

the exhibition



Drawing on the elements

Chaos is the underlying theme of a new series of paintings by T Venkanna, currently on display at Gallery Maskara.

Titled Pancha Mahabhuta (Hindi for 'Five Essential Elements'), the series comprises five works, one each dedicated to Earth, Sky, Air, Water and Fire. "The harmony between these elements of nature is becoming increasingly imbalanced due to human activity," says Venkanna. "It is against this backdrop that I have created the works to depict the delicate state of these elements."

Each work draws on images from sexual fantasies, contemporary history and landmark art works. The central image in 'Air' is a large phial, derived

■ 'Air', one of a series of five paintings on display at Gallery Maskara.

WHAT: Pancha Mahabhuta, an exhibition of paintings by T Venkanna

WHERE: Gallery Maskara, 6/7, 3rd Pasta Lane, Apollo Bunder

WHEN: April 28 to May 9, 11 am to 7 pm (Sundays closed)

CALL: 2202-3056

ENTRY IS FREE

from 20th century French-American artist Marcel Duchamp's installation 'Air De Paris', which comprised a glass phial filled with air from Paris.

Other motifs include skeletal mummies, corpses hanging by a noose and bloated sex dolls. "By drawing such parallels, Venkanna comments on how the five elements are used and abused today," says gallery director Abhay Maskara, where the exhibition marks the fifth anniversary of the art space.

Pancha Mahabhuta was previously shown at the Kochi-Muziris Biennale.

— Riddhi Doshi