



PHOTOGRAPHY
PAINTING
FASHION
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TRAVEL

**FROM DAWN
TO DUSK**
THE SEVEN
CHAPTERS OF LIFE

RETRO KOLKATA

THE GLOBAL EDITION

CAPTURING ESSENCE

Luminous Journey of
Anjan Ghosh

FROM TANGLES TO TRIUMPHS

The Anna Sitkina
Chronicle

SERENDIPITY TO STARDOM

The Stylish Chronicles
of Kanika Khatri

TIRANA TO GLOBAL GLAMOUR

Amina Shena
Dollapi

SILVER FOX OF NORWAY'S RUNWAYS

Hakon Anshus

Retro Kolkata Magazine

The Global Edition

A Gentle Sail Through Time's Loving Embrace
**Painting the Symphony of Life in Vivid Hues of
Creativity**

Thank you for embracing the vibrant journey within Retro Kolkata Magazine - The Global Edition. Your purchase is more than support; it's a heartfelt entry into a global celebration of diverse artistry. As you turn each page, immerse yourself in a world where creativity knows no bounds, where every stroke, note, and word bridges cultures and continents. Together, we are not just sharing art, but fostering a community bound by the universal language of creativity. Here's to a journey that transcends borders, uniting us all in the spirit of boundless artistry.

RETRO KOLKATA MAGAZINE

From Dawn to Dusk

The Seven Chapters of Life

A Gentle Sail Through Time's Loving Embrace
Painting the Symphony of Life in Vivid Hues of Creativity

Welcome to Retro Kolkata Magazine - **The Global Edition**

EDITORIAL

A symphony of artistry that sings a song unique to its name and heritage. As you turn these pages, you're not just leafing through another magazine; you're embarking on a journey that spans continents, cultures, and creative disciplines.

Our edition unfolds in seven distinct chapters, each dedicated to a theme, drawing you into realms of wonder and discovery. While we've categorized content, we've also taken a bold step to merge various art forms into a collective expression. From the powerful strokes of a painter in Paris to the harmonious chords of a musician in Marrakech, from the poetic musings of a writer in Kolkata to the intricate threads of fashion from Tirana – we present a curated panorama of artistry. Every frame, every note, every word is a testimony to the universal language of creativity.

We believe fervently that everyone is an artist. Whether one finds solace in painting, photography, music, writing, fashion, or travel, the essence of creativity remains unchanged. It's this belief that guides our vision for this magazine, reminding us and our readers that artistry has no boundaries.

Our global ensemble of contributors is the heartbeat of this edition. Their diverse perspectives and unyielding passion infuse each page with life, transforming this collective into a tapestry that's both rich and resonant.

Retro Kolkata Magazine - The Global Edition isn't a mere collection of works; it's a conversation between artists and aficionados, a testament to the unifying power of art that transcends borders and disciplines.

Thank you for joining us on this curated journey. Here's to the boundless spirit of creativity that connects us all.

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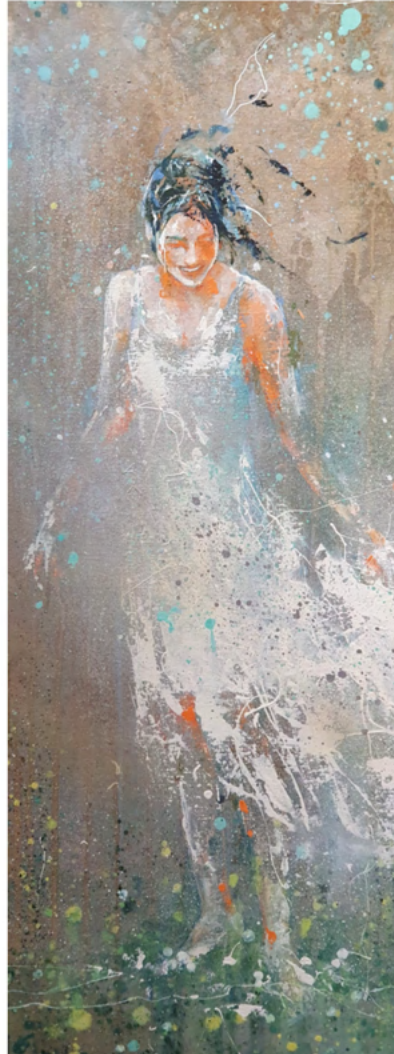
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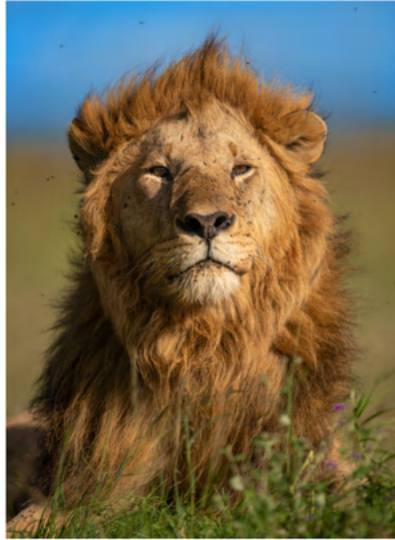
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Trevor Cole

  Ireland

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Awakening

THE STIRRING OF THE SENSES

CONTRIBUTORS



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Photography



Karolina Urbaniak
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Kiruthika S
Painting



Ismael Costa
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Seona Sommer
Painting



Agnika Banerjee
Miniature



Morup Namgail
Photography

Capturing Essence



LUMINOUS JOURNEY OF ANJAN GHOSH



Bathed in the early morning light, Anjan Ghosh stood at the edge of a village in West Bengal, his camera at the ready. For Anjan, photography wasn't just an art; it was a mission. Driven by passion, his lenses focused on the unsung narratives of rural India.

Amid the bustling urban sprawl, the true essence of India, according to Anjan, thrives in its rural heartbeat. While many saw villages as remnants of a fading past, Anjan discerned a resolute spirit, determinedly matching pace with urbanisation. He wasn't out to capture poverty or hardship; instead, he sought moments that echoed the untold tales of strength, resilience, and hope.

His journeys into West Bengal's hinterlands weren't mere photo expeditions; they were in-depth research explorations. Every photograph taken, curated to reveal truths that perhaps even the villages were unaware of. Challenges? Of course. Many a time, the right moment eluded him, or the village folks hesitated. But Anjan's resolve remained undeterred.

And the winds of change were starting to blow. Slowly, but surely, word of Anjan's work began to spread. Friends and peers, recognising the gravity of his mission, rallied around. They took a solemn oath: if their combined efforts could transform the life of even a single family, or spur the government to action, they'd consider their mission a success.





Yet, it wasn't just his mission that drew attention; it was his unparalleled skill behind the lens. In 2012, his works graced a group show in Kolkata. By 2014, he had been recognized by the colossal National Geographic and showcased his brilliance in international exhibitions from Spain to Germany. The accolades kept coming: from an international art show at Birla Academy in Kolkata to the renowned Eikon Culture Visual Reflections in Italy. By 2023, Anjan had ascended to such prominence that he was invited as a special international judge for the grand "Retro Kolkata Magazine" exhibition.

Anjan's journey wasn't just about the accolades, though they were many. It was a testament to the power of purpose-driven art, and how one man's passion can ripple out, creating waves of change. For Anjan Ghosh, every click wasn't just a photograph; it was a heartbeat of India, echoing hopes of a brighter, unified future.



Six skies away from Peace

My city wraps the blanket of clouds tonight
 It restlessly shifts positions
 between trending songs and political debates in sleep.
 Tonight she bleeds in her bed
 As her caretakers carefully craft hand grenades
 And puts them under her pillow.
 My city dreams of the village boy who died
 As he walked home from school,
 His crime was to exist in an era of practical tantrums.
 Fragments of eyelashes scattered on the road
 Screamed for a hand to wipe off his tears.
 My city wakes up to the honks of yellow taxis
 refusing to carry weights of last night's melancholy,
 Drunken sunshine sweeps in the yard
 As she aligns her bindi and pleats her thoughts inside the yellow saree.
 My city sips her morning chai with cold corpses
 waiting to be lost before news breaks in.
 Her tears pool up as she rips off flags like nails from her skin,
 She is a helpless mother whose sons riot the streets
 She knows not why.
 Building blocks to destruction disguised as stepping stones to sanity
 My city awaits peace like orphans waiting for their vanity.



