

INDIAN

NEW DELHI, VOLUME-I, ISSUE-II, SEPT-OCT, 2014, ₹ 200

CREATIVE MINDS

THE BI-MONTHLY ON ART & CULTURE



Vandana Bhargava

■ Prayag Shukla on Ram Kumar ■ Delhi Art Gallery ■ Vincent Van Ross on Keshav Malik ■ Ranjit Hoskote on Shibu Arakkal ■ Niren Sen Gupta ■ Johnny ML ■ N.D.M.C. Art Exhibition ■ Suneet Chopra ■ Kanu Pate ■ Mary Kom ■ Radhey Shyam Yadav ■ Bheem Malhotra ■ Tapan Dash ■ John Fernandes ■ Yogendra Sethi ■ Anu Malhotra



Galleria VSB InsideView

■ COVER STORY ■

VANDANA BHARGAVA

The Famous Jewellery Designer Committed to Conserving Cultural Heritage and Promoting Art

by S. Gangopadhyay

Vandana Bhargava, a well-known Jewellery Designer of international fame, needs no introduction. She is based in Delhi. Having graduated in English Literature from University of Delhi, she has pursued her career in designing and creating some of the finest rare Jewels and has been in the field of Jewellery Designing for over two decades. She is a vivid collector of objects of Art and Craft and is passionate about India's rich culture and heritage. Over time, she has diversified into many businesses, including Art & Jewellery and is presently the Chairman & Managing Director of the House of



Lord Ganesha Playing Tabla, - by
Raghunath Mohapatra, 2' 8" tall, Indian
Green Stone, Temple Architecture



Vandana Bhargava (center) in her gallery Galleria VSB with Nina Rege, Jenny Shah, Vinod Bhardwaj and Manash (left to right) - Spell bound at the collection

VSB and Nicks Export Private Limited.

With her gifted ability to create masterpieces, Vandana Bhargava is able to translate the true elegance and beauty of gems and precious metals in her precious timeless designs.

Bringing together elegance, grace and grandeur, her brand White & Yellow conveys the subtle and charismatic language of love, which she accepts as the true meaning underlying jewellery. A creator with discerning eyes she arranges her precious stones in the finest of settings that render each creation fit for a Queen's personal wardrobe. She is candid in stating that in her creations, she is greatly inspired by precious ancient jewels having origins in India, China, Egypt and Rome.



Sonia Bajaj with Vandana Bhargava - Relishing the Art at Galleria VSB



Vandana receiving the Big Brands Award for her Gallery 'The Most Elegant Art Gallery of South Delhi' from Chetan Bhagat



Dancing Ganesha Statue - by Raghunath Mohapatra - 2 feet 5 inches tall
in Indian Red Stone - Temple Architecture

Vandana is equally passionate about art and craft which is evident from the collection of rare Art and Craft in her Gallery. She carries a boundless love for India's temple architecture, stone carvings, bronze castings, silver filigree and murals & paintings. This has led her to collect and conserve some of the rarest works of art – sculptures, paintings and castings – which are presently housed in

her Gallery – Galleria VSB in Square One Mall, Saket. Her Gallery has been awarded as the 'Most Elegant Art Gallery of South Delhi' by the Big Brands. It is incredible that despite her extremely tight schedule with her 'Signature Jewels', she is able to take out time for Art and promoting Artists. She is deeply involved in collecting magnificent works of art and devotes herself fully to conserving these works in her Gallery at Saket.

She states, "I started curating about a decade ago with the adoption of museum collection of sculptures by Raghunath Mohapatra, the world famous Sculptor from Odisha, awardee of National Honours, Padma Shree in 1975, Padma Bhushan in 2001 and Padma Vibhushan in 2013. I graduated to collecting and preserving paintings of different periods in varied textures, colours and styles, on subjects ranging from folk to modern, bronze castings, handcrafted silver plates and filigree objects by traditional master craftsmen from across India. I am deeply involved in conserving these works of art and am engaged for last few years in promoting artists, traditional craftsmen and sculptors who continue to practice our ancient forms of art despite many odds".

Vandana feels greatly concerned that our traditional craftsmen practicing ancient art/ craft are suffering loss of livelihood on account of lack of innovative designs and poor finishing & marketing.



