

Dances of life

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If Paul Klee dreamt of taking a line for a walk, then Rita Blitt, an American, realizes that dream palpably and in the most exhilarating way.

On show are drawings and sculptures produced over the past five years. The works are displayed discreetly and with deference towards the viewer.

As an exhibition it is marked by consistency in conception and realization. The drawings and sculpture are interconnected.

Drawing constitutes the primary ground for Blitt's sculptures. She draws obsessively and continuously. It is a formative process by which she exteriorizes her perceptions and experiences, giving them shape and order.

The drawings show power and rhythmic movement; they also possess dimensions and qualities which dispose them towards sculptural expression.

The effortless transformation of drawing into sculpture form has been facilitated by Blitt's choice of materials and her method of work.

Steel, aluminum, acrylic sheets are ductile and malleable; they can be cut, shaped, pressed and rolled in ways that can suitably transform line into palpable, spatial forms.

Blitt explores these properties sensitively, thereby retaining and even enhancing the fluidity of movement in her sculptures.

The movement of the hand in executing drawing in the unencumbered, kinetic manner favoured by Blitt is analogous to the choreographed movement. Repeatedly, her sculpted forms simulate sensations of dance movements.

Spirit's Delight, Inspiration and Dancing are among works shown which embody the joy and exhilaration derived from ordered movement. The forms are cursive, framing space and enlivening the environment.

The line, however, is not Blitt's only interest. In a number of works collectively referred to as the Black Box series, she immerses herself in pure sculptural preoccupations, namely, spatial relationships.

She cuts the primary form into precisely shaped units which can be arranged and rearranged to constitute a variety of configurations.

Separate But Together exemplifies both the fragility and the need for continuing relationships.

One leaves this exhibition with satisfaction in having entered a world in which ideas and means have been integrated in expressions which are illuminating and elegant.