

LINE BY LINE
An Exhibition of Drawings
by Sudhir Patwardhan

I believe drawing is primary to my artistic practice, as indeed it is for many artists. It has three different roles to play - as sketch, as preparatory drawing and as finished, independent drawing. In the sketch book ideas get their first formulation. More structured preparatory drawings become the foundation of paintings. And because of drawing's directness, one can say things in it that are difficult to say in painting. These become independent drawings.

Pages from sketch books, a large preparatory drawing done for a mural sized painting, and independent drawings - all these three aspects are represented in this exhibition. Exhibiting sketch books is difficult. Therefore selected images from the sketch books are being shown on four screens. The sketch books date from the mid seventies till today, and the images are arranged in decades. The purpose is to conveniently share this primary level of drawing activity with viewers.

The large preparatory drawing in seven panels was made for the painting 'Mumbai Proverbs'. It is about the city of Mumbai as I have experienced it over the last forty years; a kind of historical chronicle. The drawing is of the same size as the painting.

The independent drawings have been done in the past six to seven years. They speak of many different experiences. The image of the human body has been a constant preoccupation with me. The single human figure under different conditions of stress - social, domestic and existential, is a recurring subject. Other, related subjects include the urban and suburban environment, home, illness, and the relationships between people. I do believe that because of the directness and bareness of the drawing activity, things can get said in drawing that may escape the more layered and complex processes of painting.

Sudhir Patwardhan