Raghunath Mohapatra receiving Padma Vibhushan award from the Hon'ble President of India Shri Pranab Mukherjee

Being a sensitive & socially responsible person, she is helping these craftsmen, particularly those practicing fast disappearing crafts such as filigree with her designs and design concepts for their creations and sustenance. She states that the designers have the responsibility to promote and perpetuate the rich Indian heritage, culture and crafts. Her latest collection of silver/ gold filigree 'Signature Clutches' titled 'Regal Attitude' unveiled by her in September, 2014 is one such humble step to conserve and promote filigree art which is presently practiced by only a handful of families in India in Cuttack (Odisha) and Karimnagar (Andhra Pradesh). Vandana is presently engaged in providing craftsmen and artists a platform for their creations. She states, "Recently, I have taken a more direct step to promote art by providing promising artists/ sculptors a platform from my gallery – Galleria VSB".

Galleria VSB is her Art Gallery at Square One Mall, Saket and is enriched with heritage collection of Indian Art and Crafts. Spread over 4000 square feet of space, Galleria VSB has some rarest works of Art, including paintings on Tussar Silk, Patta paintings, Silver Plates and figures and some rarest Sculptures. The Gallery showcases the entire collection of Vandana which include the rarest of paintings by some well-known Artists, including Kailash Chandra Meher, Gajendra Prasad Sahu, Late Kashinath Jena, Manash Ranjan Jena, Surat Choudhury, Gauranga Barik, Siba Panigrahi, D.N. Rao, Baladev Maharatha, Meenaketan Pattnaik, Manoj Sahu, Gouri Prashad Rout, Chandan Samal, Pradosh Swain, Anoop Chand, Prasanna Moharana, Seema Kohli, Vijender Sharma, Amitava Das, Ravindra Salve,



Lakshi Narayan Statue - by Raghunath Mohapatra 3 feet 6 inches tall in Indian Green Stone - Temple Architecture



Total Bliss Statue - by Raghunath Mohapatra - 2 feet 9 inches tall in Indian Black Granite Stone - Contemporary Sculpture



Meditating Buddha Statue - by Raghunath Mohapatra - 1 foot tall in Indian Green Stone - Temple Architecture



Reclining Ganesha on Peacock Statue - by Raghunath Mohapatra 1 foot tall in Indian Red Stone Temple Architecture



Vandana showcasing a painting by Manash Jena - At her Gallery

G.K. Samantray, R.B. Bhaskaran, Vidhya Sagar Upadhyay, Somenath Maity, Vinod Sharma, Deepak Shinde, Yusuf and Suman Gupta, all

National, State and UNESCO Awardees. The Gallery has some exquisite Sculptures sculpted by Raghunath Mahapatra, who has been conferred the highest National honours Padmashree, Padma Bhushan and Padma Vibhushan. Intricately carved sculptures on solid Granite and other solid stones, almost done to perfection, are a treat to one's eyes. The collection at Galleria VSB reflects depth, colour and vibrancy, texturing and, most significantly, positive energy. Every work is titled and conveys a subtle message. Each Sculpture is a treasure worth-possessing and passing from generation to the next.

In this edition, we bring to you her collection of rare sculptures by Padma Vibhushan Raghunath Mohapatra in Red & Green Stones, granite and wood. This collection displayed in Vandana's gallery includes some of his rarest works. Vandana adds that Raghunath Mohapatra has the unique privilege of being the



Leather designer Swati Bhargava at Galleria VSB



Jewellery designer Varun Bhargava at Galleria VSB



Baljeet Puri, Art Collector and Satya Pal, Secretary Lalit Kala Akademi Ghari Studio - Appreciating the collection at Galleria VSB



Vandana Bhargava, Aarti Zaveri - In an event organized at Galleria VSB

descendant of illustrious sculptors who created the world famous heritage monuments, Temples of Konark and Puri. He has sheer



Radha Krishna Statue - by Raghunath Mohapatra, 3 feet tall in Indian Red Stone, Temple Architecture

magic in his fingers and is empowered with knowledge and skills of Shilpa Shastra from ancient palm leaves and temple architecture. Considered an authority in sculpting, he has won innumerable awards including the Silpi Guru Award in 2006 and Shilpa Srestha Siromani Award (USA). Vandana states that she will continue with her efforts to project and promote the rich cultural heritage and diversity of India and continue to provide support to artists and craftsmen to help revive and conserve India's heritage in her own humble way. How we wish that other designers take the lead from her and move beyond simple business logic and contribute to Nation building efforts! ■

S. Gangopadhyay is a writer on art, culture, lifestyle etc. He is based in Delhi.
