

# Good Homes *India*

ART | PERSONALITY

## Shukla Chowdhury

The Mumbai artist captures the unpredictability of nature and the irony of life on her canvases

FEATURE SEEMA SREEDHARAN



Like most of Shukla's other works, this untitled acrylic on canvas represents the perennial cycle of life. This painting will be exhibited at the Museum Art Gallery, Mumbai in September 2009



**B**orn in 1954, artist Shukla

Chowdhury is known for her spontaneous portrayal of her thoughts and imagination. Even when she was a two-year-old, mundane and insignificant objects and incidents captured her vivid imagination. The images from her childhood are etched in her memories and are a constant source of inspiration for her.

Shukla's mother recognised her leanings towards art and encouraged her to pursue the creative field. As a young girl of five, Shukla found herself immersed in the creative world—art, music and dance. "I used to spend hours in absolute solitude drawing on the floor and on the walls. Everything around inspired me. I couldn't wait to capture them in my paintings," she says. The desire to acquire the fine nuances of art led her to pursue fine art at Shantiniketan, Vishwabharati University. "At Shantiniketan, I learnt to appreciate the intricacies of nature and the exquisiteness of art."

Her style of painting can be described as Abstract Expressionism—a painting movement in which the artist typically applies paint rapidly in an effort to show feelings and emotions. Although, Shukla prefers to call her style "independent and spontaneous." The artist has held various solo and group exhibitions in New Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai and is currently working on her next exhibition, which she plans to hold in September this year.

However, what inspires her most is the irony of life. "As a woman, I've been through all extremes of emotional existence—from unfathomable happiness to unimaginable sorrow. I feel that I'm capable of conquering all emotional constraints. I identify with the immortal phoenix," expresses Shukla.

Her paintings are a riot of colours, exploring and emphasising the moods of nature and complexities of the human mind.