SNIGDHA DEBNATH

Amidst the bustling tapestry of Kolkata, Snigdha Debnath finds solace in the embrace of words. Juggling the stringent demands of the corporate realm, she has nurtured an identity far more profound—a passionate lover of creative writing and an insatiable bookworm. Her journey with poetry, spanning over a decade, is not merely a fleeting dalliance; it's an eternal love affair. For her, words have always been more than an escape from the mundane; they serve as her compass, guiding her through life's labyrinth, ensuring she never loses her way.



Partha Mukhopadhyay

Partha Mukhopadhyay, based in Kolkata's illustrious City of Joy, stands distinguished in the finance realm, contributing diligently to the Power Sector and aligning with ICAI as an examiner. Beyond his professional finance endeavors, Partha has an intrinsic passion for photography. He meticulously captures authentic moments with a dedication to originality, ensuring each snapshot speaks volumes of its own unique narrative. Instead of confining himself to a specific genre, he embraces the spontaneity of whatever catches his discerning eye.



Soumik Ghosh

Embarking on a photographic odyssey in 2021, Soumik Ghosh is a visionary, melding his love for travel with documentary-style captures. His camera, more than just an instrument, becomes a bridge to unfamiliar worlds, freezing moments that transcend cultural boundaries. In every frame, Soumik weaves tales of landscapes, lives, and transient moments, aspiring not just to show, but to kindle dialogue and ignite inspiration.



FROM TANGLES TO TRIUMPHS



THE ANNA SITKINA CHRONICLE



In the luminous universe of haircare, one star has been burning especially bright – Anna Sitkina. A rendezvous with her isn't just an introduction to haircare; it's an entry into an exquisite world of sophistication.

Anna's foray into the fashion arena began with delicate steps. She, a zealous admirer of beauty, artfully carved her niche in the digital realm, weaving stories around her personal style and beauty sensibilities. And as her insights shimmered online, Anna metamorphosed from an ardent fashion enthusiast to an international symbol of elegance.



But there's more to Anna's tale than meets the eye. Her digital persona might be all about setting trends, but her roots in the modeling world offer an immersive dive into the art of fashion. This duality—of being both a digital maven and a real-world model—bestows upon her an enviable vantage point. She not only deciphers fashion from within but also curates it for the world, like a maestro orchestrating a symphony.



However, it was her own locks that scripted her haircare chronicle. The rigors of modeling nudged her into a deep dive into hair wellness. She began a meticulous journey, sifting through product labels and ingredients, and in the process, cultivating a refined taste in haircare. While she swears by moisturizing masks, sulfate-free shampoos, and indelible conditioners, her overarching hair philosophy is profound: it's about embracing the impending shift towards health and holistic well-being.

Amidst this sophistication, Anna is exhilarated by the beauty industry's budding inclusivity. The world is finally widening its lens to appreciate the myriad hair types and textures, and Anna is right at the forefront, championing this evolution.

But even as the limelight shines on her, Anna remains an emblem of authenticity. In a world obsessed with curated perfection, she elegantly balances the act of presenting impeccable content while staying rooted in her authentic self. And for those aspiring to make a mark in this domain? Anna's pearls of wisdom are wrapped in simplicity: Arm yourself with patience and let your authenticity be your North Star.





Juan Carlos Rodríguez

Esteemed Costa Rican photographer and graphic designer, Rodríguez elegantly crafts visuals that highlight the extraordinary in the commonplace. His refined lens offers a fresh perspective, turning seemingly mundane moments into profound narratives. A maestro of capturing daily life's nuances, Rodríguez reminds us to value and recognize the elegance of our everyday surroundings.

THE STYLISH CHRONICLES OF KANIKA KHATRI

FROM SERENDIPITY TO STARDOM





In the sprawling metropolis of fashion, where trends change quicker than you can say "couture," Kanika Khatri's story unfurls like a beautifully crafted designer scarf – unexpected, elegant, and always in vogue.

Growing up, Kanika's playground was fashion school, a place where her dreams wore couture and ambition strutted on high heels. But in a twist no screenwriter could've penned, she stumbled onto the sets of **Everest**, marking her surprise debut in the world of acting. It's said some things come naturally. For Kanika, that's fashion blogging and, apparently, acting!



A flashback to her early days reveals a determined Kanika diving headfirst into the nascent world of Indian blogging. A year went by without monetary gain, but she was rich in passion. Her big break? A shiny campaign with Gillette, paving the way to where she stands today.

Drawing inspiration from icons like Negin Mirsalehi and Leonie Hanne, she's not just another follower. She's a trendsetter, with a signature twist. As for the future? With a mischievous glint in her eye, she hints at international escapades and ruling the influencer throne in India.

Stay tuned, for in the grand tale of fashion and flair, Kanika Khatri is just gearing up for her next captivating chapter!

Rising quickly in the ranks, she soon found herself glowing on the glossy pages of *Femina Magazine*. Celebrated as the 'Femina Model of The Fortnight', she wryly comments, "If that's the benchmark, honey, you ain't seen nothing yet!"

But, life's not always about the glittering runway shows. Even as a shining star in the luxury fashion constellation, Kanika navigates the universe of Instagram, where every post is a potential supernova. Keeping her content refreshing is a game, and Kanika? She's the undisputed queen. "Think of it as accessorizing your life, one day at a time," she often muses.

Despite the global applause, there's a shadow side – the trolls under the bridge, the subtle sting of online hate, and the perpetual dance of content creation that sometimes makes her miss a real-life beat. Yet, the spotlight's allure and the unwavering support of her 'online fam' make it all worth it.





Rupesh Aravind

Meet Rupesh Aravind, Chennai's visionary fine art photographer. Beyond just capturing moments, he crafts visual epics, blending creativity with unmatched technical prowess. His portraits delve deep, playing with light, shadow, and vibrant hues, transforming each subject into a canvas of profound emotions. In his hands, the ordinary is elevated to extraordinary, solidifying Rupesh's status as a maestro in evocative fine art imagery. Dive in, and lose yourself in his mesmerizing world.

Model: Julia Czekalska
MUA: Amanda Wysocka
Hair Stylist: Joanna Ruda
Florist: Magdalena Frątczak

Eclipsing Time

KAROLINA URBANIAK'S LUMINOUS LEGACY

Nestled in the heart of Poland, the city of Łódź holds a secret. It is here that renowned photographer Karolina Urbaniak weaves tales from light and shadow, capturing the essence of her subjects, predominantly women and children, with a unique flair that resonates across continents.

Karolina's early tryst with photography was an affair of patience, honed in the hallowed confines of a darkroom. With the analog approach, every frame was precious, teaching her the value of the perfect shot. That meticulous discipline set the foundation for her evolution as a photographer, shaping her aesthetic choices as she meandered through diverse styles and lighting nuances.



Her artistry catapulted to international acclaim when she unveiled a series inspired by her trip to Luxor, Egypt. Enthralled by the Temple of Hatshepsut and the legacy of Egyptian female rulers, Karolina recreated a portrait, infusing it with the powerful essence of women who dared to claim power in a male-dominated world. These evocative images saw her partnering with an old friend, a breeder of the majestic Ibizan Hounds, adding a unique touch to her portrayals.

Model: Preetini Kuna
MUA: Aneta Kusy
Dog: elcanopodenco



Model: Wiktoria Gajzler **Hair stylist: Joanna Ruda**
MUA: Amanda Wysocka **Florist: Magdalena Frątczak**

Over the years, her style, particularly in children's and female portraiture, has evolved. Light and its interplay with her subjects remain central to her work. While awards, like the Child Photo Competition she bagged in 2020, have been milestones, it's the deep satisfaction of creating something enduring that keeps her going.

