

# Definitions of peace and conflict

Local artist, Deepa Mann-Kler's work is largely figurative and focuses on identity as a key theme

**D**eepa's cultural background is an Indian woman living in Northern Ireland, also heavily influences her work and, like most artists, she draws inspiration from others, including Marley Spence, Tamesh de Lempika, Gustav Klimt, Man Ray and Carol Graham.

"I enjoy exploring the inter-relationship between race, gender and our understandings of the spaces we inhabit and the symbols we use," she said. "I want my paintings to invite you to consider how we define our understandings and if we can create a sense of peace about the conflicting issues we encounter."

The paintings are strong full of contrast, vibrant and reflect contemporary issues facing society today. Deepa Mann-Kler's medium is oils on canvas, ideal for exploring contrast, be it between light and dark, or vulnerable and strong poses.

Deepa has been awarded the Daily Mirror / Clumpus Young Photographer of the Year Award and has completed many private and corporate commissions. Previous solo exhibitions include the Waterfront Hall Belfast and the Down Arts Centre, Downpatrick. Her work schedule for this year includes another solo show at Libburn Library and five further group shows.

