



TIMELESS TREASURES

From the jewelled wristwatches from the estate of the Late Maharani of Baroda to the lighting from the residence of the Maharaja of Jamnagar, enter the fascinating world of furniture and interiors with an exclusive Art Deco auction by Saffronart. Expect original furniture, timepieces, jewellery and objects d'art, fashioned in eclectic styles and are most certainly worth a dekho. In support of Mumbai's unique architectural heritage and its bid to the UNESCO for World Heritage status for its Victorian and Art Deco precinct, the Saffronart catalogue will include donation lots to raise funds for the submission.

Auction dates are October 31 and November 1, 2012. For more information log on to www.saffronart.com.

BALANCING HOPE

In the current tea water series, artist Manisha Gera Baswani lets nature flow to regally become all-pervading. Her works are reflective of distinct phases of her life, each a separate chapter of an on going odyssey. It take us through one such chapter of her life where she is seen juggling between the roles of an artist, wife, mother and homemaker. While balance is key; the more balls one juggles, the more likely one is to drop a few. A new process of re-calibration begins for her every time she feels she is exiting her 'centre'.

Hope is the thing with feathers at Gallery Espace in Delhi on view till November 10.



AN OUTLANDISH TRAIL

The gallery was quiet. The London-based artist Anj Smith's show *Woods Without Pathways* was to open that evening. Dressed in a simple beige dress, she was waiting to take me through her works. I had seen a few online earlier that day and had liked the intricacy – eight to 10 different stories running parallel but all so seamless – with strong references to the realms of fashion, nature and popular culture. On the wall were images that combined beautiful and grotesque females, or were they males, I wondered. Juxtaposed against animals and objects that morph into abstract, almost apocalyptic, landscape backgrounds. Elements like a big huge moth she encountered on her vacation with her husband in Brazil come flying into her works while a mosaic of details runs below it.

"These are inspired by my friend who had 14 different operations to have his sex changed. I often thought of how terrible and trapped he must have felt all these years," she added.

As we walked through the rest of the paintings, discussing styles and mediums, Anj mentioned how she would love to live in India for six months and explore every corner of it. While we chatted, my mind kept going back to her muse. Sensing my train of thoughts, Anj smiled and telepathically said, "He is in a much better place now." We parted. The show is going to be on till mid November at Galerie Isa and I know I will drop by again, to view the images from a different mindscape. ▼

— NM

