



# The Drawers - Headbones Gallery

*Contemporary Drawing, Sculpture and Works on Paper*

Saroj Jain

Ethnic Convergence

February 22 - April 3, 2007



Commentary by Julie Oakes

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# Saroj Jain

*Julie Oakes*

A formalist who adheres to the conventionality of traditional materials and modernist forms, Saroj Jain has conquered the systems that once allotted the 'stronger' art forms to men. She is one of India's first female artists to venture outside of the craft arts and into the higher realms of sculpture. By adopting the age old techniques of stone carving and bronze casting, both massive and messy mediums that range outside of the more delicate spheres of women, she has grown to a position of eminence. She has also chosen abstraction, the most intellectual of styles and once again asserted herself as a strong presence, worthy of note. Yet she retains a womanly wisdom, one that encompasses humanity and the complex interdependent relationships between people.

She is sensitive and true to her materials, almost as if she has listened to them as they related their history and their connection to the inherent authenticity of the medium. The white stone is pristine, in line with its natural qualities. Bronze, with the age old melting of metal (the first of many philosopher's stones) along with the ancient recipes for process and patina, supports the human subject matter with a tried and true dignity of expression. Bronze and stone, the heavy materials, show commitment to her ideas and within the weighty medium, Saroj Jain makes a feminine statement. Especially in the figurative work, for example *Nritya* and *Soulmate*, she expresses feelings from a woman's world. That she has paired several of her works with Rabindranath Tagore's poetry further attests to her humanistic orientation.

It was said that only a man could have written "War and Peace" because women stayed at home. Their expression would have to be about the home. Women are in tune with care giving and because of the nature of the 'occupation' their accomplishments often go unnoticed. Saroj Jain asserts herself. With masculine means, she brings the heart of feminine insight into the public realm with her formal observance of mankind.



Untitled  
marble, 16 x 12 x 14 inches tall



Untitled  
*marble, 17 x 12 x 9 inches tall*



Untitled  
marble, 12 x 11 x 19 inches tall



Revival  
marble, 10 x 9 x 25 inches tall





Nriya  
bronze, 8 x 3 x 14 inches tall



Soulmate (front)  
bronze, 6 x 10 x 14 inches tall



Soulmate (side)  
bronze, 6 x 10 x 14 inches tall



House Of Secrets  
*bronze, 11 x 9 x 12.5 inches tall*



The Shadow  
bronze, 9 x 5 x 12 inches tall



The Kiss  
bronze, 16 x 16 x 18 inches tall



The Dancing Peacock  
bronze, 18 x 14 x 26 inches tall

# Saroj Jain

## Profile

Worked at Triveni Kala Sangam, Sculpture Department, 1977-1986  
Instructor at Triveni Kala Sangam, Sculpture Department, since 1986  
Non-Collegiate Student at Delhi College of Arts

## Exhibitions

- 1999 Recent Sculptures, Shridharani Gallery, New Delhi
- 1994 Shridharani Gallery, New Delhi
- 1992 Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai  
Display Gallery, Vakil Lane, New Delhi
- 1990 Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai
- 1987 Shridharani Gallery, New Delhi  
Ravindra Bhawan, New Delhi
- 1986 Indian Artist Exhibition (Organised by National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi)
- 1985 Kala Mela, (Organized by Lalit Kala Academy, New Delhi)
- 1984 Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai
- 1982 Shridharani Gallery, New Delhi  
Ravindra Bhawan, New Delhi  
Indian Artist Exhibition (Organized by Lalit Kala Academy, New Delhi)  
Kala Mela, (Organized by Lalit Kala Academy, New Delhi)  
Sculpture Show, (Organized by Dhoomimal Art Gallery, New Delhi)
- 1982- All India National Arts Exhibition, (Organized by Lalit Kala Academy, New Delhi)
- 1980- State Exhibition (Organized by Sahitya Kali Parishad, New Delhi)
- 1979- All India Fine Arts and Crafts Society, New Delhi, 1979-1995

## Awards

- 1992 All India Fine Art and Crafts Society (Mini Sculpture Show)
- 1982 Sahitya Kala Parishad



## Collections

National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi  
Lalit Kala Academy of Arts, New Delhi  
Delhi College of Arts, New Delhi  
The Oberoi, New Delhi  
Private Collections in USA, UK, Canada & India

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