

Rekha Rao explores themes that are etched in her memory, through experience and observation. Social inequality, the environment, the position of women, daily events and her readings on eclectic subjects form her source material. Her works live with a paradox. When they seem descriptive and representational, the illusion of time and space exists on a superficial plane. The real painting distends any factual reference. Conversely when the paintings appear broader, her references are more specific.

She says, 'Color is the core of my paintings. I inherited an understanding that pictorial space, at the basic level involves its own rules, certain things are recognizable while others are hidden yet recognizable. To me, all art is representational in some way or another. My paintings metaphorically depict the world around me. On the surface it is easy reading but something else lies behind. Color, form and line reveal a code for all to see. I am like a story teller and the viewer the latest listener and interpreter of my paintings. Very often a painting gains meaning with each new viewing. One need not know the source. The paintings interpenetrate one another and together create a world of their own.'