiluveru, the artist/sculptor who has created the figurines. On the right hand side are small carrybags filled with polystyrene and pieces of paper that will be winched

up to create a blob and from a distance the figurines will appear to be holding up the globe.

It is obvious Manohar's creation exists not by itself. They are defined by their surrounding and space.

There are other statues that are yet to occupy their space. Art is a line in sand? Well the exhibition was for one day only.

SERISH NANISETTI

The Hindu / 19-11-2009

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TRANCE EXISTENCE!



THREE hollowed-out head sit on pedestals with statues of animals placed inside them. Five giant black male statues stand surrounding a suspended bag of trash, their arms raised to the heavens in a clear sign of worship. A wall, splattered with graffiti reading "Give Green A Chance", stands strewn with tree branches. In the place of leaves, the branches hold innumerable plastic bags.

These and other images stood out from artist Manohar Chiluveru's gallery entitled "Trance Existence" and shown at the Novotel Hotel and Convention Center on Tuesday. In his works, which range from sculpture to painting to abstract pieces, Chiluveru seeks to make a powerful statement about the need for environmental consciousness in today's oil and petrol-fueled world.

"I think art can make a great impact," Chiluveru said, "Environmental awareness is one of the most important issues today."

To facilitate such awareness, Chiluveru has made eliminating the use of plastics as the overarching theme of his show. "Suddenly you can't avoid plastics," Chiluveru said, "They're everywhere. And they aren't biodegradable. Every plastic bag will outlive us all."

"These products, we've grown so habituated to using them," he continued, "Why can't we stop the production?"

Chiluveru has larger ambitions in his art which were also on display at his show.

"Since beginning, I've been interested in three issues," he explained, "The role of imagination in society is very important to me. As Einstein said, 'Imagination is more important than knowledge. I'm also keen about explor-

“ I think art can make a great impact. Environmental awareness is one of the most important issues today

Manohar Chiluveru,
artist



ing the effects of scale on our perception. That's why some of my sculptures are miniature, and others larger-than-life. Finally, I'm very interested in spontaneity. You never realize what is happening on a canvas when you paint on a large scale. With a small canvas, you see it all at once, but when you use a large canvas, the final product comes as a surprise."

For this reason, Chiluveru's abstract paintings are done on wide canvasses, often ten or fifteen feet wide and up to seven feet tall. He paints using a novel technique wherein he lays on his back and spatters paint upward. In that way,

he says, he's unable to see the product until it's done.

"It's an expression of spontaneity," Chiluveru explains. Trance Existence was one of the first art shows of its type to be unveiled in Hyderabad, and Chiluveru wants more to come.

"I am based in Hyderabad," he said, "We have brilliant art here, but lack of infrastructure. My interest is in making the city more visible, in putting Hyderabad on the Art World Map. That is my goal." With shows such as the one he just unveiled, Chiluveru is sure to achieve that goal.

Pavan Vangipuram

Indian Express / 19-11-2009

For information pls