In her serene studio in Łódź, every session is a journey into the soul of the subject. Ensuring comfort and evoking a raw, genuine emotion is key, be it in the rustic charm of her garden or the echoing silences of abandoned palaces and factories. While studio portraits hold a special place in her heart, it's the outdoor sessions during the magical hours that produce ethereal imagery.



Model: Pola Aleszczerikowska
MUA: Aneta Kusy

Her knack for blending vintage with contemporary, historical with whimsical, is evident. Drawing inspiration from myriad sources – travel, cinema, art, literature – she crafts narratives that resonate deeply with her subjects and viewers alike.

And as for the future? Having recently held her first exhibition, Karolina finds herself at a crossroads – professionally fulfilled, yet ever eager to push her boundaries. With an unquenchable thirst for capturing the perfect moment, the world can only wait in anticipation for her next masterpiece.

Lady and her three brown horses | Mixed Media



Kiruthika S

Kiruthika S stands as a luminary in the realm of contemporary art, masterfully weaving various mediums to create mixed media masterpieces. Internationally recognized, her works grace the pages of renowned art publications, with several accolades as a featured artist. Beyond mere aesthetics, Kiruthika's creations serve a profound purpose: to infuse each viewer's spirit with brightness and invigorating positivity.

THE COLORFUL CHRONICLES

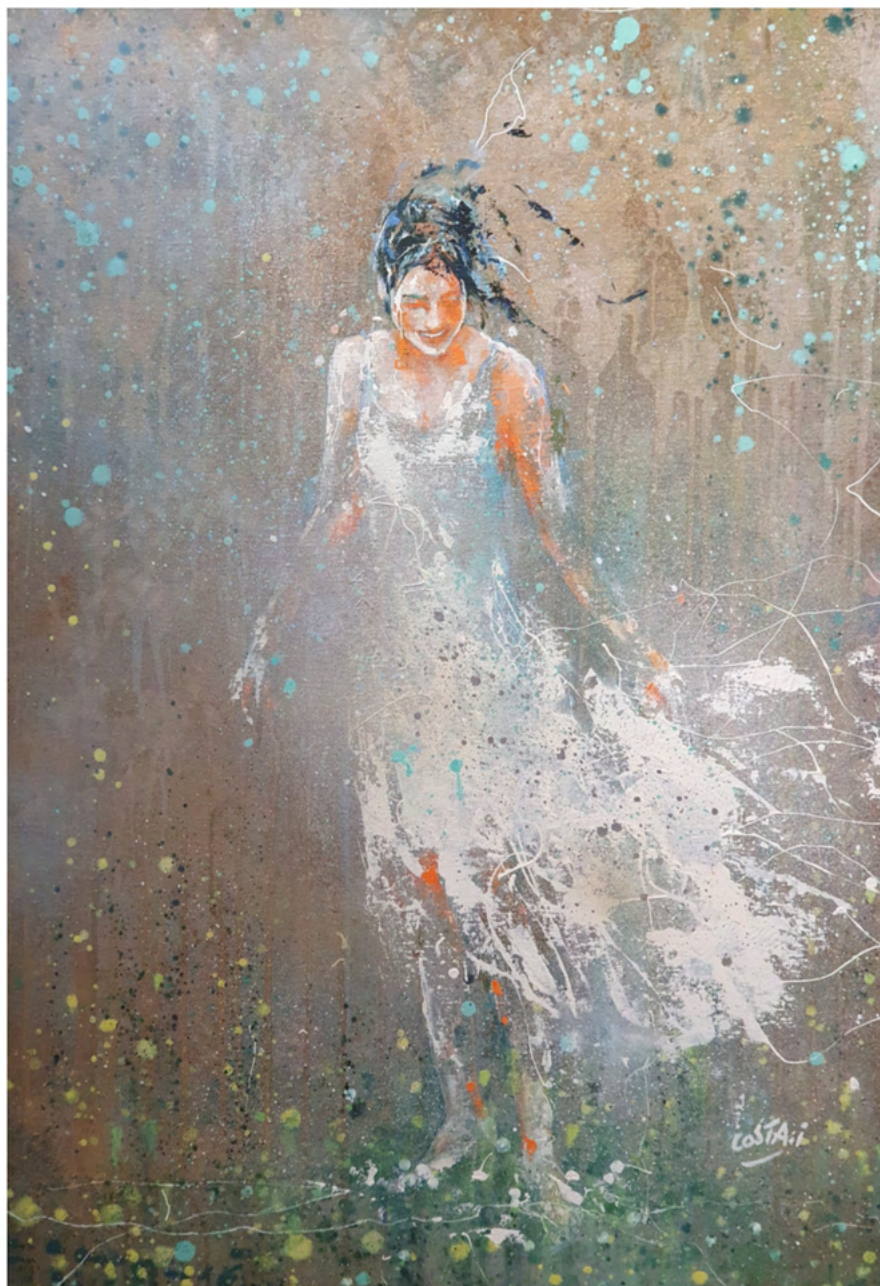
Ismael Costa's Unexpected Canvas of Life



Passion Diptyque

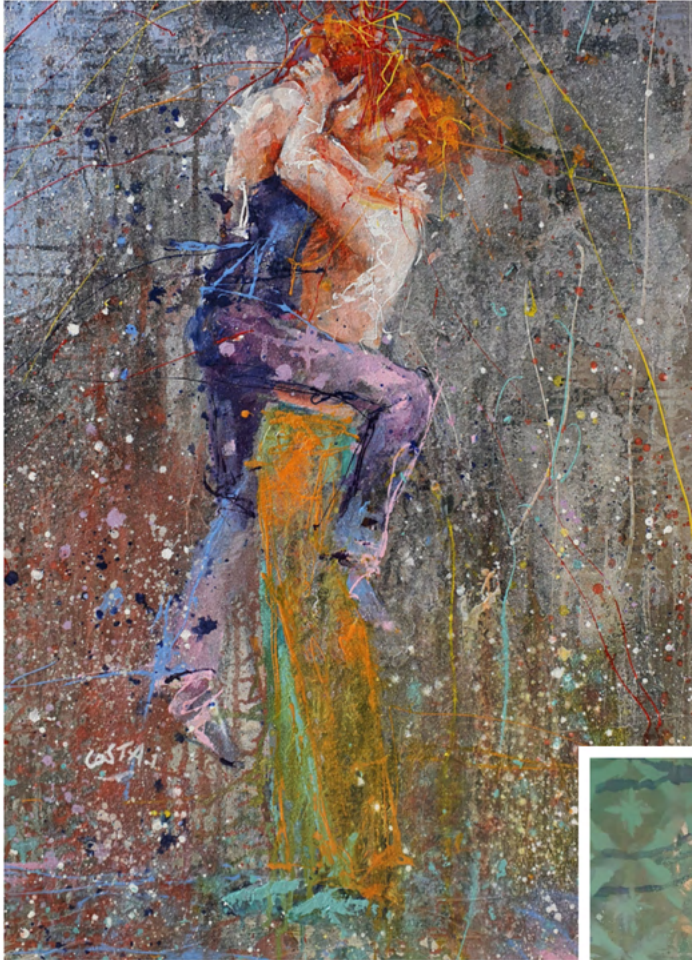
Ismael Costa
France

Drenched in the sunlight of southern France, with paintbrushes as his comrades and vivid palettes as his confidantes, Ismael Costa embarked on an artistic adventure that spun like a whimsical tale from a graphic novel. As a young lad, comics were his first love, enveloped in the influence of impressionists and the allure of Klimt and Turner. These were not mere boxes filled with graphics; they were realms of imagination waiting to spill onto a canvas.



