

BIG ART

The art, artists and everything in between.



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YOUNG TURKS

Big art turned the spotlight on a collection of young artists whose works pack a punch. We caught up with the artists who share their stories ideas and experiences. Gleaning inside stories about their art escapades, we quizzed them on various aspects of their trade. While their art can speak for itself, it never hurt to gain more insights from the creators themselves.

Why did you become an artist?

This is where it all begins: through a network of visual communication, the artist begins to allegorize his inner self.

In most cases passion for art makes one an artist, and so is the case with Archana Sharma and Viswanath Kuttum, where the latter realized that for him it was either art or nothing ever since his inclination towards art from a young age. For Mokshita Tanwar, *"Art is a reward in itself. It is thrilling to have created something from your own world of possibilities and ideas."* Pooja Dange says it was a conference she once attended that gave her direction: *"Art is for a purpose, to make life more understandable,"* while Heera Ahmed describes how the artist tends to see the world more intensely, *"Artists observe details others may possibly miss out on. Ultimately it is the ability to translate that experience on to the medium,"* says the artist. For Meet Narang it was his musical experience that led him to become an artist. *"I am studying space and its distribution with a heightening sense of colour and spherical shapes,"* he says.

Heera Ahmed

What is your inspiration?

In today's postmodern world, inspirations can vary and address several themes and occurrences around us, that escalates one's interests. Inspiration can range from other artworks, writing and cinema to natural occurrences and forms— it can be whatever piques one's interest. Let's take the case of Gustave Klimt: one of his inspirations came from his obsession with cats. So much that he even used cat urine on his sketches claiming it to be the best fixative. But our young artists haven't stretched things that far. Not yet. Their inspirations, to begin with, are humble. *"Shah Rukh Khan and my father inspire me,"* says Archana. But for Pooja her inspiration comes after her treasured quote that she translates into otherworldly, deconstructed appearances.

"I am inspired by human life...the ups and downs, emotional turmoil and vulnerability of human species. For me it's my lived experience that is reflected in my art...on every surface I work upon. I

believe art is momentary and it cannot be contained or 'owned' by a person, group or class," says a passionate Manmohan Pandey.

Vishwanath. K

Mokshita derives her material from a range of new media sources and the natural surroundings especially flowers. She imagines in her paintings the soft texture of those flowers juxtaposed against the unclad surface of the skin. Heera through her creative journey, anticipates the end-product of the process of a work of art that perhaps may yield a *"beautiful disaster."*

Viswanath in contrast decides to look within himself for inspiration, interiorizing the exterior and externalizing the interior. In other words, he gives visual form to personal feelings and experiences. For Meet it is music and sound that inspires his artwork.

What do you like about being an artist?

When I'm asked this question, I privately relish the moment. A sizeable grin and impish eyes characterize my face as I contemplate to answer. And it says it all. But let's turn to our artists and hear what they have to say. They'll certainly verbalize my facial declaration.

Yes, freedom is a common trope. *"Being an artist I relish the freedom of exploration-experiments, of self-indulgence,"* says Viswanath. For Heera it is intensified thoughts and of mitigated expressions. Mokshita enjoys the ease of time and transgression of space that art allows her. *"It is perception, perspectives and presentation,"* mulls Pooja. The furthering of these alternative aspects to the viewer, the impact of the same on the other, social experiments are all strung together by the craftsmanship of the artist. The artist realizes his freedom and labors at it day in and day out, everyday.

What would you like to change about the art world?

Viswanath poses as the observer, silently adding and subtracting, developing his own language and waiting for the right moment to catapult himself onto the stage to show to the world something new. While Archana aims to change the element of thinking in art and art education among institutes, Heera decides she wants to change the art world for the better. Mokshita meanwhile believes the art world is currently undergoing change, *"Art has become far more accessible and available to the viewers,"* she says. However, Pooja doesn't want to change the art world; instead she wants to contribute to it as an individual: *"I hope that my vision, experience and way of understanding the world or society through my own art impacts people,"* she says.

"I'd like to change how people look at art and how a layman is often detached from it. Art should be everyone's leisure, for it triggers parts unexplored in once conscience", says Pandey.

What are your plans for the future?

Can we really plan a future in this ever-advancing art world? Do you configure art or does art in return mould you? Let the artists speak for themselves:

Meet Narang

Archana: *"I want to be a professor after doing a PhD and an active artist."*

Mokshita: *"I would like and hope to have a wider audience for my work; to show my work consistently. I also want to explore new possibilities while at the same time I wish for my work to remain a constant"*

source of joy for myself and others."

Pooja: *"I am looking to go abroad get more exposure, to grow as an artist and continue working. New Mediums explore."*

Viswanath: *"I have no plans for the future, I will just continue to work and see where it goes."*

Heera: *"I aim to consolidate current ideas and build on existing work, develop technical skills, explore new collaborations and contexts and expand my creative network."*

Meet: *"I am looking forward to create more audio-visual works in the future."*

Where do you think art is headed and how do you think it can contribute to the society?

Such a question should provoke an artist, aware of the direction his/her art is taking and the purpose of the work of art and its role as mediator between the artist and the world.

Manmohan
Pandey

Archana argues that art today, in the age of new media is everywhere and everything has the potential for art, creating a network of sorts. She is also critical about art institutions and organizations that are mobilizing Indian art, which are at the same time destroying their charm. She adds: *"Art education is most important is curriculum should be renewed along with best faculty who believes in practicality."*

For Mokshita, *"art is headed towards greater possibilities and major revivals."* She sees the simultaneous possibility and co-existence of traditional art forms with digital art with the latter looking back and learning from the past. She also observes the emergence and social acceptance of the artist as professional, reestablishing art as a profession.

Pooja says *"In the future the art world will be even more liberated to make use of all the media around us, because artists have this passionate curiosity and ceaseless desire for new ideas. Artists are, at heart, opportunity seekers who transform the world around us."*

Viswanath is in the process of becoming: thinking, rethinking, progressing, regressing and inspecting every element of his composition to create artwork and present it in the most novel way to society.

"I don't see art as an agent of change; I see art as a companion of change, as a way for people to express their moment as it happens" says Heera.



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