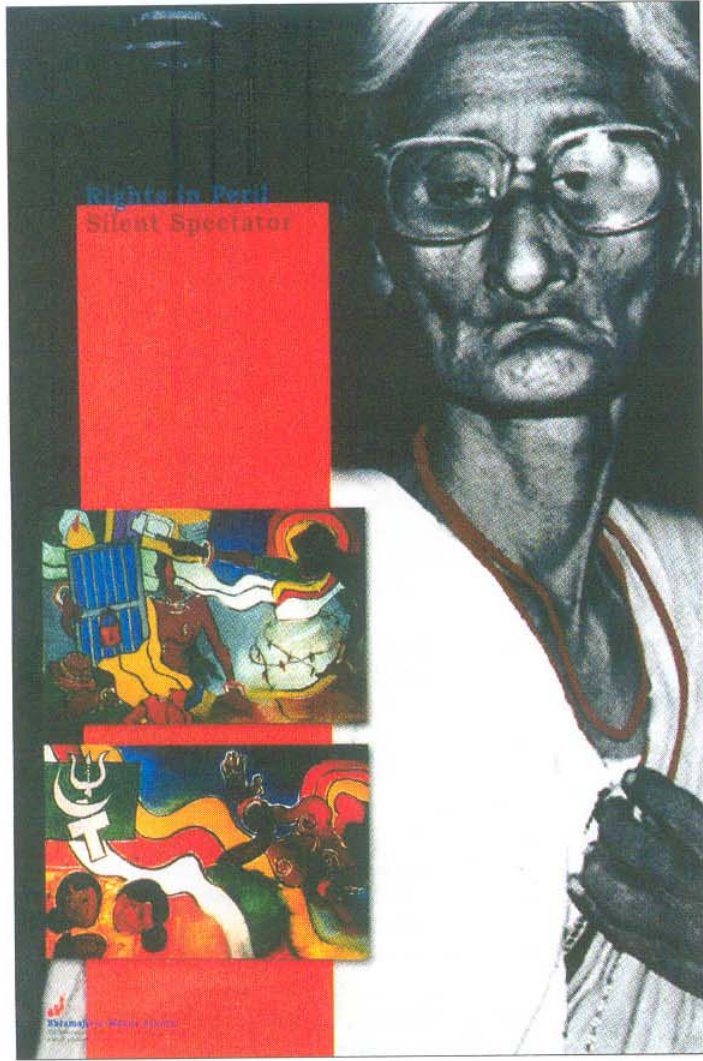


Poster Women The women's movement at the Lalit Kala Akademi



THE WORLD FOR women has changed in the past thirty years. Struggles have been fought, battles won and lost, campaigns launched and sustained. Over the past year of Lalit Kala Akademi Zubaan—the publishing house that was born out of Lalit Kala Akademi's first feminist publisher, Kali for Women—has been collecting posters from all over the country to put together a major exhibition, *Poster Women*, that opens on 24th March at Lalit Kala Akademi and is travelling around the country and abroad.

“We wanted to document the most vibrant and dynamic moments of the Indian women’s movement,” explains Zubaan’s Urvashi Bhatnagar. “It’s really the first time this material has been archived and made available to be played.” Focusing on key campaigns, Zubaan has collected posters from all over the country. Some are hand-painted, others are printed. Some are stark, others intricate; some by well-known artists, others by untutored hands of women activists; some are examples of tribal and folk art, others more sophisticated. To look at them is to imagine those moments of women coming together to speak up in another way. A real and powerful world where women have expressed themselves through colors, words, languages and images. The exhibition mirrors the politics and perspectives of the Indian women’s movement from the 70s to the present day.

Many of the issues are tough and the images stark but the women’s movement is also about celebration, colour and joy. The image of the woman as a many-armed Goddess occurs frequently. Posters celebrating women’s strength in holding up half (or more!) of the world. These images remain in the mind’s eye. {Sre...

Where Lalit Kala Akademi, Rabindra Bhavan, Ferozeshah Road (23381933) **When** March 24-

ON DISPLAY



The campaigns

It will showcase a selection of posters focusing on selected campaigns including the campaign against rape, dowry, violence against women, and marginalization; and the campaigns for political participation, literacy, environment, basic rights, and the freedom of religion.

The numbers

More than 200 groups, organizations, movements or individuals from across the country have contributed over 1500 posters, nearly 200 of which will be presented in the exhibition.

The big picture

The ephemeral nature of campaign posters,



often lost, destroyed, discarded, has been at least partially retrieved in this path-breaking project. The entire collection will be put on CD-ROMs and later archived with SPARCROW, Mumbai. This will also be a book to be published by Zubaan, which is something to look forward to.