Souffle

Ismael Costa

**Fougue**

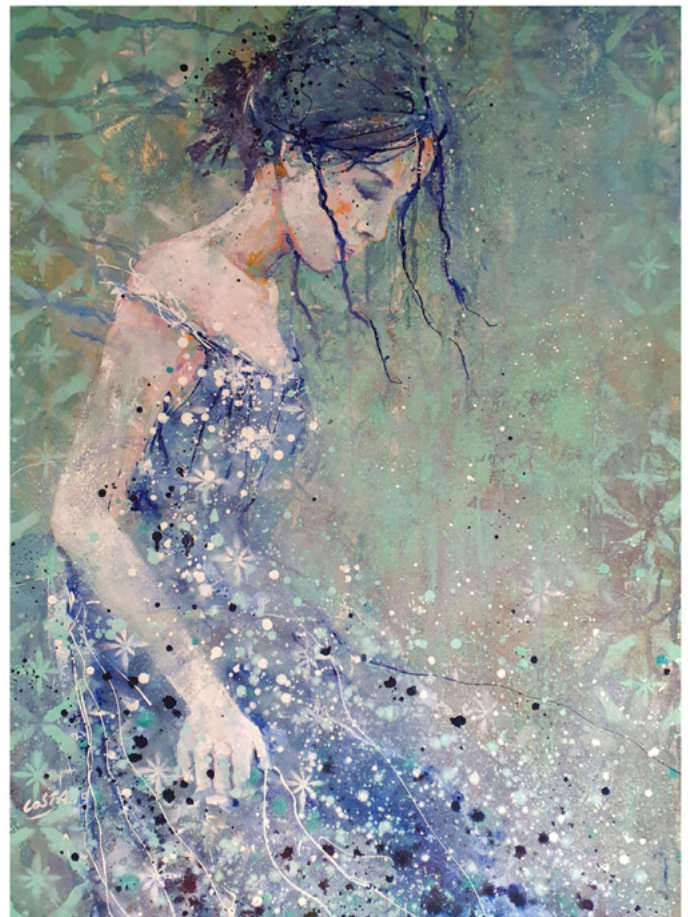
Now, nestled amidst La Traversée des Arts, Ismael finds harmony not only in colors but also in the camaraderie of fellow artists. Discussing the latest techniques over espressos or chuckling about a paint mishap, the atmosphere is one of creation and kinship.

His comic roots? They never left him. If you gaze long enough at his portraits, you'll see tales longing to be told. And colors? They're not mere shades on his palette. They are emotions, dancing freely, unburdened, creating symphonies on canvas.

For budding Picassos, Ismael's wisdom is simple: Listen to your heart, be fearless, and good luck! As for him, don't be surprised if someday, the vibrant characters in his paintings decide to step back, letting the riot of colors take the centre stage. The future might just be a canvas filled with passion and play.

Life is both scripted and unscripted, just like a comic book juxtaposed with a blank canvas. Ismael's shift from the bustling streets of Paris, where he illustrated for Alpha Media, to the serene alleys of Monteux was marked by fortuity. A studio door closing in Paris and a neighbour's invitation in Monteux set the scene. Who would've thought that presenting three paintings at a modest exhibition would be the curtain raiser for his magnum opus?

Each day, as Ismael stands before his easel, it's like time-travel. He revisits that untainted childhood euphoria, allowing it to drench his creations. Whether it's the smooth glide of acrylics, the spray of aerosols, or the smudge of pastels, he plays, he experiments, and he rejoices in the unexpected magic they conjure. It's like whipping up a gourmet dish without a recipe.

**Cendre**

The Girl & the Goat | Oil on Canvas



Seona Sommer

In the rich tapestry of contemporary art, Germany's Seona Sommer emerges as a beacon of depth and diversity. With poignant portraits that unveil the very essence of humanity, she intricately weaves tales of souls. Amidst the global pause, Seona harnessed digital bridges, fostering inspiring collaborations—one notable piece is a synergy with Kolkata's acclaimed photographer, Anjan Gosh. Her masterpieces grace global galleries and international art chronicles.



Whispers in the Labyrinth *of* miniatures

AGNIKA BANERJEE'S CRAFTED COSMOS

In a sprawling cityscape where stories unfurl in every corner, Agnika Banerjee cradles a universe in the palm of her hand. Amidst Kolkata's sonorous chaos and art-infused streets, she's been weaving tales, not with words, but with dainty, detailed miniatures.

Once, the rigid confines of boardrooms and project blueprints consumed her days. With a degree in Human Resource Management tucked under her arm, she stepped into the corporate realm. But while this world spun in cycles of monotony, Agnika's spirit, wild and whimsical, yearned to dance to its own tune.





The muse struck in the most unexpected manner. An upcoming birthday, a desire to gift something unparalleled, and a rekindling of an old flame - crafting. Childhood memories of molding air-dry clay swirled with the present, culminating in a miniature birthday cake, a symbol of nostalgia and new beginnings.

Diving deeper, Agnika serendipitously stumbled upon oven-bake clay, the alchemy of which unlocked realms she'd never fathomed. It wasn't long before her fingers, like sorcerers, began crafting minuscule feasts - food that sat still, yet narrated tales as vast as the cosmos.



Word spread, her artistry became coveted, and what began as hushed whispers soon crescendoed into a symphony of accolades. Realizing the enchantment her crafts invoked, Agnika swapped corporate charts for a canvas of creativity, launching her ethereal collection to the world in December 2017.

From then, her creations, each a fragment of her soul, have flown from Kolkata's terracotta rooftops to touch hearts in ten distant lands - from the flamenco beats of Spain to the tranquil temples of South Korea.

In Agnika Banerjee's world, grandeur lies not in size but in sentiment. Through her, Kolkata whispers its stories, one miniature at a time.

AGNIKA BANERJEE'S CRAFTED COSMOS

Through the Lens of Wilderness and Wonder



Morup Namgail

Amidst the stark silhouettes of Ladakh, Morup Namgail is a conjurer of tales. With each click of his Nikon D850, the world, in its raw, ferocious beauty, unfurls. His photographs aren't mere images; they are whispers of the wind through the trees, the predatory stare of a tiger, and the serene beauty of a moonlit desert night.

Picture this: In the dense, shadowed heart of Ranthambore, a tiger prowls, its amber eyes reflecting the glint of the dying sun. As your heart races, there's a quiet click. Morup, blending into the tapestry of the jungle, has captured that ephemeral moment. It's not just a photograph; it's a passage into the tiger's very soul.

The mystical rainforests of the Western Ghats beckon next. Beneath their dark canopy, vipers weave deadly dances and amphibians sing nature's ancient lullabies. Morup waits, patient as time, lens poised. The resulting shot? A rhapsody of colors and emotions; the very pulse of the rainforest.





Morup's artistry transcends mere aesthetics. Hailing from Ladakh, his spirit resonates with the land's age-old wisdom. Each photograph is a canvas painted with tales of symbiosis, tradition, and an urgent plea for conservation.

Enter the "Ladakh Si Podcast," Morup's aural tapestry with co-conspirator Padma Rigzin. Like wizards of old, they weave tales of Ladakh's treasures, leading listeners on an auditory odyssey through untouched wilds.

In Morup's world, the camera isn't just a device; it's a bridge. A bridge that connects humanity's forgotten roots with the heart of wilderness. His images, pulsating with life, serve as a clarion call. Amid the chaos of modern life, Morup's art reminds us: Nature's stories await, whispered in the rustle of leaves and the distant call of the wild. Join him, and listen.

