

When we view a sunrise or a great work of art, Chitrasutra says, we experience beauty (ananda) as we let dissolve our identities and attachments; and become one with the object of beauty. It is a moment that bestows on us the grace that underlies the whole creation. Art, it said, is a liberating experience.

(excerpts from the Vishnudharmottara Purana)

While reading the verse 'Beauty' in Kahlil Gibran's *The Prophet*, I was drawn to a few lines that made me think of my aspirations as an artist.

"And beauty is not a need but an ecstasy.

It is not a mouth thirsting nor an empty hand stretched forth,

But rather a heart enflamed and a soul enchanted.

It is not the image you would see nor the song you would hear,

But rather an image you see though

FLY ON THE WALL

#5

- Manisha Gera Baswani

you close your eyes and a song you hear though you shut your ears."

And as I read further, I found the poet give a helpful hint to the one tormented by a need to define his relationship with an art work.

"People of Orphalese, beauty is life when life unveils her holy face.

But you are life and you are the veil.

Beauty is eternity gazing at itself in a mirror.

But you are eternity and you are the mirror."

In defining that relationship – one can sometimes define oneself....

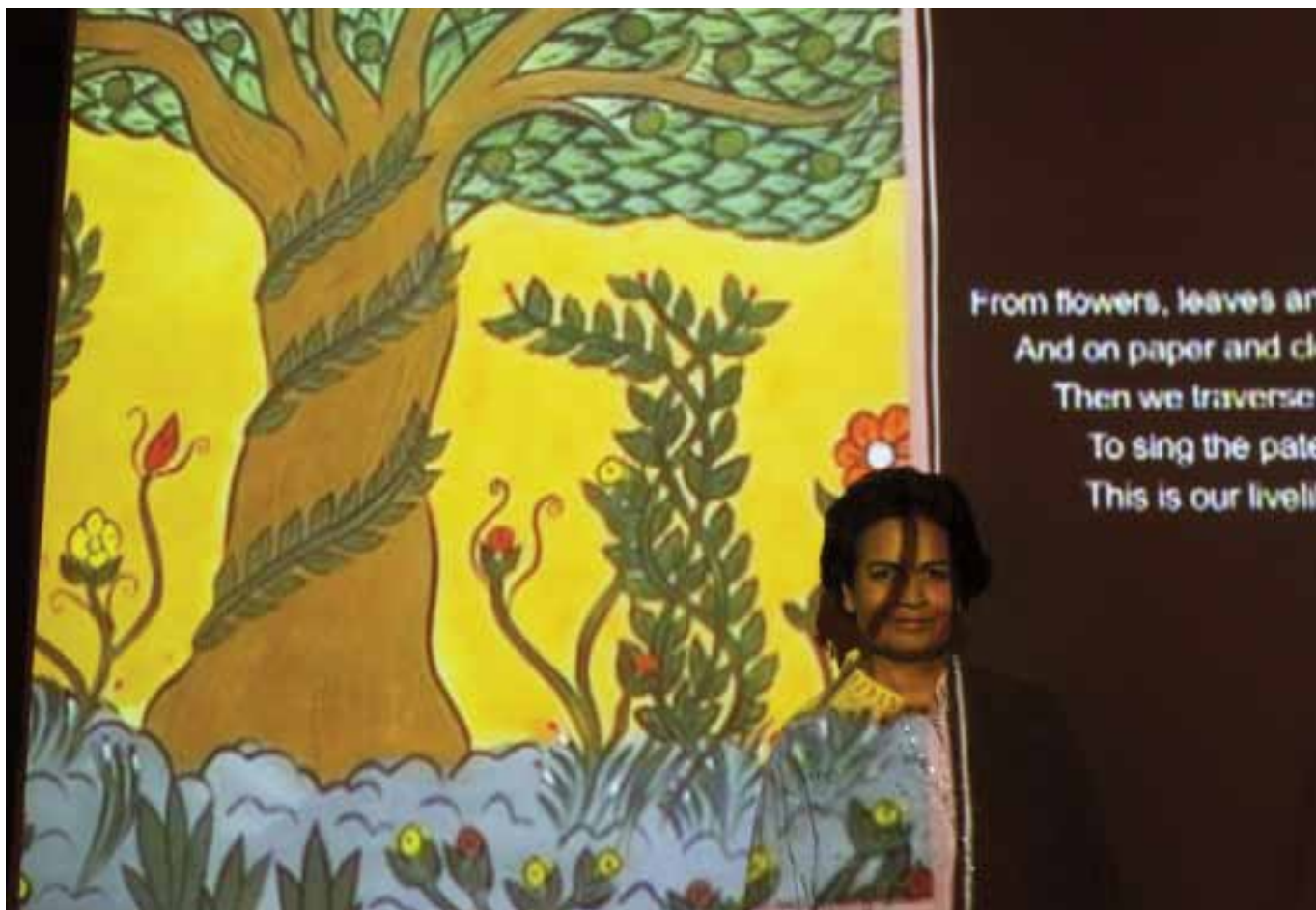
Image courtesy: Manisha Gera Baswani



Anupam Poddar at his museum The Devi Foundation



Kiran Nadar night before the unveiling of the Kiran Nadar Museum



Lekha Poddar at her museum, The Devi Foundation





Rajashree Pathy standing front of the model of her museum



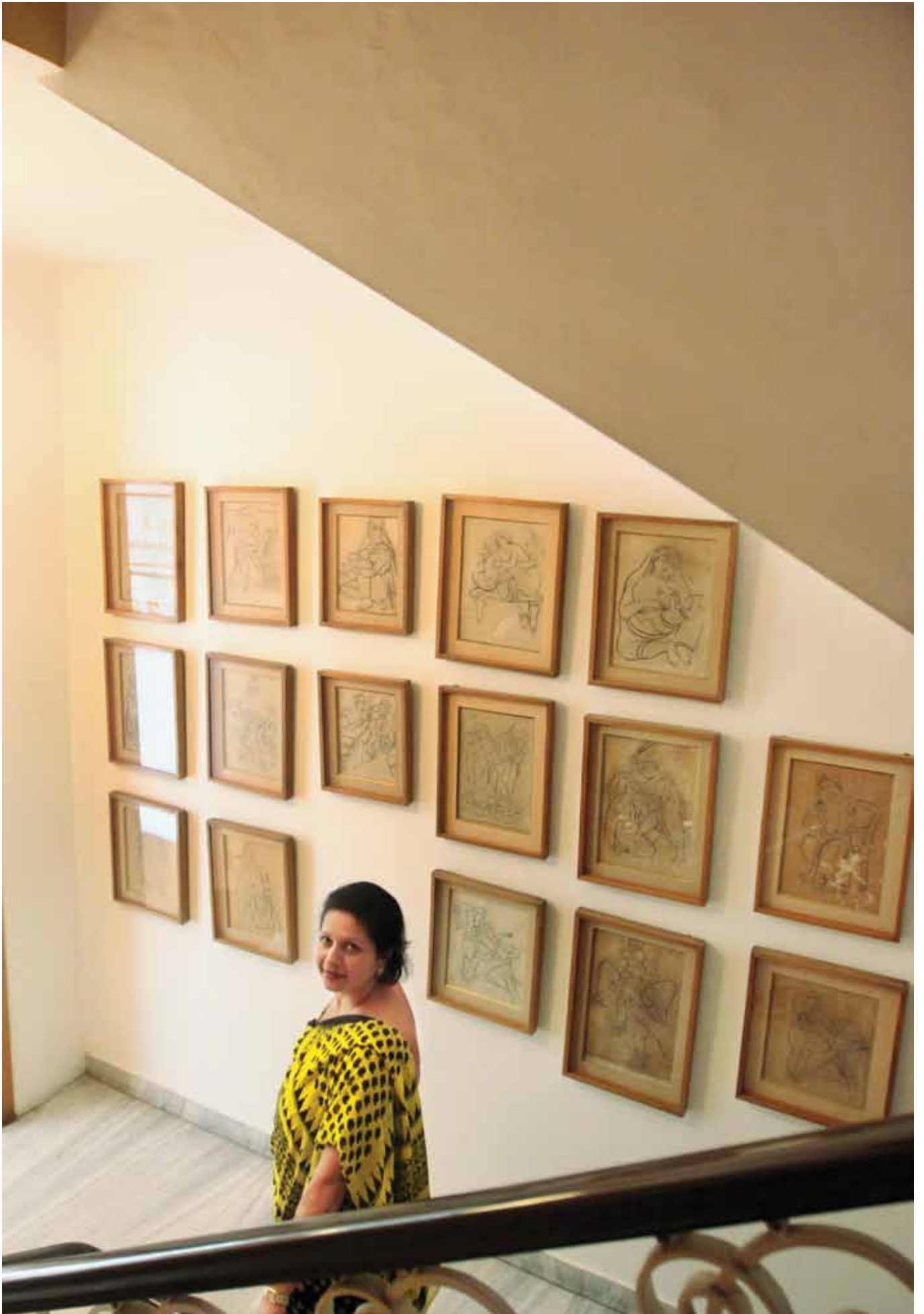
Shalini and Vivek Gupta at their house



Malvinder Singh at Ghulam Mohammed Sheikh's exhibition at Lalit Kala Akademi



Shalini Passi at her house



Priya Paul