

LOUISE DESPONT
 She spent a year travelling in India on a Fulbright Fellowship, a reason why her current collection borrows from the geometry of Indian labyrinths and architecture. Aided by her skilful use of drafting tools, it has culminated into spectacularly ornate designs.



It's all symbolic

Tell us about your inspiration.

I'm inspired by the architecture of sacred spaces, ancient cosmologies, Tibetan Thangka paintings and prayer rugs.

How much of it is a reflection of your Indian experience?

The time I've spent in India has had a significant effect on my work. The paintings and carvings of the Ajanta and Ellora caves, a Sufi music festival in Rajasthan, and trekking in the Himalayas, have deeply affected my artistic sensibility.

What is the medium and material that you have used?

I work on the pages of antique ledger and account books that I collect from all over the world. I draw primarily with coloured pencil and graphite, but also use watercolour, gold or copper leaf and ink. Each layer or section of coloured pencil is then rubbed into the page using a cloth, on top of which I use architectural stencils, drafting tools, and a compass.

What is the role of geometry and semiotics?

Nearly seven years ago, when I first started drawing, I was making works that balanced the two sides of the page with abstract geometric structures. Through the years, these forms developed into more complex works. There are motifs – figures, animals, organic forms – I use that have become my personal symbols. But the lotus I've borrowed from traditional arts. ■

(Her solo exhibition is on from March 8 to May 28 at Galerie Isa, Mumbai)

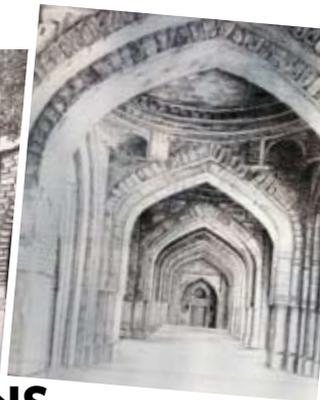


From architectural marvels to evolving landscapes, catch these artistic depictions of space on canvas. By Palak Malik

Changing Landscape



'The Embedded Landscape' exhibition by Religare Art has brought together various artists that hope to remind viewers of the natural wealth of earth. "My aim is to establish an empathy for the spirit of nature," says participating artist Preetha Kannan. "I am trying to understand how our natural environment is changing as a result of human intervention," says another artist, Sachin Karne. (The exhibition is on till February 9 at the Religare Art Gallery, New Delhi)



THE SKETCH-RUINS

Yajanika Arora's exhibition 'Shahar-e-Dilli' is an ode to the architectural ruins of Delhi. "Every corner of Delhi is dotted with history. The city is like a phoenix; destroyed many times, but resurrected nonetheless. These ruins are basically long forgotten stories. These charcoal sketches are not perfect like an architect's draft. I've tried to capture the soul of each monument," says Arora. (Work on display from February 25-28 at IHC, Delhi)