

Baroda Times

Home is where the art is

Shramana Ganguly

FLO ART is unlike other art galleries in Gujarat. It's an art lover's paradise, where art flows endlessly. Glimpses of diverse cultures and civilisations, ranging from Harappan, Chinese, African to Mexican among others are reflected through the hand-made sculptures decorated in the gallery.

Interestingly, all the pieces made exclusively out of clay are worked on artistically to look like wood, metal and stone. And no two pieces of art are alike. It was about 30 years back when Kenyan born Kalpana Amin visited India for the first time. "India was an 'alien' land for me," she recalls. "But, I decided to stay back and explore the rich



culture and art of the land."

Today, for her outstanding contribution in the development of traditional terracotta art, this young entrepreneur was felicitated by Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry early this year.

A commerce student, Kalpana had no prior training in art. Pursuing the art of sculpting as a hobby for 15 years, she incepted Flo Art, an art gallery and workshop in Vallabh Vidyanagar, three years back. Kalpana hunts out for skilful 'prajapaties',



the potters, in and around the villages of Kheda district. "Even the most skilled among them do not earn a living wage. I bring them over to Flo Art, upgrade them with contemporary techniques and brush up their skills in traditional art," she remarks.

Kalpana plans to devote herself to art in a big way. "I plan to set up an institution where various artists of the state can come together, exchange their art and guide youngsters in the field. Also, I want to train the students to market their art," she says.

According to Kalpana, art can never be imposed on anyone. Her motto is to make people understand and appreciate art.

A home-bird Kalpana says, "A woman can never be branded as successful if she is a failure at home. Success starts from home. And, I am very grateful to my family who supported me and made my success worthwhile."