



‘Moksha is just a state of mind’

Many people think me to be just a funny person with great humour but many fail to notice that I am a deep thinker and complex person and this fact is very much reflected in my paintings,” says artist Jenny Bhatt as she goes on to describe herself. The bubbly artist was in Delhi to meet and greet her fans on the opening day of her exhibition at Seven Art Limited Gallery.

Apparently, there are more colours in her paintings than a palette can actually hold and her personified Moksha (fulfillment), in her Moksha-Shots series titled *Episode 6: Liberation through Consumption* is sure to give a treat to your eyes, humour to your heart and a serious thought to

Artist JENNY BHATT explains the concept of fulfillment through her colourful strokes and Buddhist *thangkas*. By ADITI SAXENA

your mind. “Whenever I’m trying to convey a thing which has sad message hidden in it, I use too many colours. Nobody in this world, probably may achieve moksha so this series has to be colorful too,” says Jenny.

Defining MokshaShots, Jenny says, “It is a taste of the sublime. Each individual can make his own MokshaShot out of anything they find fulfilling, say, art, a chocolate brownie, sex or may be a tequila shot.” She further tells about her works and says, “This exhibition is for people in urban areas. We are always bombarded with media messages which, most interestingly, force the consumers to fall for the myth that fulfillment, or as we call it moksha, can be achieved if we buy certain things. This exhibition mocks at such myths and claims.”

Jenny explains one of her paintings *Moksha Buy* and says, “This painting is the star of the show and it narrates the never ending urge to possess things. Take an example of when we go

out to shop. No matter we have limited resources but we want to have everything.”

Jenny has used *thangka* — Tibetan form of painting in her works. “These paintings convey messages by Lord Buddha. I have created a consumer’s God in my paintings and have compared Buddha’s messages with the ‘assumed’ preachings by the god of consumers,” she explains.

Gulpasna, another version of moksha personified, “has been trapped by the Americanism. But the irony lies in the fact that this painting is on Indian textile, *khadi*.” “*Gulpasna* is also a character created to describe moksha. But *Gulpasna* is completely American and Bart Simpson and a can are used as elements to por-



tray Americanism,” says Jenny.

Experience of delirium from bombardment of media messages was evident from her two other painting, *Red Delirium* and *Yellow Delirium*.

“Philosophy can really bamboozle a person, when people tell you this is correct or this is not, it will really tie you up all around and you won’t know what to do next. This is personified by *Gopasana* here,” says Jenny explaining her next painting.

Jenny is a cartoonist as well but she says, “There have been a hierarchy in India, people consider comic art is inferior to paintings. I wanted to question this hierarchy. That’s why I believe in trying out different mediums.” The exhibition ends April 4.