

# Californians flock to welcome Anjolie Ela Menon & her *Yatra*

**SAM RAO**

Palo Alto, Calif.

RENOWNED artist Anjolie Ela Menon's recent visit to California had a packed schedule: among other things, she was kept busy throughout addressing a number of public events. A measure of her popularity among art lovers and critics alike could be gauged from the crowd that assembled to catch a glimpse of the artist and her artwork, currently on display at the Asian Art Museum, San Francisco and ArtsIndia West, Palo Alto.

On May 20, a reception was held at the prestigious Asian Art Museum. The artist's works have been installed here for six months, the centerpiece of which is the large triptych entitled *Yatra*. The event was attended by over 200 people, including India's Consul General in San Francisco, B. S. Prakash.

Forrest McGill, the Chief Curator and Watts Curator of South and Southeast Asian Art at the Asian Art Museum welcomed the audience and thanked Gallery ArtsIndia and ArtsIndia West for making the installation possible. He also introduced a representative from the sponsor, Merrell Lynch, who spoke of their interest in supporting the arts. Bindu Gude, Assistant Curator of South Asian Art, expressed the Museum's excitement at hosting this installation of contemporary art and introduced Menon, who gave an insightful, visually-aided speech about her art and inspirations.

Prajit Dutta, a partner in Gallery ArtsIndia, later gave a rousing speech encouraging attendees of the upcoming possibilities for In-



dian art overseas. Dutta urged patrons to see this installation as a first step to ensure that the status of Indian art would be a recognized member of the international contemporary and modern art scenes. Art enthusiasts had other opportunities to meet and hear Menon while she was in the Bay Area when ArtsIndia West, with Montalvo Arts Center and SACHI, organized a meet on May 18. Art lovers took the opportunity to ask questions of the artist as well as get Menon to personalize a copy of the new retrospective published by ArtsIndia with text by Gayatri Sinha entitled *Anjolie Ela Menon*.

Earlier in the day, ArtsIndia West hosted a ladies luncheon where patrons of the gallery met Menon, and offered a preview of her upcoming exhibition in Palo Alto. "This exhibition has already become a success in the short time since it started. It will run through June 13," said Nuala Mellett of ArtsIndia West.

## Hindu Cultural Centre holds free medical camp



**ARTESIA, CALIF.:** Over 200 blood tests for diabetes and cholesterol, 99 eye examinations, 94 EKGs, 45 mammograms and papsmeas, 65 bone density assessments and nearly 350 general examinations were conducted at the free health fair organized by the Hindu Cultural Center here on June 4.

The camp was conducted by Dr Nitin Shah, an anaesthesiologist, and his team of about 40 medical professionals and 70 volunteers. Lifepak Nano offered medical services like physical, respiratory and occupational therapy, acupuncture, cardio vision, and dietary supplements estimates. American Red Cross provided the Blood Drive, A3M rendered the Bone Marrow Drive while other ancillary services were provided by Art of Living Foundation, the South Asian Network and Case Worker Program. The health fair was inaugurated by Artesia Mayor John Lyons and Congresswoman Linda Sanchez. Welcoming the guests and the gathering, Dr Shah briefly provided a glimpse of the statistical data on the percentage of people without medical insurance and how it affects their lives. Center president Siva Subramanian briefed the gathering about the start of the health fair and credited the then pro-tem Mayor Sally Flowers for it. Flowers was also present at the event.

