

**THEATRE:** IHC will screen *One Night Somewhere*, written and directed by Raj Kumar. On December 30, at 7 pm At India Habitat Centre

# Casual objects hide unusual beauty

AKSHAY SINGH | NEW DELHI

**A**n exhibition titled "Denied ready-mades (space, gaps & stacks)" by Avantika Bawa opened at the Lalit Kala Academy on Sunday. Avantika Bawa is a visual artist and curator based in Savannah, Georgia.

The exhibition features installations, sculptures and art of things which are in the backdrop of our daily lives like stools and ladders. They are poetically exhibited in both two and three dimensions. The artist has also used the gallery space and lighting to accentuate her work.

Throwing caution to the wind, the exhibition may not fit into the itinerary of the capital's average art aficionado. It is an unconventional work by an unconventional artist.

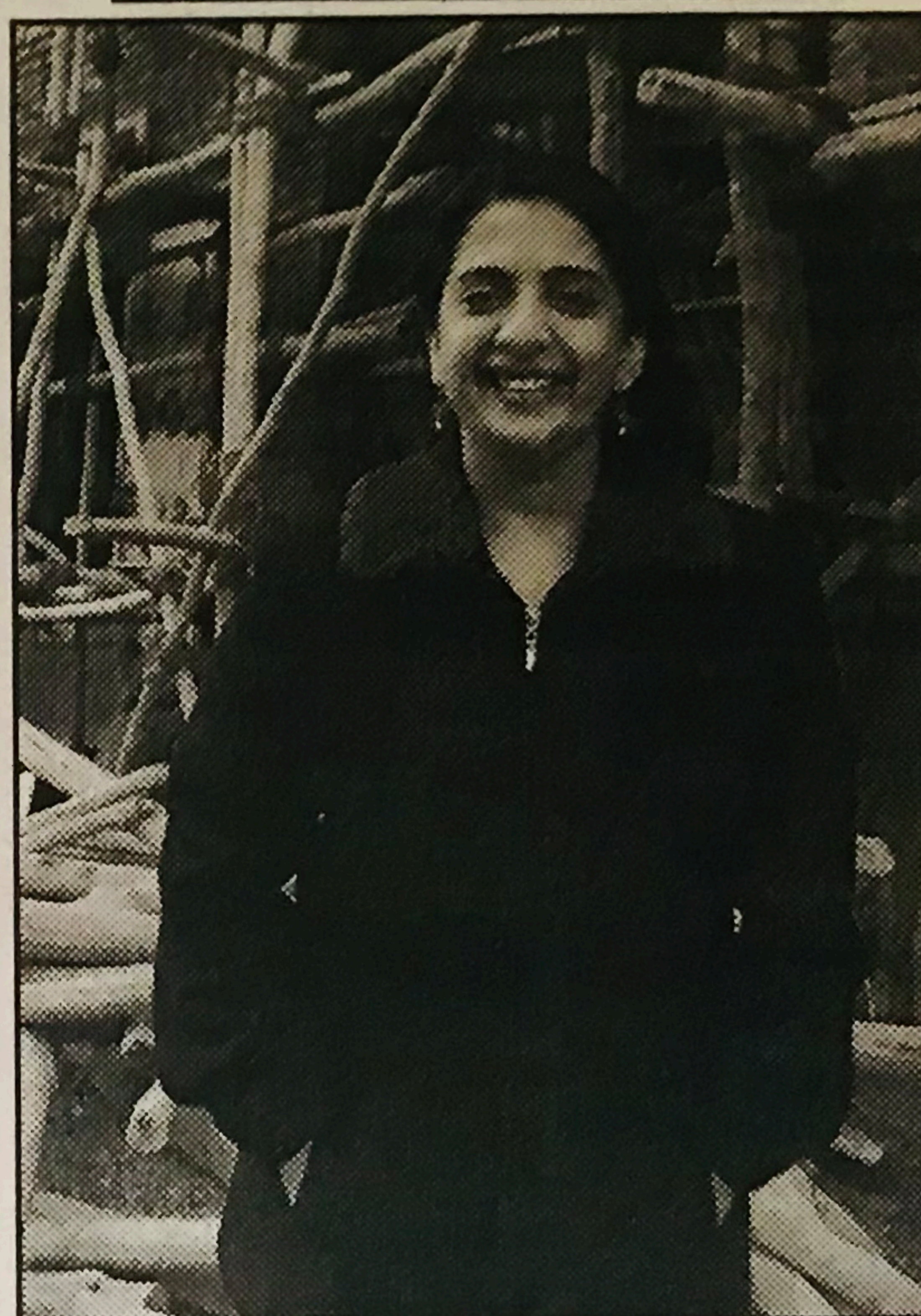
Consider this: Her work features minimal use of colour, is least driven by the accepted influences of landscapes and culture and there are no deep layers in it for the viewer to uncover. And its strength may just lie there.

