

Life as it is

By Peerzada Salman

KARACHI: The pangs of leaving your country for greener pastures are enough to give ordinary people a fresh perspective on life (green or dusty) leave alone those who hail from the artist community. The sense of belonging, or lack of it, is a force that has driven works of 20th and 21st century painters and sculptors, especially of the Indo-Pak Diaspora, to a great extent. Renowned artist Talha Rathore, whose artworks are nowadays on display at the Chawkandi Art Gallery, shuttles between the US and Pakistan.

But what the viewer sees in her exhibits, apart from the unmistakable miniature technique, is her deep association with ideas that are of a collective nature and focus on issues which are not confined to one society alone (though they may have originated and taken root in one society). Essentially, what fascinates and intrigues Ms Rathore is life.

Now this particular artist is

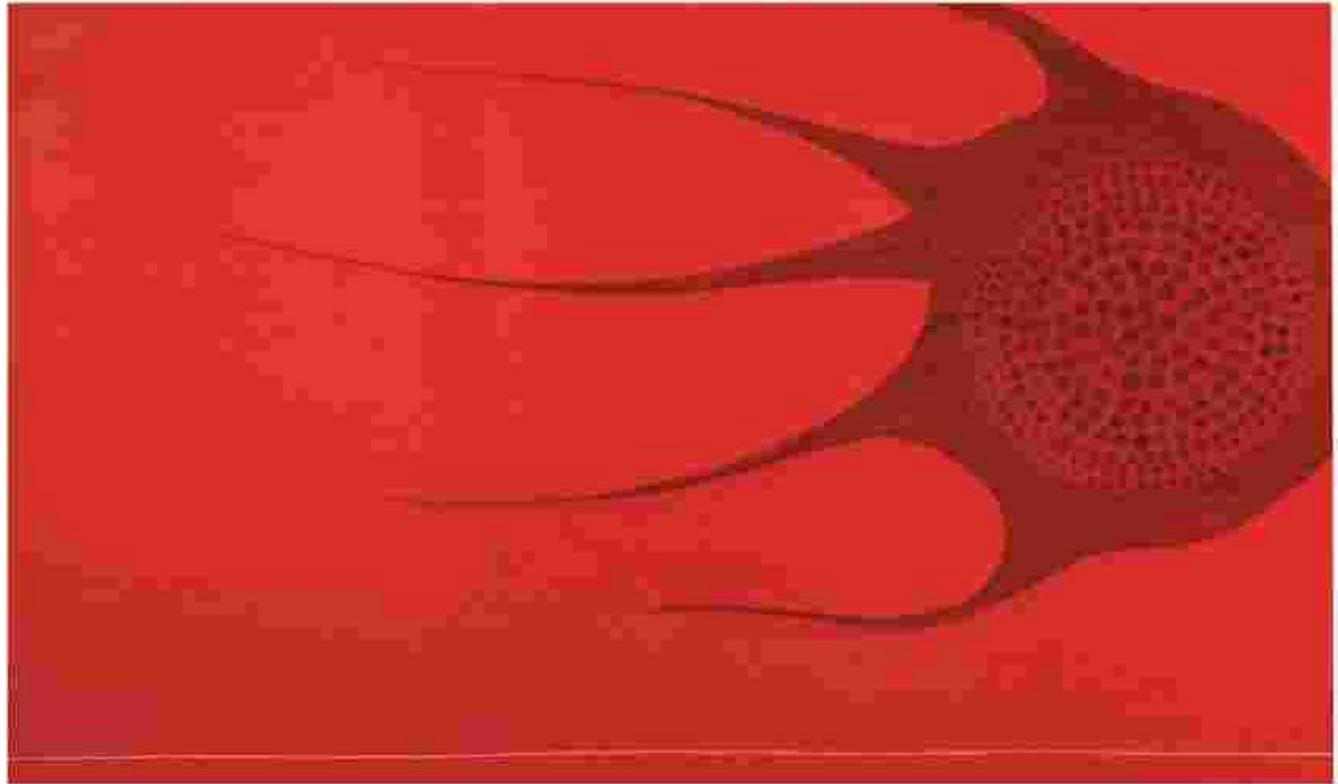
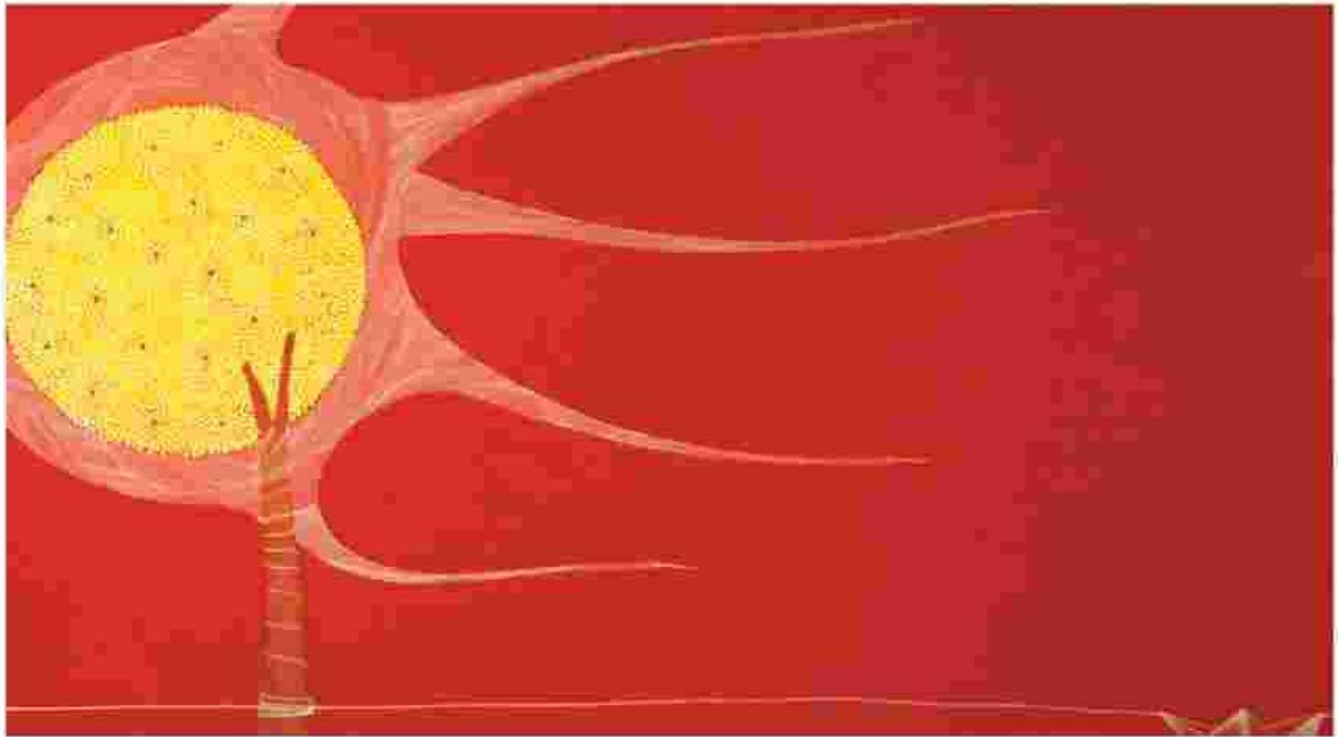
a constant exploration of organisms that a human body is composed of. At the same time, it's the microscopic facet of things that lead her into realms which are of mega proportions and spread into the domain of history. 'Pleasures of Life' (gouache on wasli) for her is an oxymoron of sorts because it has at the bottom of the painting a paper boat. The boat doesn't gel with the rest of the images and yet works wonders for her. The reason for it is that the object signifies many a thing: innocence, migration and the tempestuous side to existence, to name a few.

This should not mean that Ms Rathore doesn't attach importance to the colourful side to existence. 'Song of Life' (gouache on wasli) is another thought-provoking exhibit but also a kind of celebration. The red, green and white in it are characters, living characters, in the garb of colours.

'Life Forms' (gouache on wasli) has a touch of cartographic journey of the culture the artist comes from, which she cannot overlook or forget

interested in both the biological and psychological aspects of life in equal measure. Her art is

however tumultuous it may be. The exhibition will last till March 5.



THE Harmony of all that is.—White Star

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