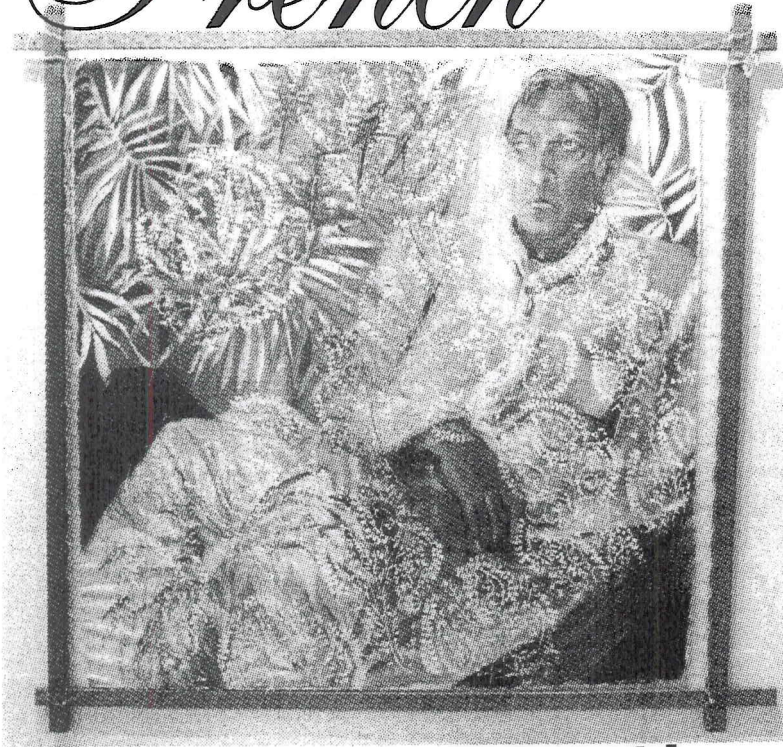


THE TRIBUNE

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French



connection

When one hears of foreign artists doing work on India, one would naturally expect to see poverty-stricken, wrinkled faces in the frames. But Marion Colomer is different. This 25-year-old French artist who is now almost an integral

part of Indian art scene likes to capture India in different hues, through the faces of common men as well as celebrities and she makes them come across as mysterious yet happy people.

So, in her 11 portraits on display at the Alliance Art Gallery-36 one gets to

see familiar faces like Nawab Pataudi, Aleek Padamsee and the likes and also prince and princesses of the royal families across the country. Well, after all, she is known as an 'official painter', with an emphasis on the settings and symbols of power'.

Marion, who studied painting, lithography and photography in ENSBA-Paris (France's top art school), made her presence felt here with her exhibition, India of the Thousand Faces at India Habitat Centre-New Delhi way back in 2004. For that exhibition she painted the faces of men living in Malviya Nagar, her neighbourhood.

The artist, who now spends nine months in India and the rest of the time in Paris blends French culture with Indian sensitivity. And she does that by integrating real embroidery in her paintings. Reminds one of Raja Ravi Varma who use to dress his goddesses in Kanchivaram saris and real jewellery. Marion's embroidery constitutes a bridge between Indian and French culture as she picks up motifs from French haute couture and typical motifs inlaid in Pahari miniatures. Floral patterns, either in the foreground or the background, make for another element present almost in all her frames. To quote the artist, "I want to create living portraits, full of contrasts, representing India in the 21st century." —TNS

On till October 3

Meet the Artist

The French Embassy in India and the Alliance Francaise de Chandigarh in collaboration with the Chandigarh Lalit Kala Akademi will present the artist on September 29 for a slide show at the auditorium of the Government Museum and Art Gallery-10.