CHAPTER 2 Exploration

VENTURING INTO THE VAST UNKNOWN

CONTRIBUTORS



Trevor Cole
Photography



Prodipta Das
Hriday
Photography



Dr. Srimanta Ray
Photography



Arijit Chakraborty
Painting



Nabhoneel
Chatterjee
Photography



Gerardo Labarca
Painting



Gunjan Daga
Painting



Soniya Maurya
Painting



Nayan Chatterjee
Photography



Indra Achamad
Photography



Rarindra
Parakarsa
Photography



Arnab
Bhattacharya
Music



Toiub Khan
Travel



Harsha
Narasimhamurthy
Photography



Umaima Tanweer
Photography



Katalin Molnar
Photography



CAPTURING THE WORLD'S SILENT STORIES

THROUGH THE LENS OF
TREVOR COLE

There are few who can claim mastery over the delicate alchemy of time, place, and light. Trevor Cole is one of those select few. From the tranquil hues of dawn in South Sudan to the vibrant pulse of tribal life in Ethiopia, his photographs have become windows into worlds both distant and intimately human.

The journey began with the weight of a Rolleiflex SLR during family trips, a seemingly innocuous introduction to what would become a lifelong dance with the world's hidden tales. His innate curiosity, born from his days as a geographer, merges seamlessly with his photographer's eye, rendering landscapes and faces into breathtaking stories of diversity and unity.



Diverse places, like the Omo Valley, have beckoned him, urging him to document the rapid evolution of indigenous societies. His images, however, are no mere documentation. Trevor delves deep, immersing himself in communities, engaging in their daily rhythms, and forging connections. The result? Portraits pulsating with authenticity, with souls bared and stories unveiled.

His accolades, which include the distinguished "Africa Geographic Photographer of the Year," are a testament to his talent. Yet, for Trevor, the true magic isn't in the recognition but in the pursuit. It's in the transformative power of the golden hour when the ordinary transcends into the sublime, a moment he constantly chases, framing the world in its most compelling light.

His work, celebrated across diverse platforms, from tourism to advocacy, goes beyond aesthetic appeal. It's a clarion call for sustainability, for respecting the myriad narratives of our world, and understanding the delicate weave of humanity and nature.



Now, as horizons continue to beckon, Trevor prepares for yet another sojourn, with the tribes of Southern Angola and the rich tapestries of Pakistan and Afghanistan awaiting his lens. As he ventures forth, one thing remains certain: the world will be seeing, and perhaps understanding, itself better through the eyes of Trevor Cole.



Trevor Cole
Ireland





Prodipta Das Hriday

Renowned for an unparalleled ability to capture the transient essence of moments, Prodipta Das Hriday stands tall in the world of photography. With over five years of mastery, this member of the Bangladesh Photographic Society has collaborated with international agencies, leaving indelible imprints in prestigious realms like HIPA Contest and BRASILIA PHOTO SHOW. His artistry graces global platforms, including UNDP and Fine Art America, and echoes in revered galleries from Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy to Kolkata's Birla Academy of Art and Culture.



Dr. Srimanta Ray

Dr. Srimanta Ray is the esteemed Associate Professor of Bengali and the acting Principal at Government Degree College in Gandacherra, Tripura, a picturesque yet remote corner of India. While academia is his profession, photography pulses through his veins. With numerous national and international accolades to his name, including honors from CGAP, IPA, TIFA, and BIFA contests, Ray humbly identifies not as a photographer, but a passionate devotee of the art. His remarkable lens has captured over 120 fashion projects, gracing international magazines.



Trident of Rage | Oil on Canvas | 30 x 36 inches



Arijit Chakraborty

Arijit Chakraborty, a self-taught artistic virtuoso, has been weaving visual stories for over 15 years in India. Specializing in photography and fine art, his lens captures the essence of performances, locales, and candid moments. His lens also delves into historical treasures such as Kolkata, Old Delhi, and Amritsar. A maestro of socio-political and psychological art, Arijit employs impressionist and surrealist nuances, often in monochrome, to unveil the essence beneath the surface. Currently, he also influences Creative Hands Art Materials Pvt. Ltd. as a brand influencer.

Trinity of Pain | Graphite on Handmade Paper



Nabhoneel Chatterjee

Nabhoneel Chatterjee, a recent postgraduate in Physics from St. Xavier's College, Kolkata, hailing from Berhampore, West Bengal. At just 23, Nabhoneel blends his profound fascination for graphite with a versatile artistic palette, ranging from detailed landscapes and characters to abstract expressions. His dedication to refining techniques illuminates his continuous journey towards artistic perfection.

The Life and Art of Gerardo Labarca



BRUSHSTROKES & BISTROS

Gerardo Labarca
Canada 

WWW.RETROKOLKATA.NET





Gerardo Labarca



Gerardo Labarca

In the glitzy, gourmet world of fine dining, chef-turned-artist Gerardo Labarca was once the maestro of Mezcla, an eatery so renowned it echoed across city streets. However, in a delicious twist of fate worthy of a Hollywood screenplay, Labarca traded his ladles and spatulas for brushes and palettes, metamorphosing into a self-taught portrait virtuoso.

Rewind a tad. As the restaurant buzz waned with Mezcla's unexpected closure, Labarca didn't drown his sorrows in a bouillabaisse. Instead, he gleefully dove into the world of color, cherishing the opportunity to turn a lifelong passion into his bread and butter. No, not *actual* bread and butter — though he knows a thing or two about that.

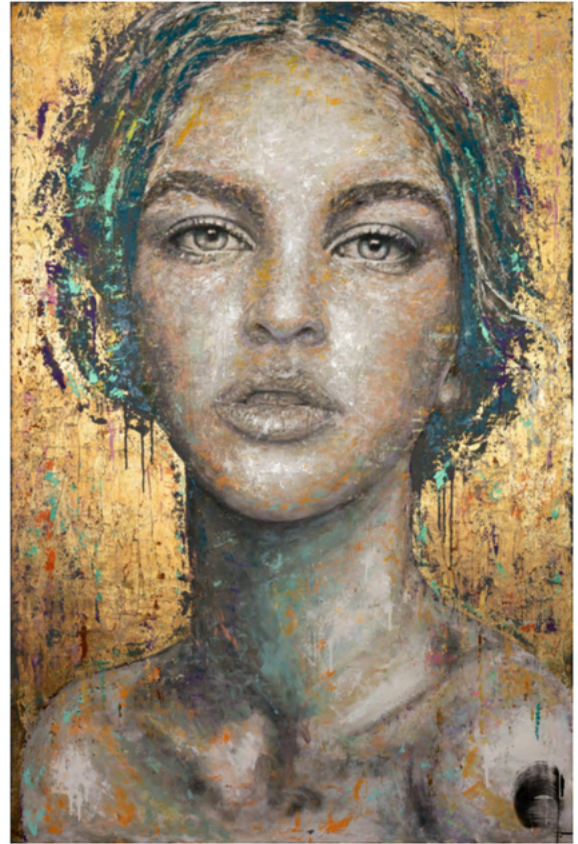
Labarca's approach to art isn't dissimilar to his days serving up haute cuisine. Discipline? Check. Creativity? Double-check. Precision? Ah, a necessary ingredient in both the culinary and canvas arts. Picture him as the Sherlock Holmes of portraits, studying the masters meticulously, deducing errors, and sharpening his techniques.

And speaking of tales, if you think dabbling in paints sounds fun, Labarca has a golden anecdote (quite literally). In his adventurous voyage through art mediums, he met a cheeky nemesis: gold leaf. "It's the soufflé of the art world," he jests, alluding to the infamous unpredictability of both.

But what's on the horizon for our renaissance man? "New techniques, new frontiers," Labarca grins. While he's embraced the gallery limelight and social media buzz, at heart, he's still the audacious artist who leaps from one inspiration to the next, always chasing his next 'Eureka!'

For Labarca, life's canvas is vast, vibrant, and waiting for the next stroke of genius. So, keep your eyes peeled and palettes ready, for the journey, just like a good dish, is filled with unexpected flavours!

