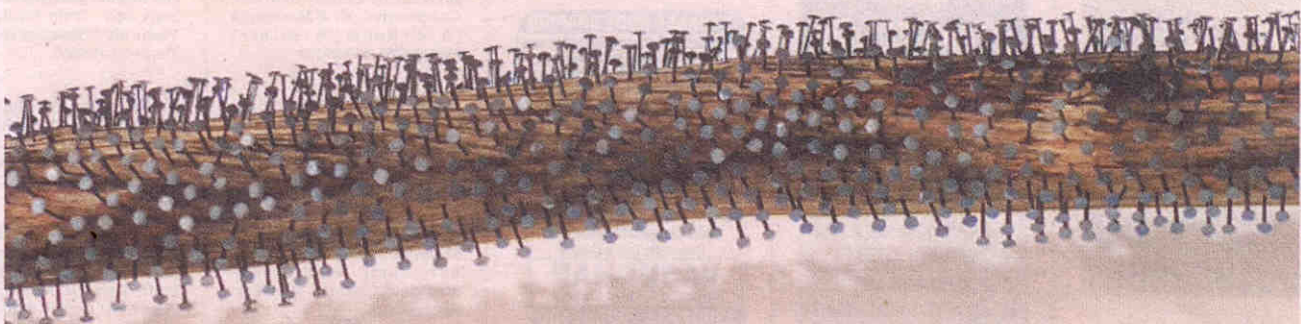


# Please do not touch the exhibit

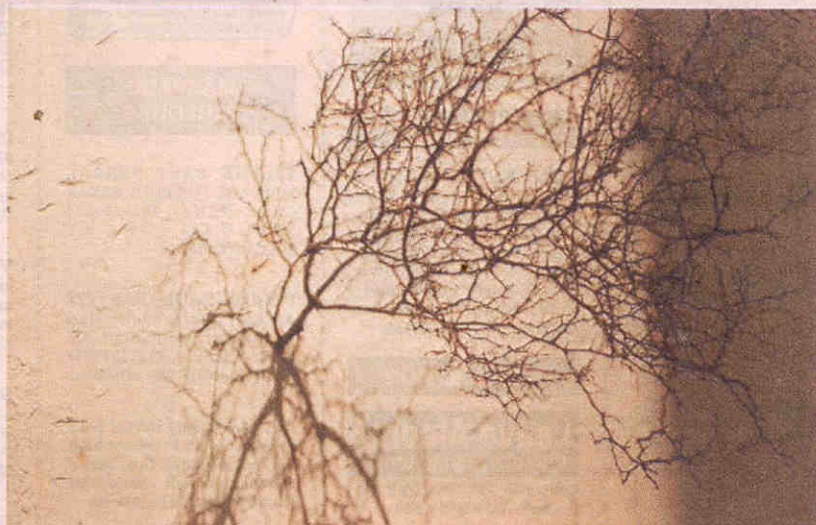


**Priyanka Choudhary's solo at Gallery Maskara takes this disclaimer to prickly heights**

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**T**he anti-canvas has had many proponents throughout the last century, with new media art having filled the need for the genre in this one. While many attempts to dump the canvas have had political ideologies fuelling them (Dadaism and Fluxus are two movements that were decidedly against how art was consumed), there is also a space for those who like the materiality of bending the rules, the conceptual flair involved in thinking out of the box, quite literally. Delhi-based artist Priyanka Choudhary stabs a flagpole for herself on this map. Paintings framed with a crown of thorns, canvases slashed and threaded with twigs, and logs stippled with innumerable nails suffice to crucify the format. Here is also a show that has the good sense to know when to stop: a selective suite of the artist's experiments thus adorn the expanse of Gallery Maskara.

Flanked by 'paintings' and 'sculptures' on either end, a gigantic installation of



Works by Priyanka Choudhary

scaffolding collapsing is awe-inspiring and dynamic, as if an explosion of spikes has been frozen to a pause by the artist's vision.

The artist does not use paint, and prefers using plaster, red clay or even dust to colour her surfaces. *Nul To Now* mirrors the menacing quality of nature itself. Some works here function like cacti, creations whose allure is their propensity to repel. The 'Do Not Touch The Exhibit' disclaimer so often seen at shows is brought

to the fore in the topography here. It would help if Choudhary works with video and new media as well to push the envelope further. Yet, her present perspective is steeped in such an organic vocabulary that the digital could well turn into another cage. All the better for her to break through these with her wicked, twisted tentacles...

***NUL to Now* by Priyanka Choudhary opens today at Gallery Maskara, 3rd Pasta Lane, Colaba**