

tantric
image
in
my
painting-

prof. s. b. palsikar-

Tantra as a science of the mind through which the energies of the human mind could be directed for the betterment of humanity, is an established fact. But it has been invariably misunderstood in the land of its origin, either for the reason that it is too obvious or the total lack of comprehension. However its place in the Vedic texts is undeniably firm.

Today we know that the faith in the Vedas is dwindling due to the pre-eminence of material demands of the time in which we live. Materialism borrowed from the west has taught us nothing but the quest of the pleasurable.

I do not claim to be the master of this science, but I do claim by dint of my personal experience that if Tantra and its relation to the human mind is understood in its totality, I am sure that it is capable of achieving astounding feats for the good of humanity.

Creative art is an outcome of the mind that is controlled, and such disciplined mind can fathom any depth beyond the range of visual world. This belief has compelled me to experiment through the Tantric images (not as Tantric Art) to arrive at an aesthetic image, which is the main concern of painting. It is needless to say here that image making is the very basis of all visual arts.

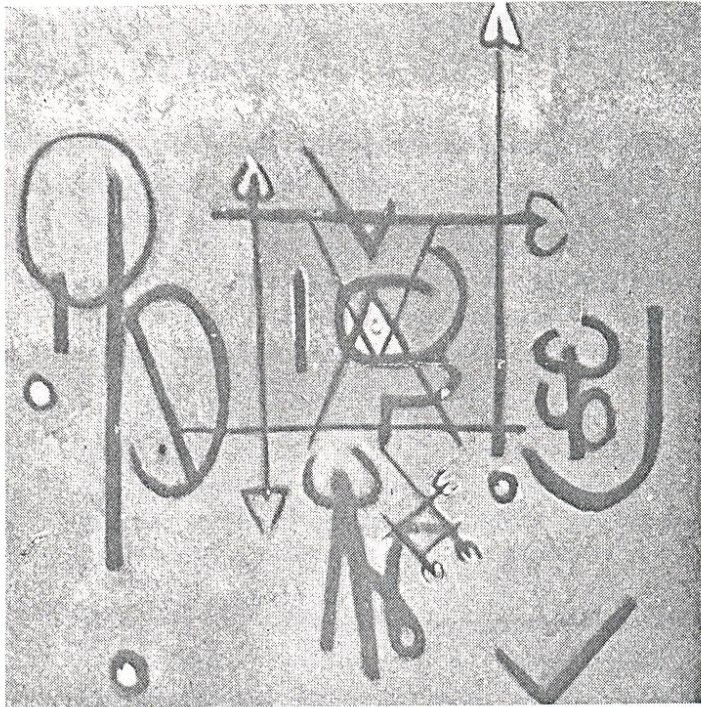
Tantric image is mostly concerned with

Yantra which is followed by basic sound symbols to make Yantra more effective. Sound is further symbolised by words, and these symbolic words in the hands of the adept and the initiated forms the potential material for Tantra. The whole imagery thus derived is abstract and directs towards the absolute. As a painter I found that the word symbol supported by definite colour application would reveal convincing image through my recent paintings.

Success or failure are only arbitrary words for me in the search, and if I come across, in the very process, a moment of joy and ecstasy, it shall be worthwhile to share with others. But I do take care that I am not even remotely suggesting, either to form or to belong to any ism, to which I am personally averse.

that through Tantric imagery I am trying to bring spirituality, which to some critics is beyond the ken of painting or art. But let me confirm that spirituality is not something different than a simple act which is directed towards good and not the pleasant.

Further, the Word-symbol is pregnant with sound which has created its own imagery from time immemorial and the same given a colour would certainly enrich visual imagery. The sound is the first manifestation of the divine energy which sustains life. Creation of such sounds and its word-symbols should become the subject of any art form. If mere creating insignificant noise through OP and POP can claim the aesthetic urge of the period (even for a while) then certainly the mind which controls



Because I feel that all the isms in the field of art are the false images and wrongly contrived ideas about art. From realism down to the OP art, these fragmentary ideas are being exploited for the sake of personal glorification in the world of competitive urges. These urges are not necessarily the proper understanding of the evolution of form in art.

Solid form of Cezanne has been made to disintegrate in the west to such an extent that it has become impossible of further coinage. Craze for abstraction has helped to some extent to clarify (to themselves) the art concept in the west only. But the east was never burdened under the shallow realism and abstraction here was all the while implicit.

Coming back to our subject, I do not claim

all sounds towards better human understanding must have the same claim. The claim may be very high, but I cannot put it lower than that.

Let me make it clear that my object in experimenting with Tantric imagery is purely painterly. Forms, colour, space and texture are the basic elements for an artist. All these create a kind of sound appealing to the eye and the mind both. The sound is not possible without space, space is not possible without form, form is not possible without colour and texture. The necessary strength of the mind which can go through this reverse process would certainly experience the voices of silence, the very core of cultural richness of any time to come.