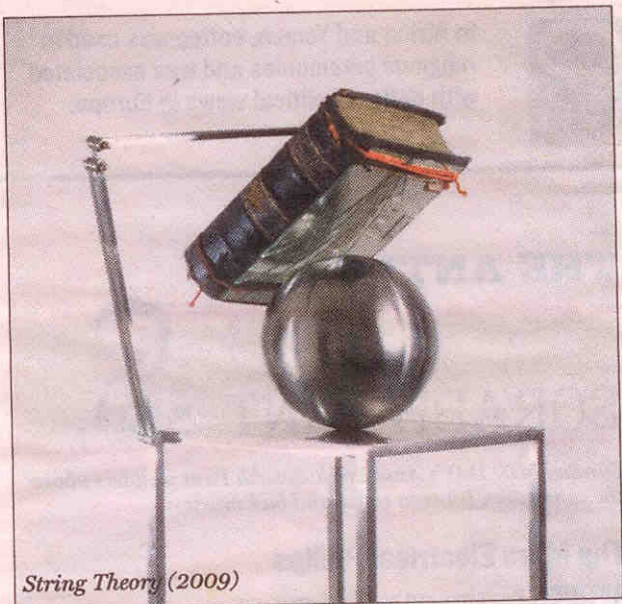


MARCH 1, 2009
SUNDAY MID DAY



String Theory (2009)

Oh God...

ART SHOW: Narendra Yadav's first solo Labour (2006) was enchanting. Its clean lines and minimalism left a vivid afterimage. Three years hence, Pavlov's God, Yadav's follow-up solo pales in comparison. Some of the works in the new show are rather laboured.

The God in Pavlov's God is the reverse spelling of dog. The phrase 'Pavlov's dog' is a pejorative often employed for someone whose reactions are caused by conditioning and not critical thinking. Yadav attempts to tackle our conditioned understanding of heavy-duty subjects like faith and mortality.

For this literally towering work, he meticulously recreates an entire pavement. Artists ripping out bits of the city and placing them in the gallery is a troublesome trend. The city does not need to be any more worn-out at the seams than it already is. And any plans to transpose flagstones, bricks and other such should be backed by sound analysis.

In Cosmic Reflections Before Mortality Strikes (2009), one is unsure about how one ought to respond to a foetus struggling to be one with a certain 'cosmic reality', whatever that may be. In addition, the title sounds like something Damien Hirst would have liked to induct into his carnival of the macabre.

With String Theory (2009), Paper Plane (2009) and the video Sound of Eternal Hope Ticking (2009), the artist retrieves his old form successfully. We have humour, inventiveness and a well-rounded concept.

The execution of Yadav's technologically sophisticated works is commendable; it's the concepts that go baggy every so often. Conclusion: moving parts don't make for a moving exhibition.

Narendra Yadav's Pavlov's God at Warehouse on 3rd Pasta Lane, 6/7, 3rd Pasta Lane, Colaba till April 4. 11 am - 7 pm, Tuesday through Sunday. Tel: 2202 3056