

# M SIVANESAN

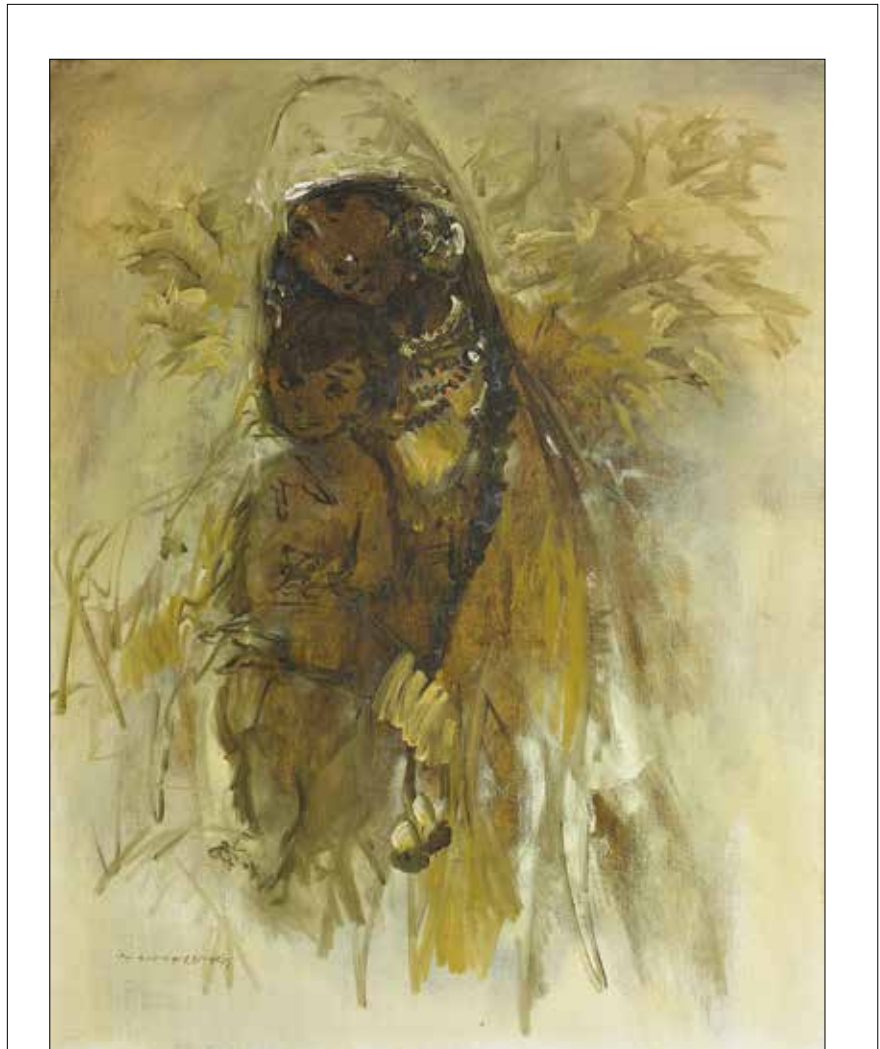
## EXACTING THE SPIRIT OF ART

BY HIRANMAYI AWLI MOHANAN

**M**. Sivanesan was born in Chennai in 1940. He joined the Madras College of Arts and Crafts in 1956 and won an award at the International Inter Church competition, New York in 1962. The reputable artist carried several one-man shows under his belt, held within India and internationally. These included exhibitions in Bangkok in 1976, Los Angeles in 1977, Ottawa, Canada in 1978 and New York and Washington D.C. in 1979. Sivanesan had also participated in group exhibitions in Tokyo, Japan in 1967, New York in 1968, Frish Art Gallery, New York in 1981 and Dhoomimal Gallery, New Delhi in 1982. Sivanesan's artworks are figurative in style and subtle in colour. He approached the canvas as a means to explore his personal range of emotions rather than making too much of an effort to make his art accessible to the viewer via some profound statement. It is in the supreme manifestation of this interiorised subjectivity that the greatness of his art lies. Humans are predominant in his works, reflecting the beauty that he often saw within them. The Indian modern and contemporary artist's works possess an air of effortless ease, derived from supreme skill and confidence. They also have a subtle, sober, and yet lively exuberance of colour and freshness, which make Sivanesan's reputation as a facile illustrator.



Untitled, 1994  
Mixed media on cardboard  
26.5 x 40 cm  
RM 800 - RM 1,500



Mother and Child, 1975  
Acrylic on canvas  
91 x 71 cm  
SOLD - RM 5,000 - RM 10,000

While Sivanesan's paintings from some years ago were deemed too popular, or illustrative, his works later proved he was true to exacting the spirit of art. His forte lay in two branches of art, the portrayal of interiors and the delineation of still life. On each imaged face

the painter imposed his own perception. However, it is in his so-called interiors or still life that the painter was seen working with great verve. Sivanesan lived and worked between Chennai, New Delhi and Mumbai.