

*'Expression must contain its dialectical opposite, the conscious and the unconscious on the same psychic plane'**

Imagination in Art is 'knowing' how to grasp a complete 'expression of an existing thing', but 'never in creating that same thing'. V. K. Dinesh's paintings narrate such practices, which project a contradicting nature in accumulating diverse instances and thoughts together in a work. The works encapsulate himself, his experiences and his desires. A transmission of a culture and a formation of a personal identity.

Georgio Chirico, a forerunner of surrealism, discloses in his 'metaphysical' pictures an irrationality which seeks to redefine the connection between the worlds of waking and sleeping and thus participating in bridging the gap in-between them. Dinesh's paintings speak in a similar breadth. He works within the framework, in which realities are countering each other, or better, where similarities are contesting with one another. The reality of our existing times, the urban and rural interface; or the contradictions and inconsistencies of our civilisation. Being conscious of our changing environment, but inversely being a part of it; His paintings reveal a subconscious desire to obtain a certain status; i.e. to balance the two; to find oneself through his paintings, or a quest for the 'absolute' state of refinement. He draws figures, that decide or demonstrate his persona, ... oscillating between the past and the present.

After completing his bachelors' degree in painting from Trissur in Kerala he moved to Bangalore. The inevitable influences that the new surroundings enforced, probed the artist to start afresh. The small- town 'academic' enthusiast was transfigured into a new urbanised individual. The new identity that is framed today is defined by the 'global', which is placed outside the paradigms of the 'regional' (which characterizes an 'individual' in our country); Therefore the regional identity goes hand in hand with the new global identity. So the artists in this era are required to work without/outside any particular framework!

And as Art always indulges in the activities taking place in a society and subsequently bears its repercussions.... , Dinesh's case, is a state of obscurity. To build or 'secure' a 'recent' identity or to dissolve the impediment between his nostalgic past and persuasive present.

The works are essentially human profiles representing himself, an upsurge to reach the 'other'. To look back into his past life in Kerala from his present state in Bangalore. Recollecting prevalent folk idioms, as in one of his works, is a painted face in green and red (as per a ritual conducted in the rural parts of his hometown). The beauty of his past life... portrayed in his work, 'How Green was my Valley' is all suggestive of a nostalgic longing.

Dinesh's portraits have an understanding between the appearance and the reality. Ironically the somber and serene stance that these figures possess is a result of the artist's contemplation or confusion...having a faceless expression, a confrontation with reality or perhaps a reconciliation.

All this seems very 'unrealistic', 'imaginary'. And that is what Art is all about; Like our minds; in painting it is difficult to produce or obtain a single impact or a single reaction. All images are interdependent on each other, but yet seek to achieve a pictorial unification. A representation of the real...a seeking for an equilibrium.

His compositions are mostly figurative, human profiles in a colorful background. In some works he has created a dual presence, by aligning the painting into parts. With industrial equipment (associated with the 'city' life) and obscure faces, the artist speaks his own story. The works have an environmental relevance, fostering a realisation in the artist, to question the fundamentals of his painterly creation, which are colored by his personal circumstances.

Accordingly, cultivating his distinctive personal self-image; evaluating the environment he has grown with; and defining his position in the present situation.

It is a tremendous exercise to understand the subjectivity and the aim of Art. What we realise in Dinesh's work is the very silhouette of painting. Reflecting on his visual world is his main pre-occupation, the changes it undergoes, a re-examination of the new urbanised conditioning and nurturing a new credibility of self-awareness...

...And thus implementing this experience through his paintings.

* (A. Padamsee , as told to Meher Pestonji;
Mirror-Images Pundole ExC
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Tuli Neville, The Flamed Mosaic
INDIAN CONTEMPORARY PAINTING, HEART PUB.,1997