

New York's Aicon Gallery Features Raghu Rai's Photos

BY A STAFF WRITER

Aicon Gallery, featuring Modern and Contemporary South Asian Art, is currently hosting a retrospective of Raghu Rai, a renowned photographer from India.

The exhibition which opened Feb. 18 will run through March 20 and includes a selection of Rai's works chronicling a changing India from the 1970's onwards, including his most recent emphasis incorporating staged compositions, a press release from the gallery said.

The opening reception held Feb. 18 included the introduction of the newly hired gallery director,



Above, guests at the opening reception for 'Raghu Rai - A Retrospective' at the Aicon Gallery in New York Feb. 18. Right, photographer Raghu Rai.



Theresa McCullough.

Prior to joining Aicon Gallery, Theresa served as a director of classical Indian and Southeast Asian art at Sotheby's, and has also worked at Spink, London as well as working independently in both London and New York, the release said.

Jennifer Tripp, Magnum

Representative, delivered a brief historical overview on Raghu Rai's membership of the photography collective. Around 150 people attended the event, the release said.

Rai's prolific and internationally acclaimed career has spanned nearly half a century. His works have focused on candid snapshots of India that masterfully capture the country's continuing regional, cultural, and political transformations.

"In the course of my work, I find that I have been moving to focus on the changing equations of our times, trying to record the deeper universal human responses to realities, to energy, to the spirit," Rai was quoted in the release as saying.

In recognition of his lifetime achievements behind the camera, Rai was awarded the Padamshree in 1971 and L'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, France's recognition of significant contributions to the arts.

GOPIO Inaugurates Edison Chapter



The Global Organization of People Of Indian Origin (GOPIO) inaugurated its Edison, New Jersey chapter at the Edison Holiday Inn Feb. 28. According to chapter President Arvind Sood, the new branch offers the community an opportunity to pool their resources and have a unified voice in political affairs. The founder of GOPIO Dr. Thomas Abarham and current executive vice president Ashook Ramsaran addressed the audience and initiated a interactive session, citing the history, goals and achievements of GOPIO International. Seen in the photo are, from left, Sumit Prabhakar, secretary, GOPIO-Edison; Navin Pathak, joint secretary; Arvind Sood, president; Ashook Ramsaran, executive vice president, GOPIO International; Dr. Thomas Abraham; Dr. Sudhir M. Parikh, publisher of Desi Talk; New Jersey Assemblyman Upendra Chivukula; Dr. Rajeev Mehta, president, GOPIO Plainsboro and Rajesh Grover, treasurer, GOPIO Edison.

State Bank of India Opens Queens Branch



Richard H. Neiman, superintendent, New York State Banking Department, center, inaugurates the Jackson Heights chapter of the State Bank of India Feb. 28 as Shankaran Chandramouli, country head, State Bank of India, U.S. operations, left, and Sujit Kumar Varma, chief executive officer, State Bank of India, New York, right, look on. Officials of New York State Banking Department, Shiv Dass, president of the Jackson Heights Merchants Association and M. S. R. Charyulu, branch head, Jackson Heights branch attended the opening, a press release said. This is the 153rd foreign branch of the State Bank of India, spread out across 32 countries, the release said.

Long Island Sophomore Part of State Bowling Team

BY A STAFF WRITER

Dhara Kadakia, a sophomore at the Carle Place High School on Long Island, won the girls division of the recently held Nassau bowling championship.

With the win, Kadakia, along with six others from the state, qualifies for the Sectional All-Star Tournament to be held March 6 in Syracuse, N.Y.

The sophomore bowled a 1,245 series, including a career and tournament-best 265 in Game 2, to win the county title at Garden City Lanes.

"I feel happy I could win the championship," Kadakia was quoted as saying in a press release.

She said she practices twice a week.

According to the release, she was introduced to bowling as a family pastime and started bowling when she was in grade five.

Kadakia, whose family immigrated to the United States from Mumbai, plans to study medicine in college. She also plays varsity tennis and is the top player at her school, the release said. She also plays the violin.

