



SUKRITA PAUL KUMAR

Making Sense



« Creation heat « acrylic on canvas

(1)

I am not an etherized patient

My alertness keeps me on my guard

You can't touch my airy nothingness



Something might come out of
Nothingness

Like

The complete circular wetness
Out of
A bubble exploded

On a dry blank slate

(2)

I lived a secure
Ice-cube existence
Refrigerated carefully
By my nurse
For a woolly life

I feel my centre
Melting
With the warmth
Of the summer sun

I contain frozen words
Melting in anguish
Dripping meaning

And sometimes poems
One after another

With or without
meaning



Sukrita Paul Kumar was born and brought up in Kenya and at present she lives in Delhi. She has held the Aruna Asaf Ali Chair at the University of Delhi. An Honorary Fellow of International Writing Programme, University of Iowa (USA) and a former Fellow of the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla, she was also an invited poet in residence at Hong Kong Baptist University. She has published several collections of poems in English including, *Folds of Silence*, *Without Margins*, *Rowing Together* and *Apurna*. Her poems selected and translated by the eminent lyricist Gulzar has been published by HarperCollins as a bilingual book, *Poems Come Home*. Sukrita's major critical works include *Narrating Partition*, *Conversations on Modernism*, *The New Story* and *Man, Woman and Androgyny*. Some of her co-edited books are *Speaking for Herself: An Anthology of Asian Women's Writings*, *Ismat, Her Life, Her Times*, *Interpreting Homes in South Asian Literature* and *Women's Studies in India: Contours of Change*. As Director of a UNESCO project on "The Culture of Peace", she edited *Mapping Memories*, a volume of Urdu short stories from India and Pakistan. She has two books of translations, *Stories of Joginder Paul* and the novel *Sleepwalkers*. She is the chief editor of the book, *Cultural Diversity in India* published by Macmillan India and prescribed by the University of Delhi. A recipient of many prestigious fellowships and residencies, Sukrita has lectured at many universities in India and abroad. A solo exhibition of her paintings was held at AIFACS, Delhi. A number of Sukrita's poems have emerged from her experience of working with homeless people. This painting with her poem here titled "Creation Heat" in Acrylic is by the poet herself.