

DHRUVI ACHARYA
ARTIST

Dhruvi Acharya's last exhibition *After the Fall* (2016) is complex and disturbing. In many ways, it was a memorial to her late husband and friend, Manish Acharya. But it also tethered her place as an Indian artist willing to take risks and be vulnerable in public. Populated with quirky characters—they sometimes come with their own speech balloons—out of noir comic books, Acharya's protagonists are imbued with palpable emotions. They reflect the simmering underlying psychological and emotional discontent of "an urban woman's life in a world teeming with discord, violence, and pollution." Beautifully finished and detailed, her layered paintings brim with sardonic and certainly dark wit.

Having exhibited at international museums and galleries since 1998 when she lived in the United States, Acharya now lives in Mumbai with her sons in a flat facing the Arabian Sea—from where she often posts stunning seascapes shot from her window at dusk. **By Anupa Mehta**

Shirt, ₹5,800, and dress, ₹7,200, **Three**.
Ring, Acharya's own.

