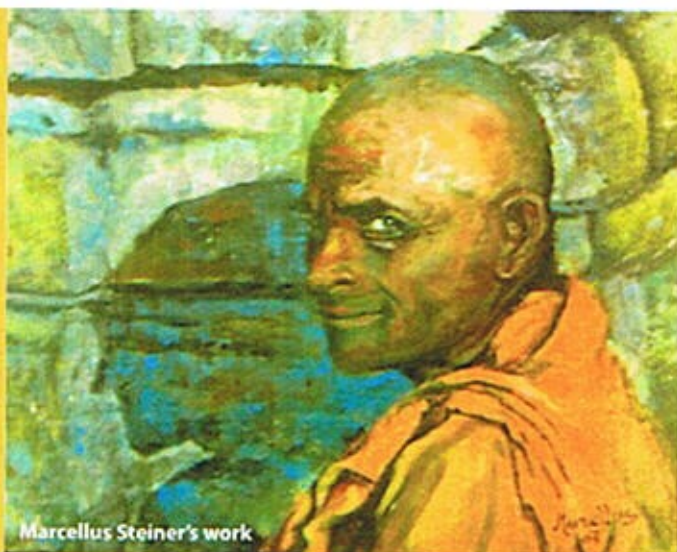


Recently Embassy of Switzerland organised an art exhibition in their Art gallery in collaboration with the Kirit Gallery of Varanasi. The exhibition was inaugurated by Swiss ambassador to India Dominique Dreyr. Five Swiss artists presented a delightful interplay of realistic and abstract compositions.



Marcellus Steiner's work

■ Qazi M. Raghib

India's rich culture has charmed many a visitors to this land. Five Swiss artists also fell to the charms of India and this exhibition was basically their interpretation of India through their works of art.

Jakob Jenzer, Johanna Naaf and Guillaume Estoppy have created their works while living in Varanasi for the past six months. Marcellus Steiner, lives in Haridwar and draws his inspiration from what he

Swiss tryst with India through art

saw and experienced during his many trysts with the serene range of the Himalayas. Fabienne Zimmermann has studied Asian and Islamic art. Varied experiences she gathered while living, travelling and working in India over the last two years inspired her to paint.

Fabienne Zimmermann is a very realistic artist, she plays with colour fabulously and forms takes birth from the mixing of tone and texture. Her paintings capture the whole universe in one frame and use of acrylic colours give a new dimension to her composition. She is like a philosopher and communicates her thoughts to the humanity through her images and aesthetics. Her creative impulses are not bound to a particular form or image though some shapes seems to find their form naturally perhaps it's her sixth sense which guides her oeuvre. Some times her canvas shows the childish forms merging with mature images, which gives completeness to her composition.

Jakob Jenzer has done most of his work in Ink and charcoal medium creating wonderful images with mature hard firm lines. He certainly is endowed with a unique technique as he draws different images using



Left to right: Marcellus Steiner, Johanna Naaf, Fabienne Zimmermann, Guillaume Estoppy and Jakob Jenzer



Guillaume Estoppy's work



Jakob Jenzer's work



Fabienne Zimmermann with her work



Johanna Naf's work

both his hands. His images resemble that of Souza and some forms resonate with that by Jatin Das. His compositions are small but contain lot of meaning. He has good command over anatomy and makes perfect forms in perspective.

Johanna Naf's compositions looks abstract and had geometrical elements to it. She has used transparent paper base with water colour forms and in some works she has used another base shadow to give new dimension. Artist is very widely known in Switzerland and works in many mediums. She does sculpture, installation in different medi-

ums like wood and bronze.

In this exhibition, she displayed four of her works which is all created by colour patches and mixing of tones with grey shadow. Her compositions are in tune with the mores of 21 century and she comes across as the innovator of latest treatment of colour and forms.

Marcellus Steiner is very much impressed by Indian culture and their forms. All his compositions are based on Indian cultural nuances and Indian rhythm of life. His treatment of forms is realistic with strong anatomy and bold strokes. Some time his composition looks like a photographic image. This very young and much talented Swiss artist uses simple, straight forward forms and thus his work is

easy to understand.

Guillaume Estoppy works are akin to a piece of architectural drawing with perspective image. He uses pencil colour in his composition on paper with subdued tones, his figures are very much geometrical and add new dimension to his thought process and creativity. His compositions are very large and needs at least ten foot visual distance to understand the whole object. His compositions are unframed thus giving wings to his aesthetic sense which sort of spreads on the wall his compositions hanged.

This exhibition was curated by Christine Liechti of Swiss embassy and Navneet of Kiriti art gallery of Varanasi. ■