

**March 20 2006**

## **ART**

### **Complete Soul**

Ravi Shah's charcoal sketches exhibited at the Time & Space Art Gallery till March 21 contains the same essence of life as his wooden sculptures. As the figures in these drawings are of people he knows, the laid-back approach in these abrupt sketches is reflected both in the models pose and in the charcoal strokes rendered by the artist.

None of the drawings illustrate any elaborate rhetoric or dramatization and do not seem as an outcome of many previous studies of the model. Rather, the works appear as an initial step in his pursuit to understand the subjects as models.

These works display phases of an artist at work, grappling to understand the subject, on a quest creating preliminary rounds of expressions executed through drawings; and also doing them very convincingly.

The models appear to pose, uninhibited inside the artists' studio allowing him to capture them naturally.

The sketches show no leanings towards erotic connotations, which is often associated with nude representations.

Consequently, it's the artists comfort with these nude forms, which keeps these inclinations buried.

In addition, the casual attitude of the figures is reinforced by the careless rendering of details in these drawings.

The skin or cloth is draped around a psyche. These sketches are very personal.

Each form tells an instance of relation between the artist and model, the relation of the artist with his art and life.

The subtle innocence of the drawing leaves nothing hidden and revels in the awkwardness and sincerity of art.

Deep but not concealed, these sketches exhibit a spontaneity, a vulnerability and an expressiveness.