

# Art Alive Gallery

Presents

A Solo Show of the recent works of



T H O T A V A I K U N T A M

Venue	: Art Alive S – 221, Panchsheel Park New Delhi – 110017
Preview	: 29 <sup>th</sup> January, 2007
Show Dates	: 30 <sup>th</sup> January – 12 <sup>th</sup> February, 2007 (11 a.m to 7 p.m)

Thota Vaikuntam is a legend in contemporary Indian Art. His dark and dusky beauties, the Telangana women, have become icons much loved and sought after by the connoisseurs, as are his pundits and other village folk. Besides his work as a painter, Vaikuntam has also worked on film set designs and with children. There is an interesting mix of tradition and contemporaneity in his work.

A romantic at heart, Vaikuntam has mastered the art of articulating his emotions through art. Vaikuntam's paintings bear a witness to his search for the primitive, his rootedness, his love for rural life, his intimate knowledge of his subjects, and a desire to create pictures of an innocent world, untouched and uncorrupted by 'civilized' society. Vaikuntam's attachment to his rural surroundings seems to have some resonance with his first name Thota, which in Telugu means garden.

Like many of his contemporaries he has tried to seek a new inspiration in his cultural tradition and unmindful of being labeled as somewhat old fashioned he has managed to develop his own personal style. This is embodied in his paintings of Telangana beauties. His native models possess something mysterious and penetrating, not beauty in the strict sense of the word but something else, which is fascinating all the same.

There is an interesting and symbolic play of decorative elements in his work and his genius for drawing can be traced to his early works especially those symbolic of his roots in rural and rustic Telangana located in the state of Andhra Pradesh in Southern India. He has made numerous drawings of the life and people of rural Andhra, both men and women though there is a perceptible concentration of women in his later work.

The highlights of this exhibition are some of the new tonal works specially done by the artist for this show.

*For further enquiries please contact:*

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