

AS OF 26th February, 1986.

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T H E B L A C K E X P E R I E N C E A R T S P R O G R A M M E

THE AURAT SHAKTI EXHIBITION.

The GLC's Race Equality Unit has commissioned eighteen projects city-wide to highlight the Black and Asian contributions to British society under the banner of the BLACK EXPERIENCE ARTS PROGRAMME.

THE BLACK EXPERIENCE ARTS PROGRAMME now presents the
AURAT SHAKTI EXHIBITION.

AURAT SHAKTI is a photographic exhibition supported by transcripts which instantly dismiss the myth of the average Asian woman being submissive, shy, and politically unopinionated.

Photographed and compiled by Asian women, the AURAT SHAKTI EXHIBITION shows productive, impressive and determined women; knowing where they are going in life, being able to express what they feel, and building an infrastructure which is an integral cornerstone to Black and Asian women being heard and recognised within British society.

Exhibited at the Cockpit Gallery; AURAT SHAKTI allows an insight to 'Nana Chaubi' (different pictures), taken on a day to day basis, the project shows Asian women on market stalls, driving ambulances, doing social work and being very determined to fully control their own lives.

Amina Patel, one of the exhibition producers, says, "I used to think there was no future. I think alot of Asian girls get ground down. You were made to feel you weren't capable of doing anything yourself, that you always had to rely on someone else. When I look back and see that I have made something good out of something that looked so hopeless to start off with, I just hope other people can do the same."

The AURAT SHAKTI EXHIBITION will run from 3rd March to 26th March at the Cockpit Gallery, Princeton Street, WC1.

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POSITIVE PUBLICITY

Please find enclosed a selection of some of the fine work to be exhibited; Some poetry by Savritri Hensman.

For further information/press information please contact the GLC's Race Equality Unit on 633-2611 or Positive Publicity on 723-1558.

Rain, rain, monsoon rain
burst from sky like lightning down
break on hillsides, break on field,
break on valleys in the town.

Rain, rain, wash the earth
hustle down with noise of steel
leap in rivers, splash the soil
knock bats over as you reel
like the English drizzling
water trickling through the day
cast down from bill-capped clouds
fading with the city grey

Rain, rain, monsoon rain
there you must but come again.

The carter
sits in world & cage
for the black
tongues and urgently hammering in
every built for every bar
while the dancer of fear and hate
sits away at his heart
at last he looks round at his work
and gives a start
for the mighty cage is complete
and he, too, is inside.

SAVITRI HENSMAN

TO MY NEIGHBOUR

Stark the letters on the wall
And fists that itch for black and red,
And the swelling river sharply writhes,
And still you turn away your head.

Where children's hearts are branded
And the air is torn by cries
You complain you are disturbed,
And settle back, and close your eyes.

Sleep now, sleep your fill
For soon you'll sleep no more,
For the river's burst its banks
And the flood is at your door.

MONSOON

Rain, rain, monsoon rain
Burst from sky like lightning down
Break on hillside, break on field,
Break on walkers in the town.

Rain, rain, lash the earth
Nimble dance with shoes of steel
Leap in rivers, splash the soil
Knock huts over as you reel.

Not like English drizzling
Water trickling through the day
Cast down from self-sodden clouds
Fusing with the city grey

Rain, rain, monsoon rain
Leave you must but come again.

THE CAGE

The racist
Sweats to build a cage
For the black
Eagerly and urgently hammering in
Every bolt for every bar
While the cancer of fear and hate
Eats away at his heart
At last he looks round at his work
And gives a start
For the mighty cage is complete
And he, too, is inside.