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NRI painter inspired by near-death experience

Strong and bold, Saumi Nandy's colours on the canvas symbolise life, passion, sadness, tinged with hope

Fighting a cardiac arrest that nearly took her life as she lay on a hospital bed for a month, but after recovering she took a cue from Bollywood film *Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara* to put colour back on the canvas of life.

California-based management graduate Saumi Nandy, who left a lucrative MNC job to pursue her calling in art, is holding a painting exhibition in the city to explore the transitory life where hope lingers on.

"It is a journey almost from death to life and the paintings reflected the reality when I was down with a major illness last year," she told PTI.

When she started giving life to her visions, she came across Zoya Akhtar's multi-starrer film *Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara*, where three buddies break free of the biggest phobias of their lives during an adventure vacation in Spain.

Inspired by Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara

"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 life happily as life doesn't give you a second chance," said the artist, who took painting lessons for 12 years in the city.

Through her abstract non-figurative style, Nandy's work makes space, time, experiences with people and places shed their inhibitions and form the mosaic of life.

Strong and bold, her colours on the canvas symbolise life, passion, sadness, tinged with hope.

In one of her works, she adopts an eco-friendly theme and uses the deadly scorpion to represent the human race which is using its intelligence to harm nature on this planet.

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

Eminent painter Jogen Chaudhary had inaugurated her week-long exhibition 'Image Within Image'. - PTI

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