

Royalty and Indian designers come alive in this French artist's gallery of portraits

FACE BOOK

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THOMAS LEBON

FREEZE FRAME: Marion Colomer with her portraits of Abu Jani and Sandeep Khosla (left) and Gaurav Gupta

ANUSHREE MAJUMDAR
FRENCH portrait artist Marion Colomer has been in and out of Delhi for over four years now. The 25-year-old has just put together a magnificent collection of portraits of some famous Indians. The exhibition titled "Portraits

2007" is on at Alliance Francaise. "When I go back to France, I'll miss the energy here," smiles Colomer, fresh and resplendent in a summery blue dress. The collection of portraits include that of the Nawab of Pataudi, actor Kirron Kher and theatre person and ad guru Alyque Padamsee and others

from various creative fields. Colomer's first portrait in India was of her neighbours in Malviya Nagar. Soon after, she travelled across India, exploring cities and scouting for subjects before zeroing in on famous people to capture on canvas. Right from royalty to Bollywood, Colomer has put together an in-

teresting collection using different methods. "I first request the personality and explain what I want to do. If they agree, I interview them for about two hours and sketch them. I also take photographs of them and their surroundings that will help me recreate that atmosphere in my

work," says Colomer. She chooses square frames for her works as opposed to the traditional long and narrow frames as this allows her to incorporate more background and the identity of the subject. Colomer has collaborated with Didier and Hemant of Lecoanet Hemant India Pvt.Ltd and worked with their embroiders to recreate a rich and textured canvas. And sometimes, her subjects choose to participate as well, as designer Gaurav Gupta has for his portrait. Colomer says she isn't finished yet, as she is eager to paint the Bachchan family and tour the country with her exhibition.

The exhibition is on at Galerie Romain Rolland, Alliance Francaise, till March 21