Gerardo Labarca



Elegance | Charcoal on paper



Gunjan Daga

Gunjan Daga, a commerce graduate who defied norms to passionately chart an unorthodox journey in the realm of art. Drawing inspiration from life's minutiae, her innate artistic prowess shines through her intricate charcoal portraits. While forgoing formal art education might be viewed as a shortfall by many, for Gunjan, it's been the catalyst for unbridled growth. Her art is characterized by meticulous detailing, ensuring every gaze upon her work remains ensnared. Guiding philosophy? "Only undying passion and dedication can take you places."



Have you ever felt lonely? | Acrylic on Canvas



Soniya Maurya

From the heart of Mau in Uttar Pradesh, emerges Soniya Maurya—a luminary in the realm of art. Enchanted by the artistry of a paper boat in 2nd grade, guided by Mrs. Chanchal, her soul found its calling. Surrounded by a familial tapestry rich in art, Soniya chose a path distinct from her kin. Honing her skills at Banaras Hindu University and now blossoming at the Central University of Himachal Pradesh, she paints life's canvas inspired by the intricate dance of human emotions. For Soniya, art is more than a pursuit—it's a heartfelt journey through time.

Have you ever used someone? | Acrylic on Canvas



Soniya Maurya

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Nayan Chatterjee

Nayan Chatterjee of Durgapur, West Bengal, emerges from the vibrant academic tapestry as a recent graduate. But beyond academia, he dances with light, ensnaring life's fleeting moments through his discerning lens. A photographic maestro in the making, Nayan's passion bridges the mundane and the profound, offering glimpses into the multifaceted narrative of existence.



Indra Achmad

Indra Achmad, an evocative photographer from Indonesia, is captivated by the myriad facets of life. From the serene beauty of nature to the vivid tapestry of human emotions and cultural nuances, he captures them all. His travels, a canvas of places, are also often his subjects. But what resonates most is his passion for chronicling everyday life, a testament to humanity's shared journey. Through his lens, a single moment becomes a profound narrative, reminding us all of life's invaluable gifts.



The Alchemy of Light and Composition

In the world of photography, few artists command as much reverence and attention as Rarindra Prakarsa. With an artistic journey that spans nearly 30 years, from his days holding an SLR camera as a young enthusiast to the internationally acclaimed professional he is today, Prakarsa's work is a symphony of light, color, and cinematic storytelling.



Rarindra Prakarsa

His initial tryst with visual communication began not behind the lens, but as a graphic artist in the realm of mass media. Here, the raw energy of photojournalism beckoned him. While he decided to continue in graphic design, the seeds for his deep love of photography were sown. He began to venture out on weekends, capturing the life and landscapes of his beloved Indonesia, with a special emphasis on travel and people.

However, it wasn't until 2004 that a transformative encounter with the works of painter Walter Spies led Prakarsa to redefine his photographic vision. The German artist's vivid and romantic portrayal of Indonesia, especially Bali, became an inspiration. Marrying the morning and afternoon's golden hours with his prowess in post-processing, Prakarsa began creating photographs that echoed Spies' enchanting color palettes and compositions.

The essence of Prakarsa's style is the play of light. He speaks of light in dual terms: the functional aspect that accentuates subjects and brings clarity, and the artistic dimension that evokes moods. He recalls a defining image from 2007 – an old man and his grandson wandering on a paddy field bathed in the ethereal rays of light. It epitomizes his penchant for "retro romanticism", capturing the soulful beauty of Indonesia.



His background in graphic design aids his understanding of photography's core principles like contrast and balance. Still, when it comes to his unique style, it's driven by myriad influences, from paintings to cinema.

In the digital age, Prakarsa has witnessed and embraced tremendous change. He welcomes the influx of younger talents on platforms like social media, and is candid about the growth in his work, seeing his older pictures as mere stepping stones to his evolving craftsmanship.

Despite his massive success and workshops that attract global attention, Prakarsa's advice to aspiring photographers remains grounded: it's the idea that counts. He believes in the organic evolution of an artist's style, rather than a deliberate chase for one.

As for the future, while Prakarsa hasn't etched any specific plans, he hopes to visit and revisit cherished locations, perhaps branching out into videography. Whatever the medium, his global audience can anticipate a continued celebration of light, color, and life.



Arnab Bhattacharya

MELODIES BEYOND BOUNDARIES

In the heartland of India, where rhythms echo the heartbeat of its people, emerged a sarod prodigy named Arnab Bhattacharya. From the delicate fingers of a child, guided first by the nurturing hands of his father, Mr. Swapan Bhattacharya, to the revered mentorship of Pandit Buddhadev Dasgupta, Arnab's journey was more than just about music; it was destiny.

His sarod sang stories, and the world listened. Accolades like "Sarod Sunder" and "Nabin Sarod" weren't just titles but testaments to his evolving saga. By 2009, having also been crowned "Sarod Nayak", Arnab had not only charmed the subcontinent but had begun to weave his musical spell globally.

From the artistic corridors of Bangladesh and Singapore to the cultural hubs of South Africa and the United States, his melodies broke boundaries. Invited to enrapture global audiences and impart the soul of sarod through workshops, Arnab became a global ambassador of this classical instrument.

Now, as the beloved symphonist of All India Radio and Doordarshan, and a beacon for institutions like ICCR and Spic Macay, Arnab Bhattacharya isn't just playing notes; he's weaving the ethereal tales of the East, one strum at a time.

UNRAVELING KASHMIR'S MYSTIQUE



Toiub Khan

Nestled among the sublime valleys of Kashmir, a luminous beacon of storytelling has arisen — Toiub Khan. As an illustrious travel vlogger and cinematographer, he doesn't just capture scenes; he captures the very soul of his homeland. Imbued with the intricate tapestry of Kashmiriyat, Toiub crafts cinematic poems, offering a harmonious blend of mesmerizing visuals and profound emotions.



His beginnings were modest. Starting with a mere smartphone on Instagram, Toiub's journey is a testament to the magic that unfolds when passion meets perseverance. Now, with his content captivating hearts globally, he remains an emblem of authenticity, proving that genuine narratives resonate far deeper than fleeting internet trends.

Among the many destinations he's traversed, Sonamarg – the golden meadow – remains unparalleled in its allure. Here, childhood memories of dancing snowflakes and pristine meadows echo a simpler time, evoking a Kashmir that's as ethereal as poetry.

Toiub's work goes beyond the aesthetics of travel. He dives into the cultural heartbeats of places, offering a lens into their very essence. His method is profoundly immersive, ensuring that each vlog is not just a visual treat, but also a heartfelt encounter with the local ethos.



Of course, his path is strewn with challenges. His adventure to the secluded Bangus Valley, for instance, wasn't just a trek; it was an odyssey, marked by rugged terrains and daunting climbs, a testament to his undying commitment.

Informed by his Kashmiri heritage, Toiub approaches every culture with respect and reverence, infusing his vlogs with an underlying philosophy that transcends boundaries. For budding vloggers, he offers sage advice: prioritize authenticity and always let the heart lead.

As the future unfolds, Toiub's gaze is set on grand horizons, with expeditions like the Kashmir Great Lakes and an exploration of the majestic Mt. Everest in the offing. With every frame, every journey, Toiub Khan is not just showcasing destinations; he's weaving an enchanting tapestry of human connections and natural splendor.

Harsha Narasimhamurthy

Beyond the Lens, Into the Wild





Growing up alongside nature's marvels, Harsha realized the sheer beauty he witnessed deserved more than just memories; it warranted snapshots of time, immortalized through photography. Yet, his philosophy extends beyond just capturing images. "Be passionate about what you are doing. That's 40% of your job done," he asserts. By ensuring a respectful distance, Harsha believes in giving animals their space, ensuring genuine and stress-free behaviors.

Central to Harsha's work is the captivating allure of big cats. Earning him the moniker 'The Catman', these majestic beasts have been part of many unforgettable experiences. Recalling a mesmerizing encounter, Harsha narrates the rarity of watching a tiger feed on a leopard, a spectacle so rare he deemed it a once-in-a-lifetime sight, only to relive it a year later.

