

spiration. This explains why a recurrent image in her works is a teacup. Art curator Ina Puri, who will be part of the gallery talk session with Nath on January 8, said, "Deeply autobiographical, Nath's work presents art as cathartic and healing through honesty in the microscopic examination of self."

### In the eye of the needle

Delhi-based Gopika Nath has stitched together a new concept. She has deconstructed traditional stitches to create her own stitch vocabulary. The result is her first month-long solo exhibition in the city titled 'The Piercing Needle', to be hosted at the Gallery Sanskriti from January 6.

A Fullbright scholar, Nath has always been inspired by the deep-rooted philosophy of Indian textiles, their history and excellence. "I have a deep yearning to make beautiful, skilfully structured textiles, as our craftsmen did, and still do. Despite acquiring relevant skills, I found the environment I live in — life in the metropolises — doesn't facilitate that kind of discipline. I needed self-expression," she said.

Instead of embroidering by following a prescribed pattern, Nath embarked on a



journey of creating her own vocabulary with needles. Sometimes, she uses photography, digital printing on fabric, alongside techniques that involve burning, layering, shredding as well as embroidering on cotton voile, silk organza and other ephemeral fabrics. The artist claims that tea is also an in-