

RECITAL: Hindustani classical vocal by Shanti Sharma, well-known artiste of the Kirana *gharana*. Accompanists: Prasun Chatterjee (tabla) and Jayram Potdar (harmonium). In collaboration with Vasant Kala Vilas. On April 1. At 6.30 pm. At the India International Centre

Posters trace women's movement

NAWAID ANJUM | NEW DELHI

*Hum to thehre ajnabi
Kitni mulaqaton ke baad
Khoon ke dhabbe dhulenge
Kitni barsaaton ke baad*

*(We are still considered strangers
After so many meetings,
The stains of blood will be wiped
After how many rains)*

That is famous Urdu poet Faiz Ahmed Faiz's lines on polarised identities scrawled on a poster at the on-going "Poster Women," an exhibition of posters from the women's movement in India, organised by Zubaan, an associate of Kali for Women at the Lalit Kala Akademy.

The show, which brings together about 200 posters on a variety of issues pertaining to women, is the part of Zubaan's project to "document the rich and multi-layered history of the movement" by making a selection of posters created for particular campaigns across the country.

"We have been interested in women's movement in India. One of the important ways to trace the history of the movement is through visuals and photographs. These posters carry very interesting aspects of the movement at various stages," says Urvashi Butalia, founder of Zubaan.

The posters range from campaigns against violence against women, rape, dowry, child abuse and sexual harassment. A poster by



Vimocha, forum for women's rights, reads: "Violence against women is a silent war. Women breaking the silence refuse all forms of violation inside and outside our homes."

There are some others which point towards literacy, equal rights and opportunities for women. "There are some posters which we initially did not set out to collect. But, in the process of zeroing in on such images that fitted the theme of the show, we selected them," says Urvashi. She adds that around



170 groups across the country have participated in the exhibition.

Zubaan also plans to bring out a pictorial book, compiling these posters, which will be released by the end of the year.

(The show is on till April 5)



(Left) Founder of Zubaan Urvashi Butalia.

(Top left, right) Posters depicting the movement.

Photographs by Randeep Singh