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**Vision of the World 2002-03**

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***What, according to you, is art? What is the place of art in the world? Does this role change with time or does it remain the same? How do your answers relate to Indian art? To art today? To your own work?***

Art is result of a pleasurable conscious pursuit to find truth from an active engagement with the real and visual world. The work is an outcome of an individual persistence to unveil hitherto unseen images from the loft of imagination of an artist. What an artist finds, may be likened to some one emptying the sea with a seashell as if to discover the invisible from the mind's eye. The work is an embodiment of transformation of incessant changes in the face of tide of life. An artistic inquiry sparkles with a feeling of being alive, aware and able to express oneself with the confidence dictated by the truth of experience.

Artistic pursuits and creations have shaped civilizations and the mankind. It is a unique vocation offering possibility of making a particular contribution with the freedom for being alive and kicking in this world. Art as an activity is a philosophical search for truth it evolves within the given environment in relation to an individual ability to respond and relate to one's intrinsic need to express feeling and experience of being alive. Hence, most definitions defy what art is. It offers an ever expanding world of possibilities, depending upon the given point of view. It enhances and refines experience of the visual world. Role of an artist in an urban society is part of an increasingly organized venture where critics, curators, dealers and collectors and fans have their own network of interests to manage and define matters of taste and issues in the art market. It is possible to manage to work without expectation of any reward which is in proportion to one's desire to succeed.

***What made you decide to be an artist? What are its satisfactions? Its problems?***

From early on, an idea of being able to transform thoughts into actions, to make them visible through its material form to reveal quality of experience has led me to explore 3D world. The need to express ideas transformed into a form interested me. My involvements with immediate surroundings to understand, see, learn, interact and communicate with the outside world remain central to my activity. It relies upon the depth of experience of feelings from pain, pleasure and delight reflecting upon the nature of human existence. It has become a way of life to understand, comprehend and interact in order to express with a view to encompass most factors that enrich my world of experience. The word and meaning, the given and the imagined are seen from the gamut of experience, often causing tremors of dissent through reflection and action.

***How do you arrive at a decision about what artwork to make? Its formal aspects? Its content? The process you will use? The context you will relate your artwork to?***

On the basis of exigencies of the situation within given time and space, I believe that there is more than one way to reach to the summit of an idea. I make my choice as an individual within the objective of achieving results by taking a course of action that might produce the best result. At any given time, there are more than several ideas which simmer in my mind, like each path leading to the concept through a different terrain of clarity and pleasure of experience. Each path is a different process, involving use, application and process to fulfill promised glimpse of a vision.

The process of making a work is made of checks and balances evolving in course of time to gain and improve an insight and vision. The content is the visual outcome of an investigation of the form, norm and possibilities that make it better visible and enduring. The kind and quality of the object in space, relationship of form in space, use of material and experience of an onlooker should lead to the content of the work in terms its ability to relate, reflect and lead to perception of the content.

The work may begin as a simple query, an inquiry leading to an investigation over a period of years leading to discovery of its formal aspects that aid its visual and cultural structure in the emerging context of time

and space. There is little desire to match, join or follow like-mindedness of artists and vision in relation to the individuality and expression.

***What role does nature play in your art? How do you think of nature?***

An artist is a part of nature seeking the whole in order to reveal the world arising out of feelings, thought and experience. The work in the image and reflection of nature reveals intention, function, a hidden order and relationship which it beholds. Nature as the prime cause of existence provides inspiration through an incessant world of transformations affecting consciousness.

***How do you see the relation between art and reason? Art and emotion? Art and philosophy? Art and science? Art and society? Art and politics? Art and commerce? How does your own work relate to these things?***

Nature does not offer reason. However, an artist's pursuit to relate to the *whole* relies upon the order of the world, the human life, time and space, reason and rationale. Emotion can play a preliminary role of waking up parts of soul, reveal frontiers of tolerance of pain or pleasure. There is no particular philosophy or ideology that governs my thought and action. What is learnt is tested on the anvil of experience as I grow. A search for philosophical thought (more likely to be an after thought in practice) may color one's art as in the case of Oriental and Occidental theory of art apart from other works. Scientific thought has affected human endeavors including art. Artist's as an individual does get affected, as they look for the real in their work. Society plays an important role in the life of an artist from where the ideas are born, nurtured, admired and appreciated. Politics can play its role, depending upon disposition, inclination and affectations of one's ideological premise. As can be learnt from history, a work of art in the form of an object can not deny its value as a commodity.

***How does your art relate to reality?***

Reality is based on what I consciously can see, feel, touch, hold, play, study, understand and perceive to comprehend the very existence of the self. It is all in one, affecting an all out perception of the world. Working with earthly materials, understanding of nature and working with given possibilities in order to explore the medium deify reality. One can work within the given limits and explore it through the work.

