

Historical and romantic



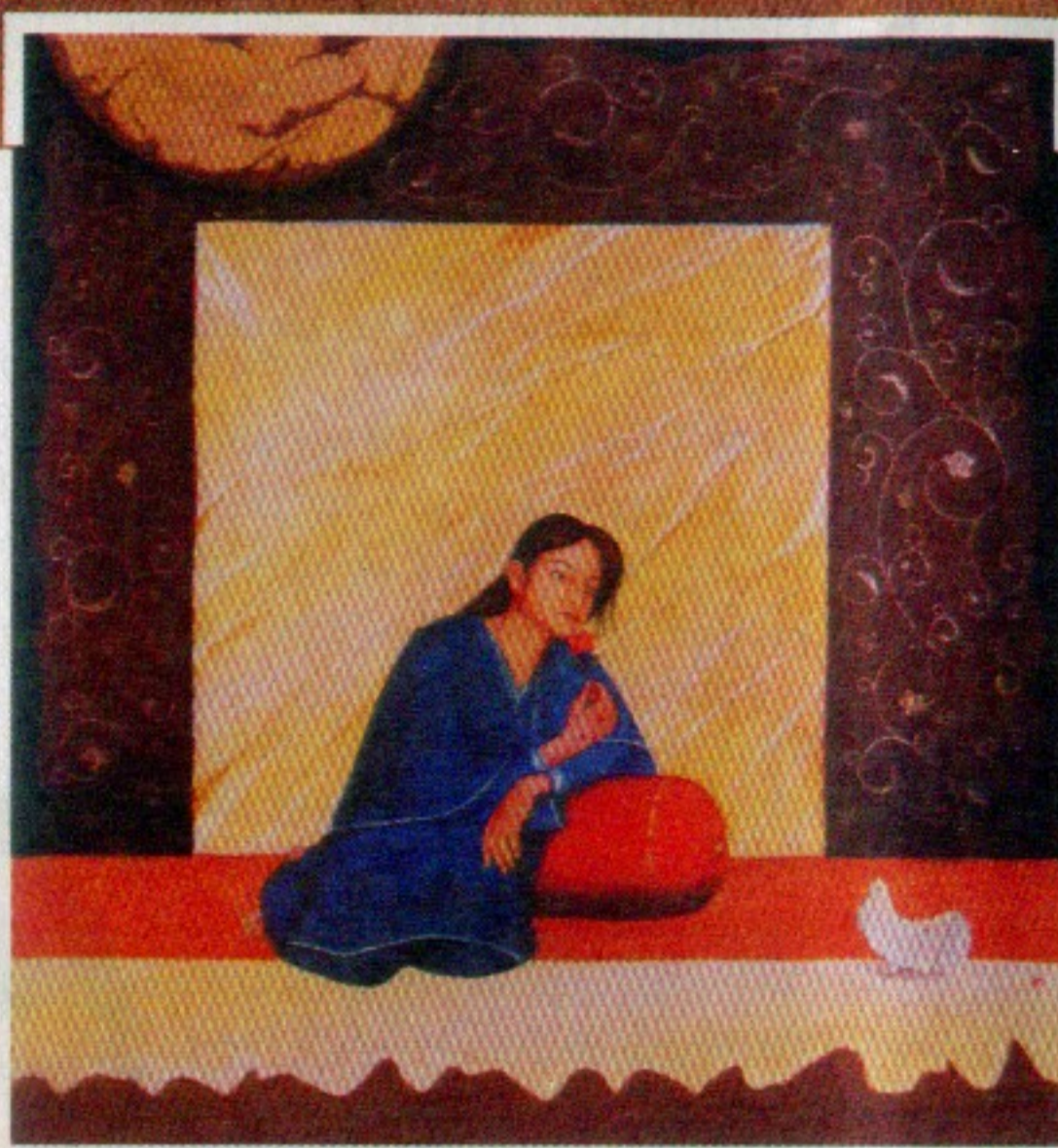
ART GALLERY

Nadeem Zuberi

Inspired by the romance pervading ancient legends and folk stories, Syed Abdul Irfan freely fuses traditional and contemporary art through his expressions in his paintings. Irfan's recent contemporary miniature paintings deal with historical and romantic themes which are for decades closely linked to the age-old tradition of miniature painting. His solo exhibition at Citi Art Gallery, Karachi is based on the traditional theme of love and affection.

Irfan has been exhibiting his works since a decade. His work ranges from glimpses of the dramatic transformation of Buddha to serene and spiritual miniatures. His current paintings series focuses on woman and he portrayed her in a sophisticated manner.

In Mughal era the miniature paintings are



mainly the recording of court life, royal portraits, exotic flora and fauna, and hunting and garden scenes. Irfan's collection has a few of paintings touching the subject of court life and Mughal love affairs. He associate age old love with the modern love and tried to prove that love is always alive in humans may they be of any century or times. Thus the contemporary juxtaposed Mughal figures depict the romantic mood of our past emperors in the present time.

He creates a link of past to the present times by painting many objects that are symbol of Mughal era. He paints women sitting on a well decorated throne or in front of a throne, the traditional round pillows called "gao takya", perching and flying pigeons, women holding pigeons and flowers, and an emperor on a horse back, the elephants and Mughal court - all these are typical depiction of Mughal miniature

paintings.

The subject of love and romance - an emotional condition of two persons sweep across his canvases. Both man and woman are seen on his canvases.

Women of his paintings celebrate the pleasures of life and share their good hopes and joyful experiences. The paintings reveal sensitive, aesthetic and surreal compositions. The works are commentary on various issues women encounter while engage

with a lover or a future life partner. He has created most of the paintings in vibrant colours dominantly green, red, ochre and brown. The backgrounds of most of the paintings are in soft colours except a few depicting night scenes, and the colour schemes are very harmonious and moderate. This attracts people aesthetically and creates



greater interest in the composition.

Traditionally sorrowful and suppressed picture of women is portrayed in paintings and he leaves that impression behind by reflecting fresh and lively images of women. Women of his paintings are happy, joyful and full of life and his new paintings depict a refreshing look of women.

His collection of works depicts women figures in dreamy backgrounds. His paintings show a land of fantasy, a dream world with colourful landscapes, lush green trees with perching pigeons. His landscapes are decorated with trees, lakes, sky, rocks, mountains, birds, and moon and of course a woman longing to meet her lover.

For Irfan Art is emotions of life it's just not simply the blend of colours but he observes reflection of his life in each of his painting, and he strongly feel it as part of his life and by going through his paintings it seems that he is in joyful mood nowadays.

