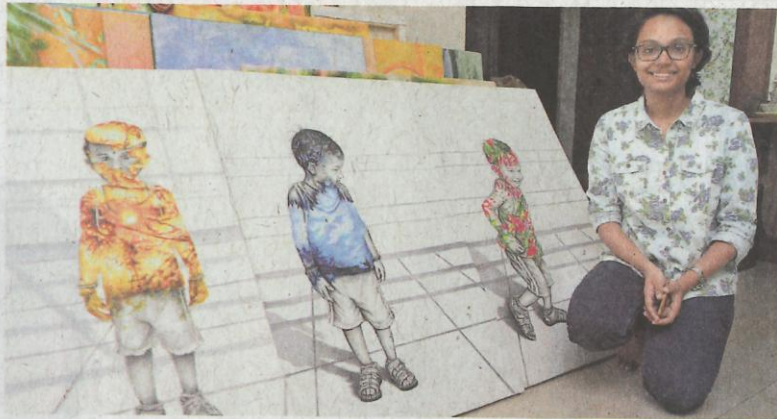


April 13, 2018



Handy tool Alamelu Annhamalai; (below) a screen grab of the video ■ R RAVINDRAN

It takes two to draw

Alamelu Annhamalai's skill of sketching with both hands simultaneously has made her famous

An alumna of Stella Maris, Annhamalai has been an independent freelance artist ever since she finished college in 2015. She works with architects, creates murals and does illustrations for books. "I use all the money from the commissioned work I do to make my own art," she explains. Against the wall of her living room sit rows of painted canvases, most covered with equally vibrant sheets to protect them from dust. She unveils them delicately, showing us her pieces from her first solo exhibition last year. "It was at the Lalit Kala Academi in October. I titled the exhibition 'A Soldier



of Hope' and it featured 108 paintings."

She says she enjoys trying out quirky styles of sketching. She recently attempted a few single line contour drawings with her eyes closed. A lot of Annhamalai's work is inspired by books she reads and music she listens to. "Style and material-wise, the medium is varied," she says. "Senior artists have told me that if a style works, stick to it. But I don't like restricting myself."

GENIUS AT WORK

Albert Einstein was ambidextrous, but preferred to use his right hand in public



Ms. Alamelu Annhamalai

BVA, 2011 – 2015 Batch