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Shades of life shine on walls



Visual Arts students of Stella Maris College with their works on display at Lalit Kala Akademi| P Jawahar

It seems the phrase ‘With flying colours’ can’t suit anyone better than the final year students of Visual Arts (Painting Specialisation) of Stella Maris College. Their artworks displayed at the Lalit Kala Akademi under the title ‘Poorna 21’, are a confluence of all colours, different mediums and varied styles and have turned the hall a ‘mini paradise’ for art lovers.

Upon every turn, one would come across a unique piece of art. For instance, A Nivedha’s work is a combination of oil paintings and a video installation that portrays the conflict between Mukkuvar and Paravar castes in Muttam village (her hometown) near Kanyakumari in all its ferocity.

Shruthi Nahar has cast her own face in mixed media to show how oppressed women are in a male-dominated society.

Interestingly, the students had spent a significant period on research before taking up the brush for their six-month project.

Brighty Ann Mathew says she had to spend time with Kathakali exponents for her 'Myriad expressions' series to make emotions in her work look real. She has used digital, print and oil mediums to portray the Sringara Rasa and has used her own face for the female character. Brighty says she wants to explore Kathakali further after graduation.

A Silvia Doss's art installation titled 'Secret of Nature' is one of the key highlights of the exhibition. She has used three huge tree trunks in her work. "I wanted to portray how closely we are connected to nature and have used natural materials to show the two extreme stages of a person's life," she says. While her paintings show how life sprouts in the womb, the trunks of the dead tree signify the fag end of life.

"From eight students in the previous batch, the strength has grown to 21 this year and so is the variety of works displayed," said Alamelu N, head of the Fine Arts Department of the college, at the inauguration of Poorna 21 on Monday.

Artists R B Bhaskaran and Alphonso Arul Doss inaugurated the exhibition, which is on till April 28.