However, it's not just about the right moment; preparation plays a significant role. By collecting activity data from guides and drivers, Harsha manages to understand animal movements, enriching his photographic endeavors. These relationships, cultivated over time, feel like family, adding depth to his work.

Emerging from the verdant tales of his grandfather and the playful pranks of animals in their village, Harsha Narasimhamurthy's love for the wild was ignited early. Childhood fantasies transformed into a profound dedication, making Harsha one of India's foremost wildlife photographers and mentors.



Mentoring is close to Harsha's heart. His classroom and field workshops span genres from birds to landscapes, emphasizing the art of perfect exposure. Yet, his guidance transcends technicalities. To young photographers, he advises patience and persistence, emphasizing the lengthy journey ahead. He acknowledges, "It took me eight long years to become what I am today."

Despite accolades, Harsha believes his journey is still in its nascent stages. His dreams are expansive, from photographing polar bears to exploring the wilderness of Africa. Yet, intertwined in his aspirations is a fervent belief in ethical ecotourism, viewing it as a potential conservation boon if pursued sensitively.

To budding wildlife photographers, Harsha's message is clear: "Pursue your passion, have patience. And remember, it doesn't come easy. But one day, with unwavering dedication, you'll find success."



Umaima Tanweer

Umaima Tanweer stands distinguished in the realm of visual arts as a seasoned photographer known for her masterful manipulation of natural light and angles. With a flair for capturing evocative images, she has carved a niche in street, still life, and landscape photography. Internationally recognized for her distinctive blend of ambiance and elements, Umaima's adept interplay of colors, tones, and shadows sets her distinctly apart in a saturated industry.



Echoes of Eternity

INSIDE THE TIMELESS CANVAS OF KATALIN MOLNAR

In the heart of Hungary, inside a quaint studio, one might find themselves transported across centuries and continents. It's here, in this realm of canvas and light, where Katalin Molnar weaves her magic.

The story begins with a young historian, deeply enchanted by distant lands and tales of old. Travel was Katalin's first love, but it was during an unsuspecting moment when she stumbled upon a Fine Art portrait that her destiny unveiled itself. That portrait wasn't just a photograph. It was a bridge to the past, and Katalin was spellbound.

Each session with Katalin is akin to stepping into a historical tableau. The meticulous selection of props, from vintage dresses to antiquated accessories, is just the start. Her studio transforms into a stage where she crafts painterly scenes inspired by the masterpieces of Caravaggio and Rembrandt. And as she conjures these dramatic visions, her trusty tool, Photoshop, becomes the brush with which she adds her finishing touches. No filters, just an artist's discerning eye.



Katalin Molnar
 Hungary



Katalin's genius lies in her ability to peer into one's soul. To her, every wrinkle tells a story, every gaze has a narrative. And while she's had the honor of capturing Hollywood luminaries like Casey Affleck and Caylee Cowan, every individual, famous or not, receives her undivided attention. "Imagine," she often muses, "a portrait that can speak tales, echoing through the corridors of time."

Among the myriad memories she's created, the tale of Anne Boleyn stands out. A project that spanned countries, featuring a dress crafted in Poland, a muse from Moldova, all coming together in her Hungarian haven. The result was a portrait so timeless, it felt like a relic from another era.

But Katalin's journey isn't just about creating; it's about enlightening. As she embarks on a new chapter, she's keen on guiding aspiring artists. Through workshops around the world, she shares the alchemy of her artistry, igniting passion in many.

In the world of Katalin Molnar, every photograph isn't just a memory—it's an everlasting imprint of a bygone moment, a visual ode to time itself.



CHAPTER 3 Connection

THE HARMONIOUS CONFLUENCE

CONTRIBUTORS



Hakon Anshus
Fashion



Amina Shena
Dollapi
Fashion



Additi Ojha
Poem



Sana Chowdhary
Photography



Jasrah Ali
Painting



Shreyashi Dey
Painting



Rushikesh Kale
Painting



Elena Mukhaylova
Photography



Sreeparna Ghosh
Poem



Mou Aysha
Photography



Ravi pandey
Photography



Chintan Vyas
Photography



Utkarsh Sinha
Photography



Dr. Subharaja
Chatterjee
Fashion



Nadine
Wuchenauer
Photography






Hakon Anshus

❖


THE SILVER FOX OF NORWAY'S RUNWAYS



From Norway's serene fjords to the bustling streets of LA, Hakon Anshus is a name taking the fashion world by storm. It all began with a simple offer: a photoshoot for a local dress shop. Fast forward a few power moves and today, Hakon stands as the embodiment of a paradigm shift in the fashion industry.

Sporting a silver mane, he's leading the charge in broadening the perceptions of age in fashion. Once dominated by youthful visages, the industry is now taking a detour, realizing that elegance matures like fine wine. Hakon remarks, "The industry's growing acceptance of older models isn't just a phase; it's a revolution I'm proud to lead."

His personal style? An eclectic blend of rugged rock-n-roll interspersed with classic nuances. It's clear from the way he carries himself: "Be authentic, be yourself. We all have a unique voice, why not let the world hear it?"

