



■ **LAXMAN AELAY, 44**
Artist

Among the most sought after of contemporary *Hyderabadi* artists, Laxman Aelay with his works on the rural Telangana men and women, has exhibited his work at several prominent galleries, including the Jehangir Art Gallery in Mumbai, the Indian Habitat Centre at New Delhi, the Royal College of Art in London and the International Group Show in Denmark.

Aelay loved to draw when he was younger, and started out as a layout and signboard artist, earning recognition for his posters for filmmaker Ram Gopal Varma. Talking about this period, Aelay says, "I designed posters for RGV movies like *Rangeela*, *Satya*, *Daud* and also some Telugu movies. In those days digital technology wasn't easily accessible so I had to use manual techniques for the posters." Later, this JNTU art graduate's works were spotted and encouraged by art collector Jagdish Mittal. After his first show in 1999, there has been no looking back for Laxman Aelay.

My native village, Kadireni Gudem, has always had a strong influence on my work. I have read a lot about contemporary movements like the Dalit movement and this is reflected in my works

■ **RIYAZ QURAIISHI, 38**
Interiors and Design Consultant

This winner of the Hyderabad regional chapter of the Indian Institute of Interior Designers award for commercial spaces, who was also short listed as a runner up for residential projects, believes that awards don't make a difference. As long as he constantly gets challenging projects to work on, Riyaz Quraishi is happy.

Riyaz is a member of the Singapore Society of Interior Designers and has major projects in India and the Middle East. His interest in design began in the company of his architect friends, driving this interior design consultant to start his own company at the age of 23. His first project was an office for which he received rave reviews. "This was for a low cost office in Secunderabad which I designed in a minimalist style using bricks and sand. There was no conventional furniture, the tables and chairs were also made of these materials," he says.

