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Arts & Style

In the galleries

By Mark Jenkins

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Monica Jahan Bose's "Desire (Red)," is part of the exhibition at Carroll Square Gallery. Joining Bose for "Sustenance" is Anju Chaudhuri, with whom Bose studied etching in Paris.

Bose and Chaudhuri

Monica Jahan Bose and Anju Chaudhuri are rooted in the Bengal region, but they met in Paris, where Chaudhuri has lived for much of her 70-some years. The D.C.-based Bose studied etching there with Chaudhuri and now has brought her here for "Sustenance," at Carroll Square Gallery. The show includes individual works by both artists as well as some collaborations.

The piece with the most contributors is "Deux Degres," a sari draped from the venue's ceiling. About 60 people, Bose says, drew or printed images and words on the garment, whose title is a reference to climate scientists' estimate of the maximum warming human civilization can survive. But two Celsius degrees may be too much for such low-lying areas as the Bay of Bengal coast, which is why Bose sometimes incorporates "1.5" into her work.

The show includes some of Chaudhuri's small oil abstracts and two videos, including Bose's poetic linkage of rice and art. More characteristic are Chaudhuri's sumptuously layered prints and tapestry-like drawings, densely packed with short, curved lines. The swirling imagery suggests water, which Bose invokes with woodcuts of shad and one print that depicts rivers much closer to Carroll Square than to the Ganges. Bose's fish and Chaudhuri's fluid gestures unite in several pictures they made together. The two artists' ancestral homes ended up in different countries in 1947, but their styles and concerns are entirely compatible.

Sustenance: Monica Jahan Bose and Anju Chaudhuri Through Sept. 21 at Carroll Square Gallery, 975 F St. NW.