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# Outlook

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# Flawless



From gendered ageism to unreal beauty standards, women face an uphill battle against such oppression

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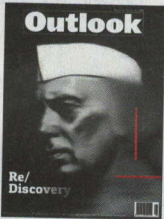




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 DEPUTY PHOTO EDITOR Tribhuvan Tiwari  
 NEWS COORDINATOR Iqbal Abhimanyu

WRITERS Shahina K.K., Naseer Ganai, Tanul Thakur, Ashwani Sharma, Rakhi Bose, Abhik Bhattacharya

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AB-10, S.J. Enclave, New Delhi - 110 029  
 Tel: 011-71280400  
 Customer Care: 011-71280433, 71280462  
 e-mail: yourhelpline@outlookindia.com

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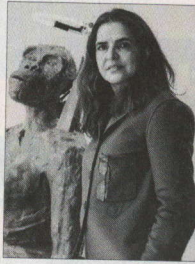
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### ON THE COVER:

Painter and sculptor Bharti Kher's *Six Women* is a series of life-sized, sitting female sculptures, cast from real women in her New Delhi studio. Kher sees the body as a literal and metaphorical site for the construction of ideas around gender, mythology and narrative. In the mid-2000s, she began to create a series of strangely beautiful, but quietly grotesque, hybrid figurative sculptures of women that fused human and animal body parts. Kher described them as "mythical urban goddesses, creatures who came out of the construction of the idea of femininity or the idea of womanhood... she is the goddess, the housewife, the mother, the whore, the mistress, the lover, the sister... everything". The vulnerability of the women stems only in part from their nakedness; Kher's sitters were sex workers, paid by the artist to sit for her, in a self-conscious transaction of money and bodily experience. (Photo Courtesy: Frédérique Ménard-Aubin)

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