

# Shine: Artist first, provocateur next

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"If you ask me what I came to do in this world, I, an artist, will answer you: I am here to live out loud," had said the French writer Émile Zola. And close home, artist Shine Shivan is doing exactly that. Through his latest collection of work he reiterates the issues that bother him — formal as well as social.

Formally his latest works are based on a reaction to the French painter Paul Delaroche's statement: Painting is dead. "Artists have often drifted away from paintings and even further from drawings; more and more have taken up other forms of art like sculpture, performance and videos. I am going back to the language, which is believed to be dead," says Shine who usually works with taxidermy but for this exhibition, chose to work with drawings.

*Language of Deceased* has shaped up from his experiences and knowledge from extensive travelling within as well as outside the coun-



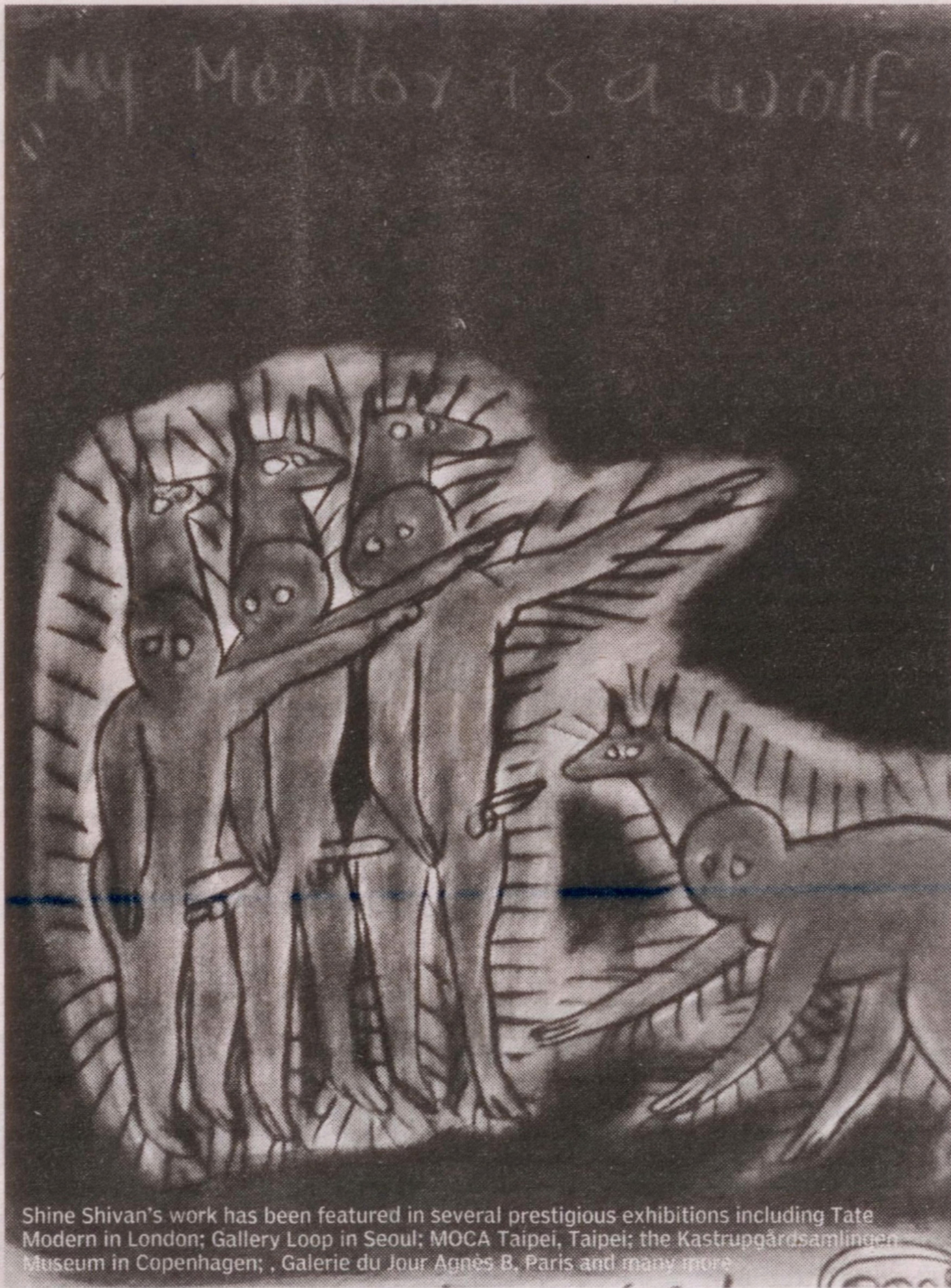
try. "I had stayed and worked closely with the famous Warli artist Jivya Soma Mashe for a few days. It was during that period that I had come to know that the last names of most of the tribal regions come from the colonial era. For example, 'Mashe' means 'one who went to the furnace and turned black'. Another popular name is 'Pasari', which suggests 'one who has hanged herself from a tree'. It's in history that during the colonial attacks many gave up their lives to escape the embarrassment from the invaders. "These names were given by others. Through my drawing in this series I want to question why are they still using those names instead of abandoning," says Shine.

Apart from invoking the

past and asking to question certain facts that have seeped into our collective conscious, Shine also tries to provoke — true to his style. "During my trip to Antwerp in Belgium, I had learnt that there's a rule where one can evade taxes by placing a statue of Virgin Mary. The place is famous for having the statues at every other corner. It is clearly not devotion," exclaims Shine.

Another observation that Shine has used in his collection is the 'dresses of the deceased.' "In the streets of Delhi, I have often seen high-end branded clothes being sold in the hand-me-down shops, and surprisingly people end up buying just for the lure of the tag names without thinking of the diseases that the clothes might carry."

Around 400 of his latest works will be up at the Gallery Maskara starting today. "Since the gallery is an open studio, I will be also be working here for the next seven weeks. And everyone is welcome to join us to be a part of the show — they can look around, be models or simply enjoy.



Shine Shivan's work has been featured in several prestigious exhibitions including Tate Modern in London; Gallery Loop in Seoul; MOCA Taipei, Taipei; the Kasturba Museum in Copenhagen; , Galerie du Jour Agnès B, Paris and many more