



# OYSTER

Half yearly News Letter of the Society of Indian Marine Artists

## Editorial

Unlike previous years, this year the monsoon arrived on time much to the relief of scorched mother earth and the drought affected parts of the state. Before the country could rejoice, however, in the upper reaches of the Himalayas the heat caused the snow to melt and the Mandakini came crashing down on Uttarakhand. A massive cloud burst caused the whole region to be inundated resulting in unprecedented loss of life and land, as the hills came crashing down and the gushing muddy waters spared nothing in their path. The once pristine hill slopes wear a completely desolate look. It will be a long wait before man and nature can rebuild Uttarakhand. A silent prayer goes out to the thousands who lost their lives.

In Pune the rains brought much relief. The landscape in and around the city is back to its lush green glory. I am sure our artists are inspired by nature to pick up their paints and brushes and head outdoors.



Chief Guest Aruna Jethwani with Cmde. Vir

In the month of February we had our Annual SIMA exhibition, which was a great success. The highlight of this year's exhibition was the inclusion of photographic works of our members. Our Chief Guest, Mrs Aruna Jethwani was very impressed with the work put up by our SIMA artists. A report on the exhibition by the indefatigable secretary, Jayanti Shetty is included in this issue.

This newsletter carries a feature on Ramesh Thorat, a SIMA member, who is bringing great laurels to himself. He has created Tantra Art and has been winning many prizes. He has been adjudged Artist of the Year for 2012

by the Government of Maharashtra.

Much as I do not like to end this editorial on a discordant note, I have no choice. It is sad to note that despite meticulous planning and sufficient notice we have had to cancel workshop after workshop due to lack of participation. I urge members to take note of this and come forward in large numbers so that the workshops which we all used to look forward to, can be revived. Another issue is the non-renewal of memberships in time. Please do so now, if you have not renewed your membership earlier.

As the festival season approaches, I wish all our members all the very best in their personal and professional lives and of course, in their creative skills!

Yours truly,

Dipti Chitnis

[dipti\\_chitnis@yahoo.com](mailto:dipti_chitnis@yahoo.com)



Chief Guest and Cmde. Vir light the lamp.



Another SIMA exhibition concluded on the 10th of Feb 2013, having been inaugurated on the 8th Feb 2013, at the NEW ART GALLERY, GHOLE ROAD, by chief guest Mrs. Aruna Jethwani. She is the ex principal of St. Mira's College, an eminent author with some books to her credit and a weekend hobby artist. Having quietly walked into the gallery without much fanfare, she was introduced by the president of SIMA Cmde Rajan Vir to the artists and guests gathered and taken around the gallery to view the paintings on display and meet the artists.

After lighting the lamp and being presented with the bouquet, the chief guest addressed the gathering. In her short but interesting speech, Aruna Jethwani found Cmde Rajan Vir's concept to develop and encourage sea consciousness through art, a wonderful idea and commended the IMF's efforts in saving the ocean. She also mentioned that everyone should have reverence for water in the streams, rivers, seas, lakes and oceans and how important and imperative it was to keep it clean. She further added how water had energy, flow and calmness; it also makes one reflective and philosophical.



Council members at the exhibition



Chief Guest admiring the paintings on display



The audience listens in rapt attention

Water is mystical, sacred, divine, beautiful and full of life; in fact there is more life in the ocean than on land.

