

Tantra in dots

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Artist Sohan Qadri's works have an element of mystery in them with a centric dot surrounded by layers of colour. Qadri allows colours to percolate through the thick hand made paper he paints on.

Says he, "These are heavy and very thick artisanal paper that I specially prepare to absorb the dyes with glycerin, shella and inks etc. The colours are bright and transparent and I use textile dyes as other artisans do."

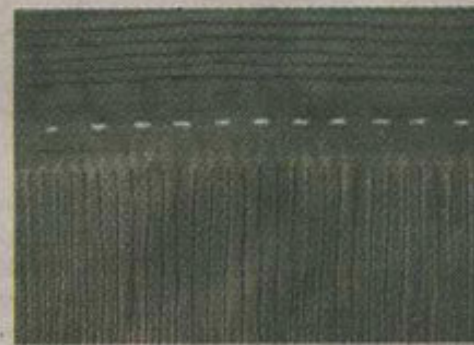
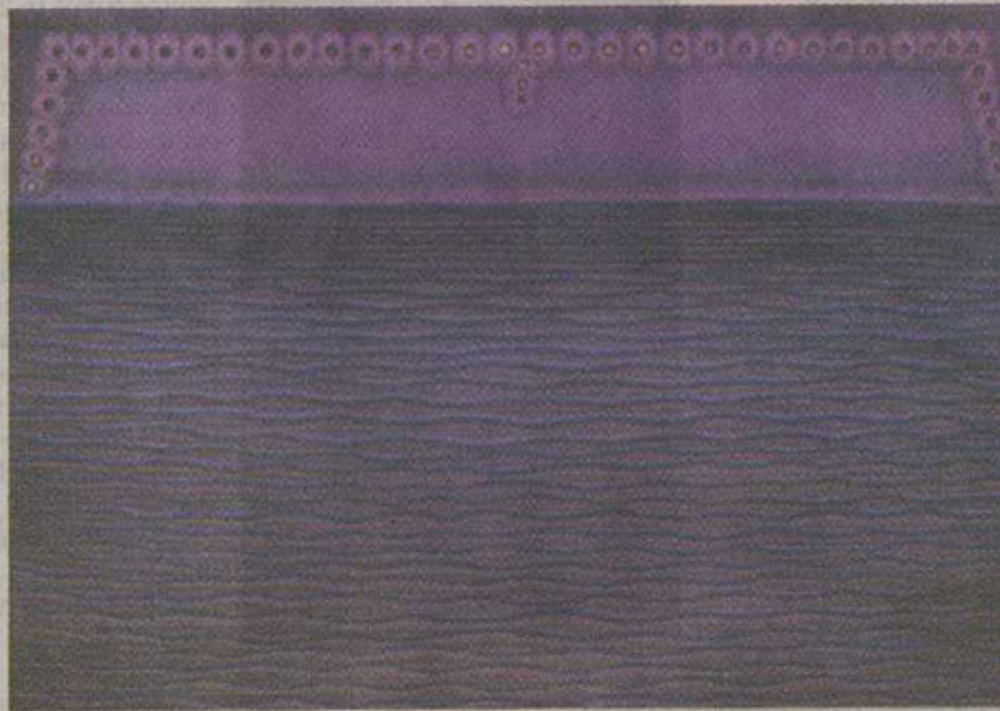
His paintings have been observed by FN Souza as a symbolic representation of the Kundalini, the "serpent power" or *shakti*, whereas, common people enjoy them as a pure form of art with mere abstract forms and colours.

Though Qadri is in Copenhagen, he provides his fans a glimpse into his latest paintings at Kumar Art Gallery titled *The moment*.

As per the title, paintings represent moments of time through the dots. Known as a great philosopher and tantrik sage, Qadri brings out the human journey compiled of various moments on canvas. In his own words, the moment is neither mine nor yours, it is the moment's.

Says Qadri, "The dots signify emptiness which bring the space behind the canvas to the forefront. The designs, beautiful patterns, the lines, circles, holes are important in visual images. It is the geometry of verticality and horizontality. I'm vertical because the spine is vertical, *samsara* (world) is horizontal and if we become oblique it's psychedelic. This creates sensation not silence."

The curator Sunit Kumar Jain finds seamless spirituality in his paintings and a source to destroy ignorance and evil around us. "Though Qadri is not with us to explain himself what do his paintings convey, but his works maintain a love for spirituality. He starts with a dot and ends then with one. Everything



according to him ends at the same level from where it all started. No matter what angle you choose to look at his work from, it reveals mysticism," says Jain.

Qadri's abstract work speaks of

the infinite possibilities in space and time. Keshav Malik once said that Qadri's work is not a "done thing" — that is perhaps brought into being by an inner experience that comes after years of contemplation. Call them *bindus* or *yonis*, the dots represent an alternative harmony of form and texture.

Over the years, his works have gone through a form of distillation. Colours have become light and line also forms an important part of his paintings in differentiating the dots. For his dot series, Qadri writes, "I am a dot/ born out of the dot/ passing by the dots/ dying into the dot." His paintings are on display till tomorrow.