

NAYANAA KANODIA

Artist Statement



Nayanaa's work typifies the best characteristics of this genre– the air of whimsy, the flat bright polished surfaces, vibrant and dynamic colours and the extra ordinary plethora of intricately worked detail and patterns. The freshness and charm of the images she creates gives a crystalline utopian appearance to the mundane everyday life being depicted. She reflects on the charming idiosyncrasies of her subjects with a fine degree of wit and gentle satire.

Her paintings depict the various faces of India– **Lifestyles Past and Present**-- weddings, bazaar (market) scenes, vehicles, ancient sports, beach compositions, many of which with economic growth, will eventually disappear. Many pieces reflect an unkempt maelstrom that has engulfed our transitioning society, providing fuel to a raging dichotomy where on the one hand we have people tenaciously clinging to their roots, fearing the extinction of their cultural identities, and on the other hand we have the birth of a new generation dependent upon progressive conveniences.

Nayanaa says "My paintings intend to make you feel that you are watching a snapshot of life at maximum preposterousness , exuberant and bursting with energy, idiosyncrasy and absurdity. The conversation I hope to create in my work is a certain truth of life and on a deeper level, a well thought philosophy. Individuals may interpret my paintings

In vastly disparate ways and each view will be equally logical and plausible, thought provoking and intriguing . A picture of the moment is built up in which whole histories and relationships are made visible. My paintings are all about time and time in paintings is movement stilled.”

Although inspired by India’s past and present, Nayanaa through her paintings aims to draw the viewers’ attention to the social issues that all of the economically and socio-culturally transforming nations face– the need to protect the environment which is unsustainably exploited to fuel economic growth, women empowerment, social equality, to name just a few.

Anjolie Ela Menon (Padmashree) writes “Having initially studied under me for a couple of years, Nayanaa went on to establish her own signature and carve out an important career for herself. India’s chief practitioner of Naïve Art , Nayanaa’s work delights the viewer with its whimsy, yet contains the most important social messages of our lives”.