***What is your conception of modernity? In the world? In India? How do you see the relation between art and modernity? Indian art and modernity? Your own work and modernity?***

Modernity arose out of desire for change brought about through mechanization, industrialization and modernization of Europe and the West. It can not be followed like a science fiction as it fails to bear real fruit, and it cannot be desirous without its necessity being established on the path of progress and change. How far it becomes a way of life in the evolution of humanity depends upon the country culture and people. It's entry, growth and flourish in select pockets of the metropolis does not quite establish its currency to be real, until it transforms life of most people. Art can free from the confines of modernity as free expression and not a fashion statement. Modernity cannot be acquired by travel abroad, simulating effects and mimicking trends. It should be based on a real reflection of strength and hollowness of ideas and concepts. In India, life has not hit the buffers of industrial boredom that bleakness should take over galleries whispering progress.

Emerging trends in India perhaps ill define our strength of broader comprehension of life, those who seek the Indian find it in the bizarre aspects that one cannot consider to be part of the best of our best endeavor. No particular school of thought has dominated the Indian mind on the basis of cultural, religious, geographical and political realities of the time. The ephemeral in contemporary art in the form of installation, often with the objects of commodity and editions thrown into it are close to Hindi cinema, offering a packaged product under a local brand name.

My outlook and attitude is progressive for what can be learnt and explored, since I believe that, without being out to impress oneself, work should be a first hand product of the artist's mind, capable of

incorporating universal reflection of beauty and values based upon the richness of cultural history and heritage local or universal.

***What art of the twentieth century do you think will remain in the public consciousness at the end of the twenty-first century? Why? What do you see as the emerging trends in contemporary art in India? In the world?***

Work of Picasso should hold on for his individual genius, skill, vigor, contribution and artistic dominance in the public consciousness at the end of 21<sup>st</sup> century, when most artist might be over exhausted by technological advancements and its psychophysical impact on people. Human resourcefulness of working with ones own hands and directing energy and engagement is an asset for mankind.

One can see that the contemporary art has inclined to catch the trail end of trends of installation and conceptual art. Which, the curators find interesting for import in their own culture in conformation of superiority of their view of art of the popular, multiculturalism and a kind of non-commodity value that sustain their livelihood. Many Indian artists have felt obliged to be part of it, perhaps to explore possibilities of their own limitations with the gestures of internationalism in the absence of dominance national cultural identity of our culture. Trends like this reflect enthusiasm and an impressionable curiosity for the popular bandwagon of taste in the race of globalization.

As far as longevity of art is concerned, what surpasses itself beyond time and can extend and inspire values of self development is known to have survived to inspire human consciousness.

As change and continuity in transformation are inevitable, one must look for what kind of images, experience and values that enhance, affect and inspire people to think and feel about the little changing aspects of life, the finer moments of preciousness and quality that an artist can offer to be become a touchstone in art.

***What, according to you, are the three most pressing problems facing India today?***

Hunger, illiteracy and half lettered views from the educated are among the main pressing problems in India.

***What, according to you, are the three most pressing problems in the world today?***

Poverty, intolerance and corruption weakening the government for the people is among the most pressing problems in the world.

***What, according to you, are the three most pressing problems in the artworld today? In India? In the world?***

Among the most pressing problems in the art world today, it is lack of comprehension of originality against the background of (commercially) successful trends, dominance of self proclaimed groups and elites and individuals working within the general lack of knowledge, awareness and connoisseurship of public.

In India, groups arising out of armchair ideology of Political beliefs like Place for People, Narrative Painters and Post Modernists, aspire from oil painting to installation art with an acknowledged contribution in the self written history of art for capitalist aims, and some names without which an art auction would be considered incomplete.

***What type of art criticism do you like? Why?***

Art criticism should be readable, informative and relevant to the artist and his art. It is about the artist's work, intensions, outcome and its relevance at large.

***Who are some of your favorite artists? How do they affect your art?***

Picasso, Matisse, Michelangelo, Piero Della Francesca, Giotto. Among other works, artifacts from world civilizations interest me most for their visual wonder and feast to the eye and mind. There are works by individuals that I like from art since 1900. They make me aware of things and inspire me to look at the world with an improved consistency.

***Who are some of your favorite writers of fiction and nonfiction? How do they affect your art?***

V.S. Naipaul's fiction and nonfiction has interested me for some time. His observations, descriptions and comprehension of the matter interest me for its depth of perception based on individual research, study and travel. Sculpture, is comprehended as a matter of fact kind of work for the physicality of effort and material reality of the object with intrinsic qualities.

***Are there activities other than art that you pursue? How does this affect your art?***

Watching TV, films, listening to music and observing people. Like food, many other activities nourish Life.

***Can you identify a single unified way you adopt to view the world?***

I live, work and deal with reality as it unravels itself with an ease of an individual to do the work that I must as an artist.