

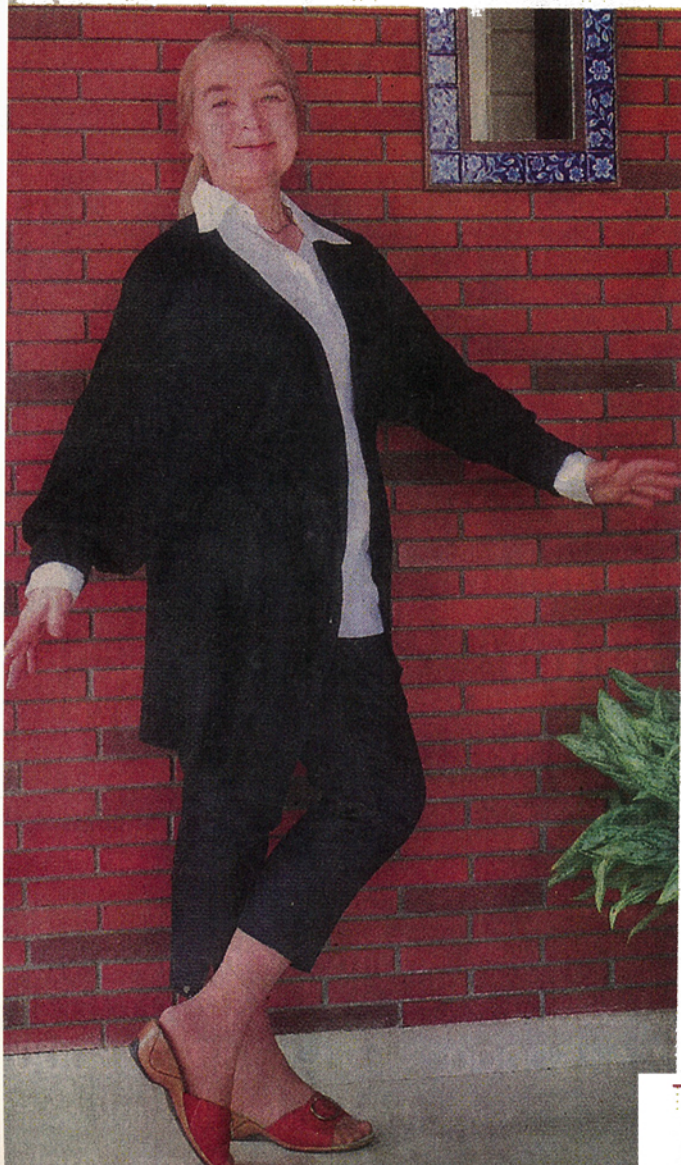
Lifestyle

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Russian-Swedish painter Anna Rochegova is in the city with a few of her remarkable paintings,

BRUSH with genius

Photo: S Chandan



■ Mona

It was a childhood dream to come to India," says Anna Rochegova, a celebrated Russian-Swedish painter, in the city on a personal visit. Comfortable at her host and friend Geeta Singh's residence in Sector 10 that has few of her remarkable paintings, Anna calls her association with India a 'fairytale'.

"India has always been a mystery to me. Having my paintings in an Indian home is so very special to me," shares Anna.

Daughter of an eminent painter Maria Engelke and well-known architect Alexander Rochegov, Anna inherited art. "My mother was painting a mural in one of the skyscraper in Moscow when she was pregnant. I got it in my genes, I guess," she shares softly.

Anna's works are a fine combination of heart and logic. "I paint, as I cannot but paint. I paint when an idea or image has seized me so strongly that it is necessary for me to let it out," Anna avers. After the surge of emotions, Anna analyses why a particular scene has moved her so much, and it's only after this that her work begins.

Her works span through three stages of her life — living in Russia (she was there till she turned 39),

time with her Swedish husband Lars Cederholm in their New York pad and then in Sweden.

"I did not have the experience of painting a vast sea till we settled in Lars' home country," says Anna.

A painter of nature, she is moved largely by the beauties of the sand, sea and light that her Swedish home offers. The very 'pearly' light that covers the Baltic Sea lends her work a mystic touch.

Her works — NYC 2000, Autumn in Catskills (1996) and From the Roof (1998) — have a life of their own.

Apart from paintings, Anna has done amazing murals in the Soviet Embassy in Cuba, Dmitrievsky Cathedral at Rostov Velikiy and Christ the Saviour Cathedral in Moscow. The very mural that her mother was painting when Anna was born in Leningradskay hotel at Moscow has become national heritage today.

Being a practising Buddhist, Anna has painted murals along with her teachers in monasteries in India as well as the US. Reflecting Ganga River, Stairs to the Ganga - are her reflections of the country that she has vastly travelled.

"Good art can take people to the spiritual level. When someone is able to relate to my work, it is truly precious for me," she avers.

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