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## Beauty, divinity and opulence

Lisa Antao, TNN Jun 9, 2012, 12:00AM IST

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Tags: Van Gogh | Todd Krasovetz | New York City | MF Hussain | Laila Khan Furniturewalla | Ganesha His | Donna Howard | Allen Jones | Agora

*Laila Khan Furniturewalla's recent works have been selected to be a part of an international exhibition in New York City, says Lisa Antao.*

It's certainly a matter of prestige for any artist when his/ her work is selected to be part of an art exhibition at an international level. The same can be said for artist Laila Khan Furniturewalla, whose works will be showcased as a part of Pulse of Abstraction at the reputed Agora Gallery in New York City, along with other well-known international artists like Allen Jones, Donna Howard, Lori Koprovski and Todd Krasovetz, to name a few.

Out of her five works, three include abstract paintings on Lord Ganesha with gold leaves and two portraits of women. "I have always been fascinated by Lord Ganesha, His images are quite powerful and also, He is one of the most popular Gods. I have tried to capture the mystery behind divinity. I love gold and started working with gold leaves around one-and-a-half years ago and used them in my work on the Ganesha series. Besides this, I have used acrylics, pigments and charcoal as well. My other two works are a part of my portrait series, celebrating beauty. Here, I have tried to unravel the complexities of faces in my art. They depict a whole range of emotional struggles — the conflicts faced by a woman on being a woman and an artist at the same time," says Laila, who doesn't title her works as she believes a painting can speak a thousand words.

Laila, who has always wanted to paint since her childhood, studied Fine Art in London, and has been painting for almost 19 years now. Her favourite artists include Picasso, Van Gogh to name a few. She loves the melancholy in the works of Anjolie Ela Menon, and the passion behind MF Hussain and Ara's works, and Prodosh Das Gupta's sculptures. "I hope people find spirit in my work. It should enable them to ask questions," says Laila as she signs off.

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