

Faces – A Race From Epic

For many years now, our epic 'Mahabharata' has driven and intrigued me. My present feelings and understanding gave shape to visuals refined and regrouped from what I heard and received as a child. The imageries travelled from real to abstract, covering the whole gamut of human existence – its anger, wrath, hatred, envy, greed, desire, sexuality – the satva, rajas and tamas, along with sacrifice, abstinence, courage and chivalry and their expressions made this epic creation across thousands of years eternal in appeal and significance. After executing many paintings from the various episodes of this epic, I wondered if I could express the concrete characters along with their abstract values through my art. The way they are real and unreal simultaneously. A man as a bird, a humanized snake, a deity here and a demon there, a blind man with devout followers, a dark one of enchanting beauty, a cursed woman and a dweller of the woods, a stern one and a cruel one, the rishi engrossed in hard austerities – I have presented this wondrous panorama of characters; mostly in vibrant colours but few in colourless black.