

Drawings get a travel bag

AS EXHIBITIONS go, this one is different. It is a travelling show which builds on exhibitions held earlier to present contemporary works from both the East and the West. But more than anything else, it is an invitation to the artist in each one of us to test our drawing skills on paper.

For Avantika Bawa, a professor at Savannah College of Art and Design, it all began as a small idea. A frequent traveller to India, she was requested by her friends to carry their art and exhibit it in a country which they knew would have a different reaction to works like theirs.

"Carry on Drawing" has now become a movement attempting to bring contemporary art and artists from the East and the West together. "The intention of my venture is to travel, draw, interact, create a dialogue with the expected and the unexpected, and exhibit without any restrictions."

The works in Avantika's show are by artists who are drawn from diverse creative fields. The growing list of artists who form part of her special travel bag includes Craig Drennen, Sandra Burke, Kevin Has, Marcus Bjernerup, Kriti Arora, Harpreet Singh, Sandeep Kopra, Somen Das....

"I thought the project would end. But the list keeps growing. We have artists from Baroda, Bangalore and many other cities in India who have contributed their works to the travelling show," says Avantika, whose mobile exhibition is presently on at India Habitat Centre in New Delhi.

The show, which is transported in a specially created travel bag, is actually a two-part project. While part-one involves exhibiting works by artists from the US and Europe in India, part-two



'Carry on Drawing' on display at Forsyth park, Savannah, Georgia, USA

involves taking a set of works by contemporary artists to the West. "My aim is to compel the audience to re-evaluate the role and definition of drawing in the contemporary art world," she says.

Interestingly, Avantika also keeps a drawing book at her exhibitions where people are invited to draw. "I have two complete books of drawings with me and now people are drawing on the third one," she says, adding that she plans to exhibit these drawings

separately in future.

Needless to say, her exhibitions are always a big draw wherever they are held. One American film-maker decided to use the 16 mm screen as his canvas. "We have now documented the audience's interaction and a 10-minute video is also an integral part of my show."

The travelling show is here in the Capital till December 14.

By K. Kannan