

Stray symbols in abstract universe

HT City Correspondent

At first glance, the calm tends to overwhelm. Then, as one starts to stitch together the inherent web of consciousness ensconced in a collage of colour and lines — drawn with extreme care and precision — in the mind's eye of the viewer, exhilaration takes precedence. The wide open spaces designed in Ganesh Haloi's recent works on gouache — on display at the exhibition titled the Fullstop. Is not the Beginning at Akar Prakar, which began on March 26 — hint at the fathomless depths of eternity.

Nevertheless, his abstract universe is strewn with stray symbols culled from geometric patterns. However, these references do not impede the formation of the formless but take on different meanings.

Haloi's wizardry lies in his method. He displays an unspoiled elegance while playing with colours, found in abundance in a painting that is simply divided into three horizontal sections — each portion smeared with varying tones of green.

If Haloi's penchant to deal with light and shade bears testimony to his fondness for the European masters, his affinity towards things green stems from his childhood



PHOTOS: ASHISH CHAKRABORTY

Collage of hues: Ganesh Haloi displays elegance in playing with colour

in Bangladesh. The colour green dominates his oeuvre.

It gains prominence when we see a splash of green intertwined with flecks of yellow. What's more pertinent than the association is Haloi's yearning for a green world, a desire to create a parallel planet that encapsulates the serenity he experienced as a child.

However, tension also seeps into his otherwise tranquil canvas once he juxtaposes vibrant hues of blue and red with yellow and green. The acute sense of drama rips through the placid canvas like a pistol shot fired in the dead of night.

The exhibition is on till April 14.