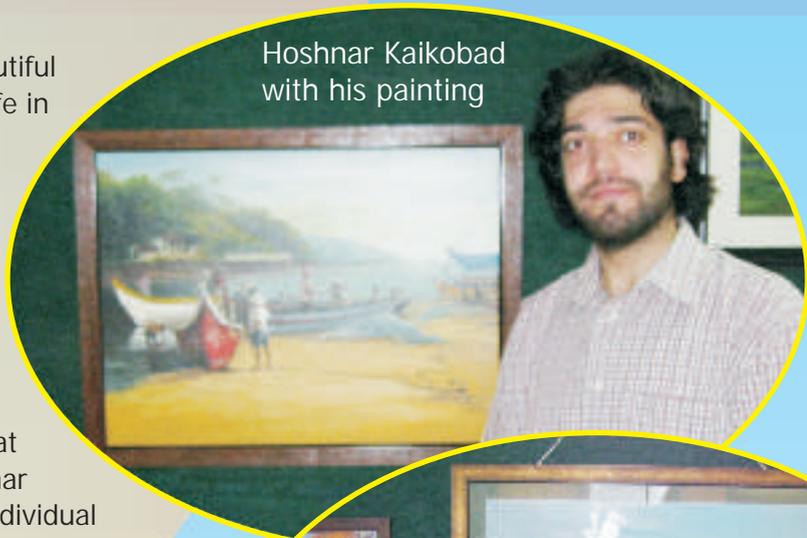
After her speech, the chief guest distributed certificates to the participating artists and trophies to the photography contestants. This was the first time Sima was displaying photographs on seascapes alongside paintings. The chief guest was so impressed by the paintings that she announced cash awards to Hoshnar Kaikobad and Abdul Sattar for their individual work.

After refreshments Sima member artist Mohan Jadhav, gave a demonstration of seascape in water colour within 45 minutes. He was felicitated with a bouquet and cash gift.

The exhibition was a success in terms of visitors to the gallery and a couple of paintings got sold but the participation has dropped, which is upsetting. Only twenty artists participated this time, exhibiting seventy paintings and photographs. A very big thank you to all the members and committee members in making this exhibition a success.

Jayanti Shetty  
Secretary (SIMA)

Hoshnar Kaikobad  
with his painting



Abdul Sattar  
with his painting



Live demo of Seascape by  
Mohan Jadhav



Mohan Jadhav receives a bouquet from Cmde Vir



# Ramesh Thorat

A Tantra Artist



**F**or Ramesh Thorat it all started in school, when he was in the eighth standard. His drawing teacher noticed his talent and encouraged him to appear for the Elementary Drawing Exam; he passed it with an A Grade. Thereafter it was just a matter of time. He started winning many art competitions even at the state level. That led him to an Art College, where he did his Diploma in Drawing and Painting. His first job was that of Assistant Art Director in a company in the Film industry, designing film sets. This left him with very little time to paint, which was his passion. He gave up his job and returned to Pune to pursue his goal – to work freelance. He has never looked back since. Now Ramesh had a lot of time to paint and meet other artists. This was his first step towards jointly setting up the Fusion Art Foundation in Delhi. His co-artists were from all over the country – Delhi, Indore, Bangalore etc. This group also started working for the Aanchal Charitable Trust. They collected two paintings each from all artists and held an auction at the Habitat Centre in Delhi. The money thus collected was handed over to the Trust for the treatment of Disabled and Cancer Patients.



A chance exposure that Ramesh had at a Tribal celebration opened the doors to many new ideas in his paintings. A celebration in Rural Maharashtra after a Tribal wedding is called “Gondhal”. Thorat found the vibrant colours very fascinating and they made a deep impact on him. This prompted him to paint Tribal Art.

Amongst his many travels, he visited Kolkatta and as any tourist would, he made a trip to Kalighat to the famous Kali temple. The Goddess inspired him to spirituality as well as Tantra and Mantra. Thereafter he started his study on Temple Art, and collected many books on the subject and carried out extensive studies on this art form. This was the origin of his series of Tantric Art. But unlike other artists, he started using Oils in his works, which is very uncommon in Tantra Art. Most Artists prefer the Acrylic Medium. He has taken up oil as a challenge.

Thorat has been bestowed with many awards; some of the recent ones being – Best Artist of the Year for 2012; Best painting at a Government Art Competition; Artist of the year award at an International art show the Birla Art gallery in Kolkatta, which was organized by the International Art Family magazine during its launch.

Ramesh Thorat is an active member of SIMA and an asset to the organization.



For Correspondence with SIMA please write to :

**The Society of Indian Marine Artists**

1/402, Gera Gardens, Koregaon Road, Pune - 411 001. Tel.: 020-26132316 /26160785 Fax : 020 26160785  
E-mail : indmarfdn@eth.net