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PIC: AMUDHAN S

Sujatha Subraman POWAI

I have tried to articulate my thoughts on the empty spaces of canvas and paper. These empty spaces are my dear friends and I love spending time with them," declared Shukla Chowdhury. This talented artist and resident of Eldora building in Hiranandani Gardens is all set to exhibit her artwork at The India Habitat Centre, New Delhi from May 19-24.

Shukla is holding her eight solo show titled "Phoenix Sings a Song" By her own admission this show is special because it marks 150th Birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore. The exhibition she claims is her humble tribute to Gurudev.

In the words of Ushamitra, the youngest daughter of Shukla, "My mother is an alumnus of Shantiniketan. Her works are inspired by Nature and Life cycle" Using bold colours and firm brush strokes Shukla has given expression to her creative mind which are sure to command attention at the show. She is also musically inclined and her favourite music is of course Rabindra sangeet.

Born on November 8, 1954,

Shantiniketan. She is also armed with BFA degree (Painting) from the University of Pune, where she stood first. Shukla also possesses diplomas in interior designing and fashion designing.

Talking about her foray into the world of colours Shukla admitted, "As a child I dwelled in an imaginative world of dreams. I spent my childhood days drawing on the floor and conversing with nature—the trees, clouds, birds and anything else that seemed to embrace my innocence. My parents noticed my inclination towards art so they got me involved in art, music and dance at an early age. Eventually, I pursued fine art at Shantiniketan. Rabindranath's art, literature and philosophy left a deep imprint on my mind. For me, Gurudev painted with words. At Shantiniketan's Kala Bhavan, I faced no dearth of inspiration and it was here that I developed the philosophy of appreciation, the exquisiteness of art, the vividness of natural creations and the significance of aesthetics."

Owing to her family responsibilities Shukla got a long break from her painting and canvas. However, once she decided to pick up her brush there was no looking back. In a short span of five years Shukla has held over seven solo

## Different Strokes

shows in major cities. Some of her previous exhibitions include Glorious Days of Phoenix II held in October 2009 at Jehangir Art Gallery. She said, "I identify with the

immortal Phoenix. According to Greek mythology, this bird in its self consuming passion to seek the truth flies so close to the Sun that it is destroyed by the Sun's heat. For me this

signifies the overpowering desire to seek truth in its purest form. Phoenix, a mythical entity that symbolizes immortality is my friend and guide."

Nature and life cycle remain

her inspiration for the current show she will exhibit over 28 paintings all done with acrylic colours.

Shukla attributes her success to her friends who motivate her and her supportive family comprising her husband Abhijit, her three children.

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