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## **Zarina Hashmi Papers, Clippings and Press, 1970-1999**

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### NORTH AMERICAN SPECIAL

[[2 images]] [[italized]]Untitled Book[[/italized]] by Bali (top);  
[[italized]]St Andreas Fault[[/italized]] by Batra [[/2 images]]

when she was very young. Her art is autobiographical and introspective rather than aimed at conveying a message. "It's a way for me to integrate my western and eastern aspects," she says. The Indian influence is apparent in every aspect of her work--in paintings such as [[italized]]Planting Secrets[[/italized]] she uses embroidery as one of the elements. Desai also paints murals; she was one of the artists who created a large mural on the four-storey Women's Building in San Francisco. A San Francisco native, she now teaches mural painting at Laney College in Oakland and dabbles in mehndi and rangoli.

Swati Kapoor's abstract work in mixed media. [[italized]]Occupying Space[[/italized]] shows a feverish density of lines and gray tones. The 28-year-old artist says she made the painting, which is in four panels, by placing paper on the floor and throwing layers and layers of paint across it. "I was trying to cover the expanse somehow. I wanted to be on all sides, everywhere at the same time," she says. The same impulse reigns in the metal pieces [[italized]]Points of Space[[/italized]]. For Kapoor, art is in the making of the painting or sculpture. "Doing the process completes the painting for me," she says. Kapoor, who came to the US six years ago to study at the San Francisco Art Academy, lives in Milpitas and works as a graphic designer at a software company.

The seniormost member of Shakti is Zarina Hashmi whose delicate minimalist work has won her many admirers from New Delhi, where she spent many years, to New York, where she has been living now for over two decades. Others artists at the show include Rajat Ghosh, Kavita Bali

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**Untitled Book** by Bali (top);  
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and Permi Gill.

The show is just the beginning. Indian American art on the east coast, unlike in the cities on the Atlantic, is yet to gain viewer interest. As Sitaraman says: "I hope that exhibitions by this group will create a heightened interest and appreciation of contemporary art by people of Indian origin".

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