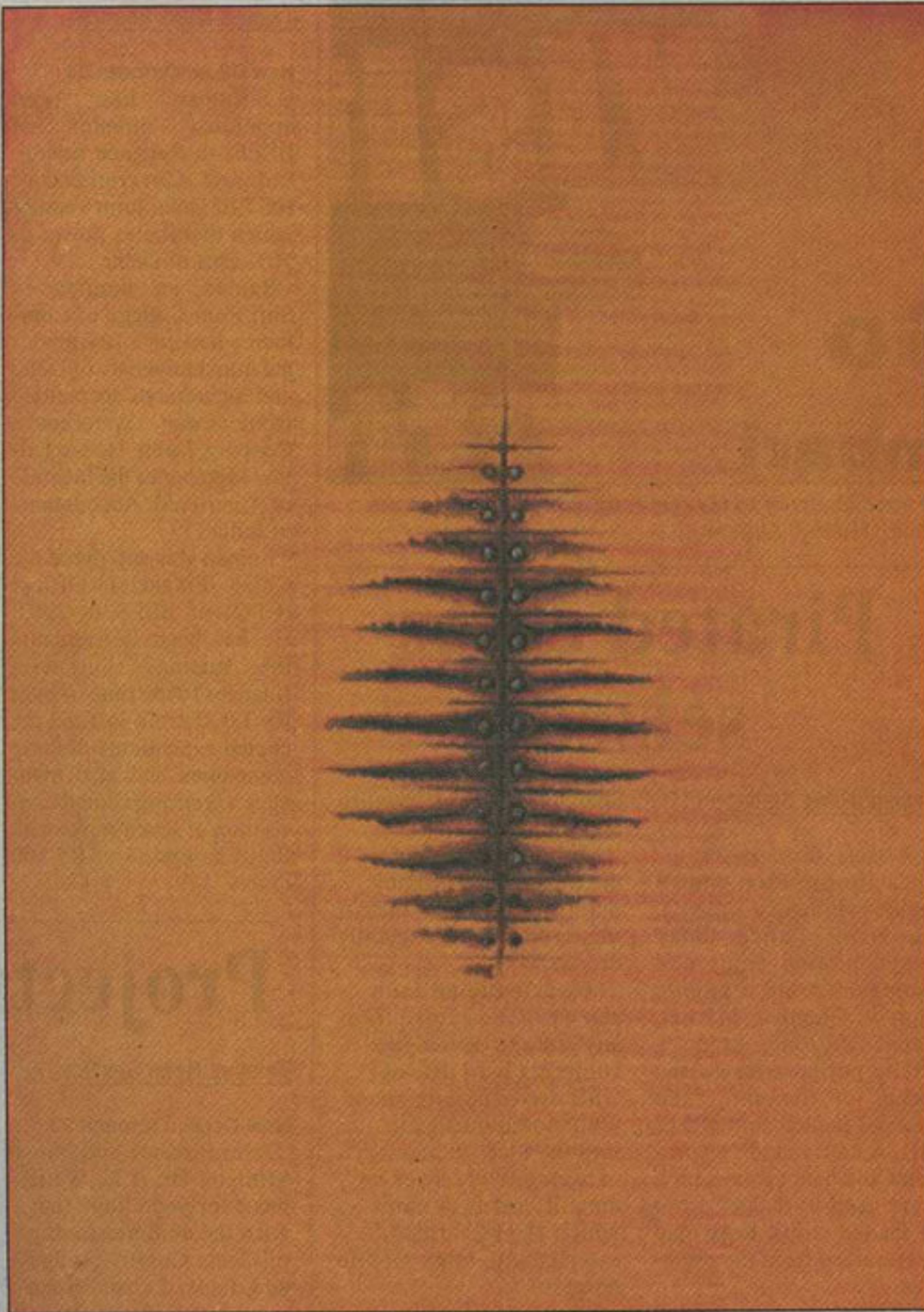


Point to infinity



Untitled-3 by Sohan Qadri

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He is among the greatest masters of art Punjab has produced and gone onto master the style of presenting signs of 'tantra vidya' which leave you mesmerized. Born in village Chachoki near

Phagwara, Sohan Qadri is probably India's greatest master who, has chosen to remain low key. A complete body of his works in his unique genre would be on show at the Kumar Gallery here from October 26.

Titled "The Moment", the exhibition of select works in inks and dyes and incisions

on paper would reflect the best of the now Copenhagen-based master-abstractonist. He was among the early abstractonists introduced by Kumar Gallery along with V.S. Gaitonde, Biren De, Ram Kumar and G.R.Santosh. This was way back in 1963 and since has remained ever true to his direction,

ever evolving and further revealing his spirit and soul in his

works. Throughout his oeuvre, Qadri reflects an intense personal journey, enhanced and inspired by the depths of his own painterly inner realm. An artist, poet and vajrayan tantrik teacher, 76-year-old Sohan Qadri loves to create symbols, which for him mean 'energy'. The essence of his paintings is energy or Shakti, which moves. He dislikes creating figurative visuals as according to him "they destroy the painting". With no formal training in art, he makes his own colours and prefers to work on paper.

Says Sunit Kumar Jain of Kumar Gallery: "Among Indian abstractonists, Sohan Qadri has an important place. He not only uses signs reminiscent of tantrik and ritual symbolism, but his colours appear to resonate with the theories of colours and their psychological effect based on the principles of an aesthetic of moods or rasas". "Moreover, the visual flowering of his works in this genre is connected with years of practising the physical and mental discipline of sufis and tantriks, with whom he came into contact in his home village. His stay in Africa, Europe and the USA over the years has added its own richness to his work. This gives him the capacity to blend the various forms of mystic ritual with an original visual expression of an artist who is today very much a "citizen of the world" as well," adds Kumar.

Perhaps the man who understood this best was the painter F.N. Souza. He had said, "There are artists. There are tantriks. There are tantrik artists. As far as I know there are no tantrik yogis who are artists as well. Sohan Qadri is an exception".