

## **USEFI SEMINAR, WORKSHOPS & EXHIBITIONS**

### **Fulbrighter Conducts Workshop on “Working With Fiber”**

On August 4-8, 2003, USEFI, in collaboration with the Visual Arts Gallery, India Habitat Centre (IHC), hosted an introductory workshop entitled “Working with Fiber” at the IHC, New Delhi.

Tailor-made for art and design college students, the workshop helped promote creativity through this medium. Textile artist and designer Gopika Nath, who received a Fulbright Arts Fellowship in 2000 to pursue her textile arts project at Colorado State University, conducted the intensive five-day workshop. Through slide presentations, discussions and exercises, Gopika introduced the 13 enthusiastic participants to fiber as a medium of artistic expression. On the last day of the workshop, the budding artists proudly displayed their completed works, many of which were autobiographical in spirit. They rated the workshop highly, describing it as a “mind opener” to alternate forms of creative expression.

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Indian Fulbrighter Magazine, January 2004. Page 9

**Some student comments:** [from workshops and regular Surface Ornamentation modules taught at NIFT, 2003 onwards]

Manju Sangwan, College of Art, New Delhi

*“It is a workshop that has opened an active & open incentive for multidisciplinary art works, capable of overcoming the limiting realm of painting, sculpture or any other art.”*

Ritu Chaudhry, Pearl Academy of Fashion, New Delhi

*“The piece that I made in this workshop opened my mind as the objective was not to create something beautiful but to explore textile materials and create an artwork, which was ‘being very much me’, my close experience of life, Feeling the textile material and relating it to life experiences with plenty of time to absorb the feelings that came up in the process was an ice-breaking exercise.”*

Simran Bhatia, Apeejay Institute of Design, New Delhi

*“I’ve learnt to use textiles and fiber in way that the fabric expresses a feeling which can be done by its textures, colour and sense of touch. Each fabric seems to tell a story.”*

**Surface Ornamentation students, FD IV NIFT, New Delhi**

Prateek Kumar, Fashion Design IV Semester student

*“It opened a whole new world where one saw different, unusual surfaces, using conventional material and techniques. We learnt to think and explore different mediums and techniques in order to achieve a particular texture in our mind.”*

Prasanna Colloru, Fashion Design IV Semester student

*“It was quite difficult at first. I did not know where to begin or where to stop. It took me a while to understand that I just have to use fabric like paper or any medium I choose as a pen and just write whatever I have to.”*

Nitya bajaj, Fashion Design IV Semester student

*“I have grown and matured in this art, I have learnt to pick up waste materials from the dustbins and use*

*them in garments, I have learnt to make sophisticated things taking small elements from daily life.”*