

Kaleidoscope of mysticism

GOLD is the colour of mysticism, and so is the theme of Ece Clarke's works of art. If 'regal' is what comes to your mind when you step into the Al Bida Gallery, you have been questioning life too: nature, the universe, infinity, eternity... art.

Clarke, who is of Turkish origin, like every artist has been looking for meaning in life through art. But unlike other artists, she seems to be reaching out to the universe. Two years of sheer search has finally culminated in the exhibition organised by the National Council for Culture, Arts and Heritage.

And if you see a progress from nothingness to a glimmering shadow in nothingness, you are in sync with Clarke and her thoughts.

Through layers of texture – coarse and fine – and colourful hues of gold and silver, Clarke contemplates infinity and eternity. Mysticism, she believes, should allow us to see beyond the limits of our eyes. And dare we say, the sparkle in Clarke's eyes seems to have found a path that leads there.

Chrome is the medium of her art, where quick insights are displayed through vibrant spots. Glimmering through gold dust and silver specks of dust comes the vision. "The stark beauty of the galaxies which demonstrate the extraordinary beauty of physics in nature," she explains.

There is never a dull moment in her painting, for time never stands still for her. The swish of



The finite and the eternal: There is never a dull moment in Ece Clarke's paintings.

brush, takes her through the universe, but there is no hurry. There is a set pace, there is still time, nev-

ertheless infinity beckons, and one can't stop either.

Infinity, for Clarke, is like an eternal beacon, shining through the void, pulling her toward her destiny.

"Time has a shape and colour in my mind, which moves across the canvas, leaving a trail behind," says Clarke, simplifying the paintings for the layman. Exchange a few words with her and the exhibition opens up like a book. Her art is very simple in its complexity.

She attempts to capture the various forms – perceived, analysed, contemplated – and translates them with colours, in the form of geometry and art on a backdrop drawn from nature and cosmos. "The interconnection between these, the junction between man, nature and the universe is the bridge between the finite and the eternal," points out Clarke.

There are also impressions of calligraphy in some, the after-effects of her last exhibition, where she examined ideas and shapes found in Arabic writings, in Islam.

If it's time to connect to the world within and beyond, it's time to take a tour around the Al Bida gallery – a stairway to Clarke's mystical land.

— CPA

The exhibition is on at the Al Bida Gallery, Doha, till January 29, 2002.



Footsteps to eternity? One of Clarke's mystical endeavours