

Tickle to Political

CARTOON IS AN ART OF NEGATION. LAXMAN'S CARTOONS HAVE CONVERTED THIS RAGE INTO A HUMOUR OVER THE YEARS. TANVI MALHOTRA FINDS OUT, HOW A CARTOONIST THROUGH HIS DRAWINGS CONVEYS HIS ART TO THE MASSES.

Cartooning is just not the creativity of cartoonist but the insight to portray the contemporary world in the frame of column. Cartoons are not only a funny piece but a bang on satire to recall the loopholes in system and society. Political cartooning is ruling the roost ever since this art form came existence. Raj Thackeray's recent cartoon stirred, the already agitated Mumbaikars. R K Laxman the legendary cartoonist's cartoon changed the look of an 'Aam Aadmi' through his cartoon 'The Common Man'. Politicians consider themselves above everyone, but a cartoonist who is watching and sketching him will show them the mirror through their columns. These cartoons are sometimes ridicules at the society,



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system or person but it is taken in good spirit and appreciated well by the reader. "I have myself created a cartoon of Sushil Kumar Shinde when he was the CM of Maharashtra. He was so amazed to see his cartoon that he couldn't express through any words." It's not limited to sarcasm infact cartoonist plays with every shade of humour - wit, irony, slap-stick and tragic comedy, need not be mockery.



A cartoonist needs to be abreast of happening around the world so that to capture those moments and blog correctly in the column as Cartooning is the journalism through pictures. They have to be unbiased so that their creativity is not hampered. "If you are powerful enough people will themselves

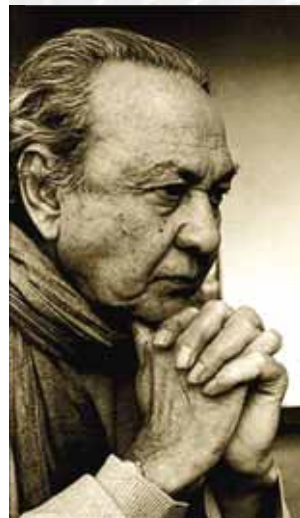


This one is far cheaper than 'nano'!

approach you, Chalta hai kind of attitude doesn't work in this stream," says Vikas Sabnis, who has been freelancing in this field for the past 40 years". He started his career with weekly called 'Marmik' run by Bal Thackeray. Simultaneously, he also drew cartoons for magazine called 'Vasant.' "You are not required to be very good at drawing if you want to get into cartooning," says Vikas Sabnis. All what you need is skill which will help you being a good artist and good journalist as without the sense of words you will not be able to give justice to any cartoon," he concludes.

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ART LEGEND



It is a universal question that each one of us wishes an answer to, i.e. what is the reason of life? Perhaps most of us wonder, occasionally and forget about it. It is art legends like S H Raza who not only makes sense of such questions, but also bring it to reality through their artistic expressions.

S H Raza, one of the greatest Indian painters, was born to Sayed Mohammad Razi and Tahira Begum on February 22, 1922 in Babaria, Madhya Pradesh. Raza first laid his hands on canvas at the age of 12. After completing high school, he further studied at Nagpur School of Art, from 1939-1943. This was followed by four years of practising his forte at Sir J J School of Art, Bombay. In



1950 he left for France, which was to become his permanent stay, to attend a scholarship at 350 year old Ecole Nationale Superieure des Beaux- Arts (school of fine arts) in Paris. Over the years he received acknowledgement of his work. He received a Silver Medal in 1946(his first solo show) and a Golden Medal in 1948 by the Bombay Art Society salon.

Captured by the beauty of France he indulged into landscapes during 40s and 50s. He shifted his interest from water colour landscapes to more expressive landscapes, expressions of the state of mind. This



transition to abstraction (ideas, thoughts) threw a light on his future style of paintings in 70s. By this time

had started to involve Indian elements in his work through Indian scriptures. But his ever growing dissatisfaction had a major impact on his work, result of which is his brilliant work - Bindu.

'Bindu' meaning a dot in Hindi language – was the answer to his dissatisfaction which was the result of his visit to Benaras, Gujarat and Rajasthan in bringing him closer to his roots. The 'Bindu' consisted geometric elements, with bright



colours with a dot in the centre of it. He once said that Bindu symbolises the seed, bearing the potential all life, this was his creation in the 80s. This was ground breaking in terms of his work, a metamorphosis in art and yet another leap in his work was in 2000. It was incorporation of Indian concepts of Mahabharate, Nagas and Kundalini.

Raza has contributed immensely to the world of art with his deeper understanding of art with its fusion with the meaning of life. His profoundly modern work in contemporary field of art, inspired the counter-part and younger artists equally. The price his works demand has increased over the years recently in 2006 auction one of his paintings was reportedly sold for US \$1.4 million. Apart from winning the Prix de la critique, Paris he won one of the prestigious awards of India, the Padma Shri in 1981 and Padma Bhushan in 2007 by Government of India.

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