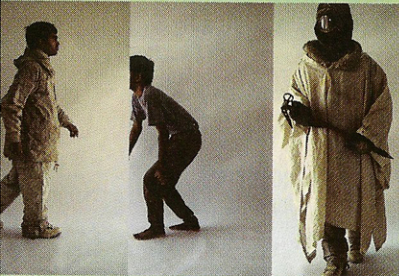


ART

WORKS BY BAPTIST COELHO AND CHINMOY PARMANIK

At this exhibition organised by *India Art Magazine* in collaboration with Visual Arts Gallery, markedly different aesthetics share gallery space.

Baptist's works, installations of "performative videos and acquired objects", detail the experience of a soldier, "it's very personal, about the human being behind the uniform, more specifically, the man who is posted at the Siachen Glacier and has to survive the extremes of weather and war; where, even to drink a glass of water, one has to plan two hours ahead, so that the ice unfreezes. I don't want to use the word 'story' loosely, because these works are not a story, rather installations." Ex-



tremely protective of the privacy of sources that gave him an insight into the soldier's life and the "actual things that have experienced the terrain and are marked by that experience" that he uses in his installations, Baptist is, for most parts, reticent, but he does share bits to the research that went into this exhibition. "I accessed that terrain of Siachen by travelling to Ladakh, to experience altitude sickness which I know nothing about sitting in Bombay, but which soldiers posted at high altitudes deal with every day. And, also to experience snow, its whiteness, what it is like to see the colour white all the time... it's hallucinogenic, you die for colour."

Chinmoy's works, also installations, are more mechanism-driven: projectors screen images, and moving images collect around or reflect off steel objects, plywood mounted on a wall, electric heaters even.

VISUAL ARTS GALLERY *India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, Ph: 43663333. 11 am to 8 pm*
June 6 to 13