"My work should be taken for its face value. There are no hidden messages," says Bawa, adding, "It's the lines and spaces which are in-between that get me going. I am influenced by my environments, the ones which are much more personal. It could be the way a roll of tissue paper unrolls or the lines on the bricks of my wall. I find an immense level of beauty in the symmetry and uniformity of things."

Coming from a Navy family, Bawa grew up in an ever-changing world before settling down to finish her high school at the Lawrence School, Sanawar at the age of 16. "Travelling which was omnipresent in the family shaped and moulded my sensibilities," says Bawa.

The exhibition is also the artist's first

## Passing Through

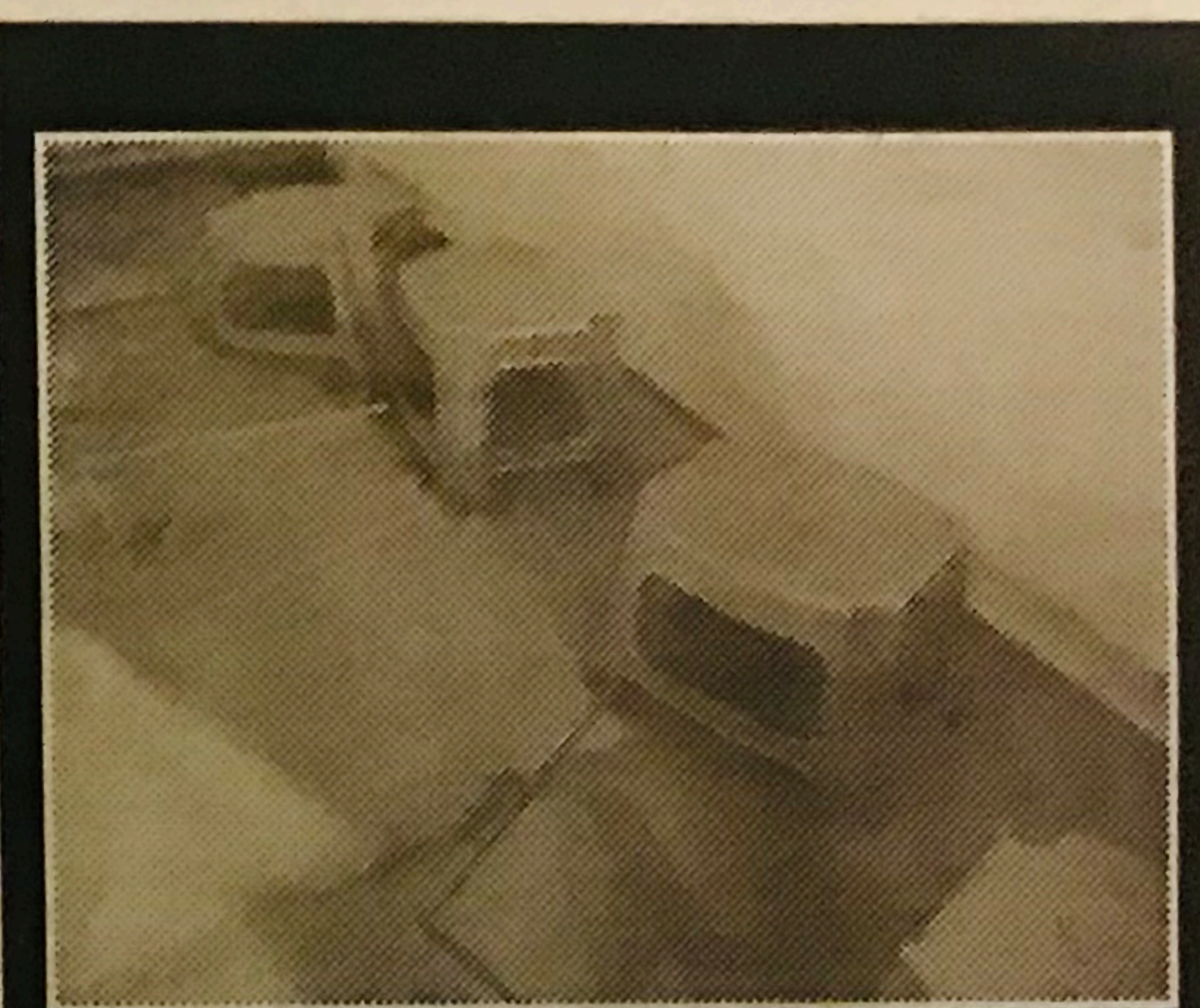


Artist Avantika Bawa was in the capital on Sunday. A photograph by Biplab Banerjee

work in the country since 12 years and has exhibited in Canada, USA and France amongst other countries. Alongwith being an editor of *Drain*, journal of contemporary art and culture, Bawa teaches in the Foundations department of the Savannah College Art and Design.

On inquiring whether the exhibits were on sale, Bawa quips in her atypical way, "It's art for art's sake."

The exhibition is on at the Lalit Kala Academy till December 29



(Above, right) Stools and ladders by Avantika Bawa. (Below) Chairs by the artist

