

# Splash

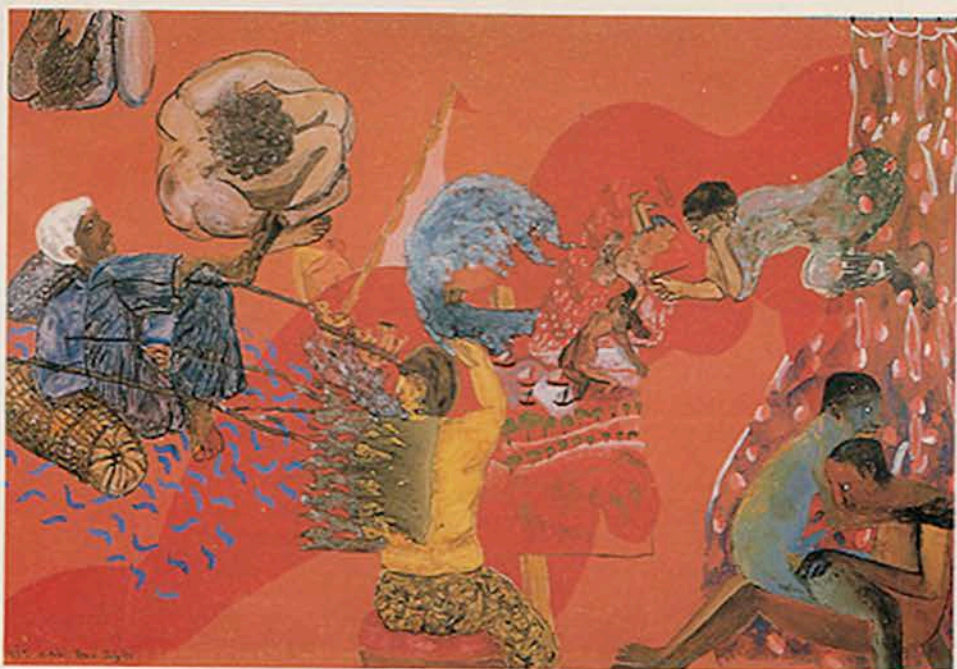
## Images on Glass

Bhupen Khakhar Nalini Malini Vivan Sundaram

FRONT COVER: ARTISTS STUDIO Water colour & enamel on acrylic 36" x 48" Photography The Lensman  
Khakhar, Nalini Vivan



GALLERY CHEMOULD, JEHANGIR ART GALLERY, BOMBAY 400 023.



In January '89, Bhupen Khakhar, Nalini Malini and Vivan Sundaram were commissioned to do a 19 ft x 20 ft mural on glass for a private home. Arun Khopkar, who made a film, "Figures of thought" on the three painters during the execution of the mural, discusses with them the emergence of this idea.

Some excerpts:

- Vivan Sundaram : The idea of working together on a mural happened very spontaneously. For a long time I had the idea of working with other artists, it had to be artists with some kind of relationship with each other.
- Arun Khopkar : The idea of a certain collective seems to have preceded the proposed project of making the mural.
- Vivan Sundaram : Very certainly. We have a long history of friendship in the sense of doing exhibitions together, of participating in different activities but not actually working together.
- Bhupen Khakhar : Before Nalini and I agreed with Vivan's proposal, it was a very vague idea in our minds because we had not thought of a glass mural. It was of working separately on a canvas.

- Arun Khopkar : Like a triptich...?
- Bhupen Khakhar : Yes, but then the idea got changed. They came over to Baroda and we started working together on a cartoon which was half the size of the mural.
- Nalini Malini : I would like to say that it was Bhupen's idea that we should do a glass mural since he had the experience in glass painting.
- Arun Khopkar : Why did you think of a glass mural?
- Bhupen Khakhar : I thought that by working on a canvas we would not be able to participate the way we could in glass painting. Since Vivan and Nalini did not know about glass painting and I knew a little bit, we thought we would be able to forget our egos and work together unlike working on canvases which could have been worked separately in our respective homes.
- Vivan Sundaram : Besides, the medium of glass painting lent itself ideally to the commissioned mural which had to cover an entire wall with some extended panels as well.
- Arun Khopkar : Working on glass necessitated to work together and in the process you must have discovered a very different relationship...in that sense it must be a new discovery.

- Bhupen Khakhar : We did not have too many problems, for our work has a kind of relationship. For instance if Nalini was doing a figure and Vivan another figure, then I would be doing a back ground or other way around. The only thing required was that we actively participate at the same time and that was more enriching for us. We even learnt from each other a great deal. For instance the way Vivan applies water-colour, I had never imagined that I would ever do that in glass painting - or the way Nalini works on her figures...so that part counts more for me.
- Nalini Malini : I think it was a very good experience and we learnt a lot....We realised that what Vivan was very good at was looking at a large scale and structuring that scale. He could imagine things where Bhupen's figure would fit, where my figure would fit and how the whole ground design would work.

"Splash-Images on Glass" is a follow up of this venture with the artists presenting individual as well jointly executed works.