



"Reality Distortion Field", acrylic on canvas, 6 x 12 ft, 2011  
 Below "Fan", acrylic on canvas, 6 x 6 ft, 2011  
 Manil and Rohit Gupta, New Delhi. Website: [www.naturemorte.com](http://www.naturemorte.com)

## ART NEWS Brothers in Arms

*A unique style and smorgasbord of ideas is what makes the work of Manil and Rohit so compelling*



It's rare to find gifted siblings unite and carve out a successful career together. New Delhi based artists, Manil and Rohit Gupta juxtapose the quirky with the naughty in a delightful ensemble of colours. Commenting on their recently concluded exhibition and its rather risqué title, Eco-friendly Hornification, the duo says, "Our work is a simple and spontaneous outpour of raw ideas. Oscillating between abstraction and reality, we strive to break through the doors of our subconscious mindfield."

### IDEAS THAT INSPIRE

Inspiration mushrooms from everyday fragments of life, street and popular media: Graffiti, comics, animation, cinema, music and surrounding issues, suggest the brothers. "The primary goal we set out to achieve before starting every project is to experience a sense of liberation through the process, up until its orgasmic completion. There is never a plan, mostly improvisation, taking cues from each other. Our work then transforms into a playground where we like to get lost and discover new stuff. What results eventually is a jumbled medley of dreams, sexual fantasies, bottled-up material desires, philosophical and psychological dilemmas, along with romantic ideologies of a vulnerable ecology – all churned up and served with a generous dose of dark humour. That was Eco-friendly Hornification for us."

### THE USE OF VARIED MEDIUMS

The technique is an integral part of the process. They are mainly drawn towards mediums that are tactile and simple, yet fun, like acrylic paints, aerosol spray cans and charcoal among others, keeping execution organic and uninhibited.

### SIBLING RIVALRY...OR NOT

"Ironically, our professional relationship helps maintain our personal one. Temperamentally we are like chalk and cheese but since childhood we have closely shared our lives and interests. Hence our work's vision becomes the common binding factor. We feel fortunate and excited about that."

Their main concern is to keep creation as unplanned and unpredictable as possible. Eschewing patterns, they feed on each other's strengths and complement shortcomings. "This helps in challenging our preconceived notions and conditioning in context to personal technical goals and the bigger concepts of art as a whole. This growth is ultimately most satisfying. Until one day, who knows, money and property may lead us to slitting each others throats!" ♦

**Fareeda Kanga**