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## Near-death, Bollywood color artist's life

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A near-death experience while battling an illness convinced Saumi Nandy that life does not give a second chance.

Then a Bollywood film showed the Non Resident Indian how she should spend her short life on earth happily.

The California-based management graduate, who left a lucrative job in a transnational firm to pursue her calling in art, was in Kolkata for a



painting exhibition to explore the transience of life where hope lingers on.



Last year, Nandy had spent a month on a hospital bed after a cardiac arrest. While convalescing, she watched the film, “Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara,” (there is no second chance in life).

She recalled that the experience in the hospital was “a journey almost from death to life and the paintings reflected the reality when I was down with a major illness.”

The film, she added, helped put color back on the canvas of her life. What helped her were the painting lesions she had taken in Kolkata for 12 years before going overseas.

Zoya Akhtar’s multi-starrer film tells the story of three friends who break free of their phobias during an adventure vacation in Spain.

“I watched it twice as I believe in the underlying philosophy of the film. It ended up influencing my work and inspiring me to spend my short life happily as life doesn’t give you a second chance,” she recalled while talking to the Press Trust of India.

The film used adventures as physical metaphors for liberation of the spirit to solve real-life issues.

Nandy’s work in abstract non-figurative style makes space, time, experience with people and places shed their inhibitions and form the mosaic of life. Strong and bold, her colors on the canvas symbolize life, passion, sadness, tinged with hope.

In one painting, she adopts an eco-friendly theme and uses the deadly insect scorpion to represent the human race that uses its intelligence to harm this planet.

“We pollute the earth, atmosphere and water bodies with toxic industrial waste and byproducts. But the painting still hopes that one day we will stop this heinous act of self destruction,” Nandy said.

Eminent painter Jogen Chaudhary opened the weeklong exhibition ‘Image Within Image’ that closed yesterday at The Academy of Fine Arts.

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