

**Writer-M.K.Puri, Artist, New Delhi, India**

## **Rekha K. Rana –Painter of soil**

Rekha K. Rana a native of Hazaribag in Jharkhand, a young painter and writer, graduated and received her Ph.D. in painting from Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi. Today the academic qualification that one needs are for understanding the technical aspect of this trade, however it essentially is required for entering into some secured job to run one's life comfortably. That's where Rekha separated herself and landed in Mumbai to take challenge of the competitive art world. There is art and culture all around in this cosmopolitan great city but equally, each day a new entrant challenges one's earned space. A young girl from a far under-developed Indian state is here to prove her talent (she received National Talent Search Scholarship at a very young age of fourteen) and provide the art and culture crazy people her own kind of statements in the form of her paintings. Scholarships and fellowships has given her the confidence to open herself to experiment and explore new avenues and she has given has been honest to bring out paintings mature enough as individual expression.

I was looking at her 2003 paintings dedicated to her native place Jharkhand. One certainly miss the environment, the landscape and then the home. The nostalgic expression is always strong at a young age and your relationship is not diluted. You still have every details itched deep into your memory that brush and colour work with automation and bring out surprise element in your expression. An artist is always emotional towards his/her belongings whether physical or spiritual, they device the outlook towards the world around and the relationship one creates with a painting is thus a world within a world. 'My Jharkhand' and 'Village Memoires' provides us with the warmth that she carries with her –the vast landscapes-'Dumbs and drums-1' of this period too are built with impressions she carries in her memories-the trees, the jungle and the tribes. The energy of strong impressions are visible in the strong brush strokes she usage with equally good colour application.

With time, Rekha is developing into a painter, entering into the realm of pure expression, deriving her inspiration from nature and transforming it with pure colours. In two works she calls 'Dumbs and drums 5 and 6' I find her redefining the form. These forms emerge slowly out of darkness to make it's presence felt with reds and blues with strokes of highlighted white lines, These forms tend to define the making of an image as if for a tribal rituals This is clearly visible in -'Dumbs and drums-3' with a tribal holding arrows and bow in a magical surrounding with a witch like image in the top background. If we forget the tribal story part from the painting we face a powerful warm composition with movement of free and defined strokes play and linear movement with the help lines by a confident painter. This I suppose is the transformation towards more contemporary attitude, growing in her application and freedom in the execution of her compositions. She is still Young and capacity to explore further is expected in her future works.