



RANJANI SHETTAR, 34, Visual Artist

Art of the Matter

Ranjani Shettar's highly intricate sculptural installations are being featured with increasing frequency globally. In 2009, her new works shown at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art were listed among the 20 best art exhibits in the US by art web portal Artnet.com. Her works use a wide and diverse range of material from stainless steel and silicon rubber as well as local and indigenous material like muslin cloth, hand moulded beeswax and turmeric. Shettar's tendency to use everyday objects and yet create tangibly beautiful and labour intensive objects have earned her flattering comparisons to internationally acclaimed artists like Anish Kapoor and Tom Friedman.

KEEP DISTANCE She lives with artist husband Srinivas Prasad in the countryside in a town called Sagar in Shimoga district in Karnataka, away from both the art dealer as well as the often over-eager art buyer. "It was not an arbitrary decision. I am familiar

"The fact that I live in the countryside provides the more meditative approach to my work."

second opinion

"Ranjani has already gained considerable international recognition for her unique sculptural installations."

KIRAN NADAR, FOUNDER OF KIRAN NADAR MUSEUM OF ART, DELHI

with small Karnataka towns; it's where I spent my early years. I have a studio in Bangalore and travel whenever I feel the need for the stimulus that only a city can provide," she adds.

TAKE IT EASY Shettar works at a quiet and unhurried pace from the conceptualisation to the execution phase. She produces not more than four or five works every year.

THE SHOW IS ON Her work is currently in the collection of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. This year, her works were shown at the Art Tower Mito in Japan. In 2010, her works were featured in New York's Museum of Modern Art.

by Nirmala Ravindran

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