

Women on Top

A show of nine women artists is quite the Diwali delight this week



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A group show of women artists, presumably talented, seems so '70s that one is tempted to be cynical. But The Viewing Room, thanks to the encouragement of Niyatee Shinde and the curatorial skills of Veeranganakumari Solanki, has cobbled together *Nine: The Magic Square*, the sum of whose parts adds up to quite a dazzle.

Pakistani artist Farida Batool's *And She Wondered* truly has you wrapped around her fingers as a laminated

mirage reveals an undulating bare midriff at a different angle each time as you walk about it: a sexy, shimmering chimera, this show-stopper should be adorning your living room if you can afford it.

Niyeti Chadha's works is a tribute to origami, drawing attention to the delicate craft of minimal finesse, while Debasree Das embroiders an intelligent synthesis of modernity and traditional art forms: a traffic jam in a township surrounded by hills, fringing which is a floral hedge, is indeed well-stitched. Prajakta Potnis's domestic delirium is something we've seen before, but a Johnson ear bud getting too malignant

for its own good is just the creepy interlude that makes *Nine* a ten on ten. Despite the overload of neon in recent times, Chila Kumari Burman is quite the *sada suhagan*; her pop art is replete with *bindis* and complements well Jenny Bhatt's fluorescent flourishes.

Yet much of *Nine: The Magic Square* needs to be experienced. How beautifully it is arranged is as crucial as the spark of femininity that lights up its walls.

The show is exhibiting at The Viewing Room, Elysium Mansion, 4th Floor, Walton Road, Colaba Causeway.
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