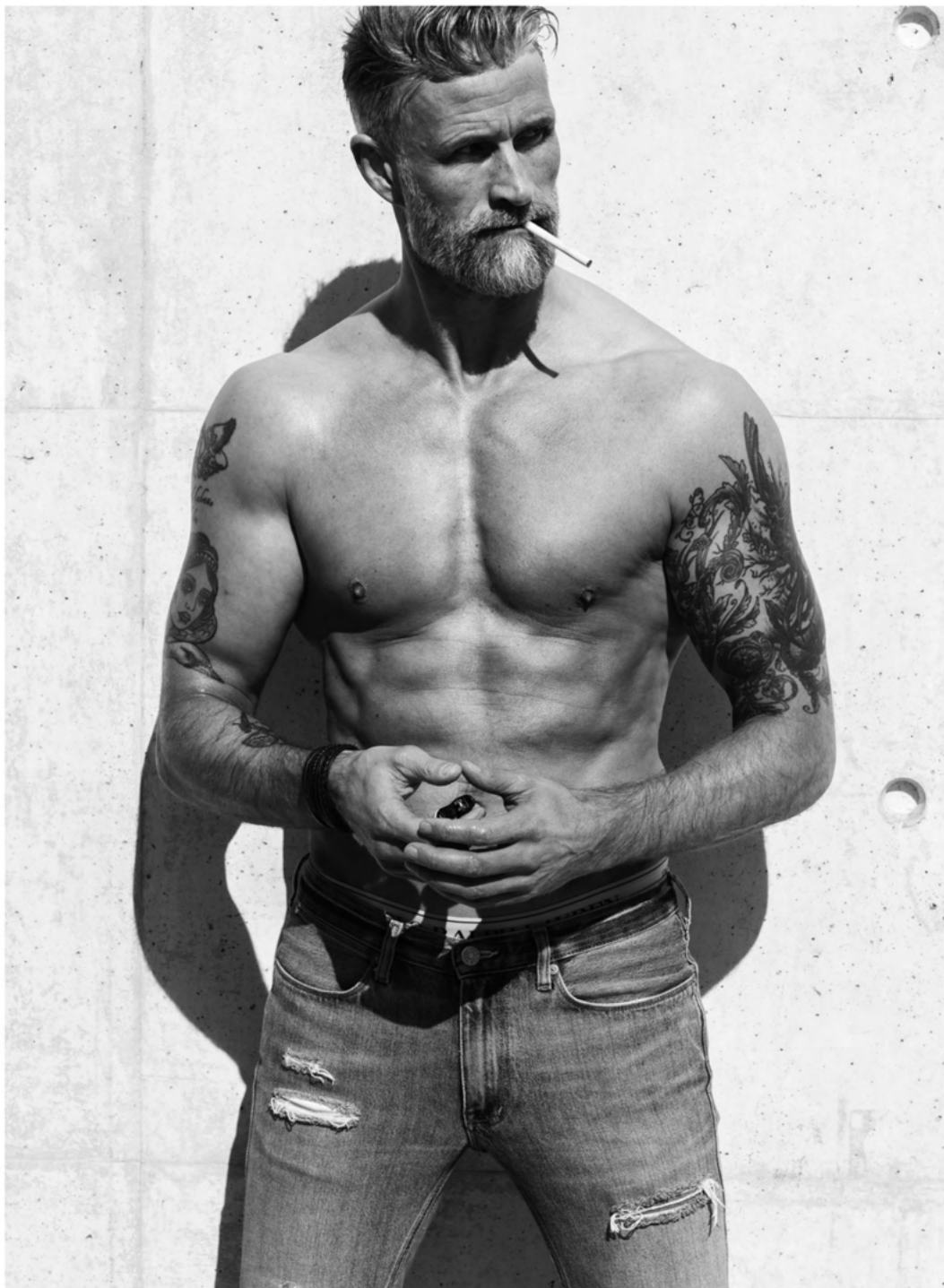




Across continents, from Emporio in LA to Trend Models in Europe, Hakon has collaborated with industry giants. While agencies have played their part in propelling his career, he also stresses the importance of genuine relationships: "This industry, like any other, thrives on mutual respect and genuine connections."

But it hasn't all been runway lights. Recounting a memorable experience, he delves into a covert shoot for Audi's yet-to-be-revealed RS6 in Valencia. "Imagine the thrill of a high-stakes shoot, complete with security to ward off paparazzi and a bustling crew of 40. That day was electric."

Fitness, for Hakon, is both discipline and sanctuary. A ritual begun at 16, his six-days-a-week regime now acts as a prelude to each day. His secret? Consistency peppered with occasional indulgences.



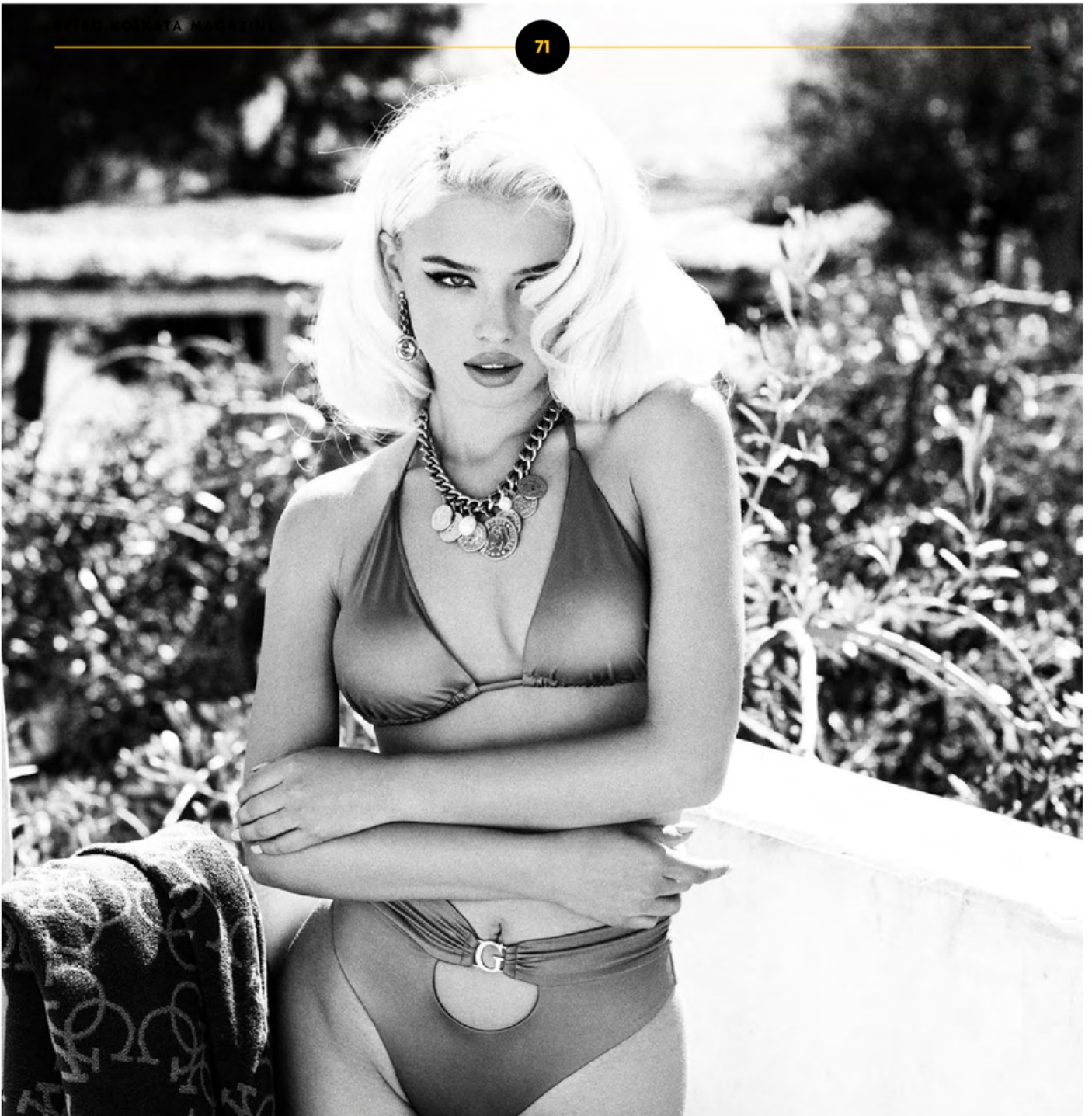
His Scandinavian roots undoubtedly play a role in his allure. The modern industry leans into authenticity and diversity, elements deeply ingrained in Nordic ethos. And Hakon? He's got the Viking spirit in spades, with a touch of contemporary charisma.

Looking ahead, the sky's the limit for this Norse luminary. With aspirations to work with the likes of Tom Ford and hints at possibly launching his own brand, the future is as radiant as his silver locks. Here's to Hakon: the modern fashion vanguard, ever-cool, ever-evolving.



AMINA SHENA DOLLAPI

— ❖ —
FROM TIRANA TO GLOBAL GLAMOUR



Amidst the ethereal glow of Tirana at dusk, a precocious 15-year-old Amina Shena Dollapi tiptoed into a world of glitz and glamour. Between battling the unpredictable whims of Mother Nature and the relentless sting of heel fatigue, Amina's early days mirrored the plot of a riveting drama. But with a fierce spirit and unwavering ambition, she was destined for greatness.

The pulsating heart of Tirana, now a blossoming fashion Eden, moulded Amina's artistic spirit. It's almost poetic how a small-town girl, bred in a city teeming with ambitious designers and avant-garde styles, would soon wear crowns like "Miss Queen of Europe" and "Miss Fotozhenia". These titles weren't just glittering accessories; they were monumental chapters in her epic tale.



With a career spanning over a dazzling 16 years, Amina has danced across international runways, weaving stories with each twirl. Her collaborations are countless, but it's her recurring rendezvous with iconic brands that truly showcase her magnetism. As the face of Fashionnova, Amina gracefully blends the brand's edgy ethos with her timeless elegance, creating magic every time she graces the spotlight.

But, there's another diva who mysteriously echoes in Amina's journey - the legendary Marilyn Monroe. Their uncanny resemblance isn't just skin deep. Monroe's timeless charm subtly, yet profoundly, influences Amina's modelling moxie.

In a world where fashion's tapestry is constantly re-woven, Amina sails smoothly, armed with a cocktail of self-love, dedication, and a fiery passion. Behind the scenes, her life is a whirlwind: hours of makeup transformation, the relentless hunt for the quintessential backdrop, and the obsession to capture that 'perfect' shot.

Yet, beneath the sparkling tiaras and the sequined gowns, Amina's dreams are ever-evolving. She's a global sensation with a local heart, forever enchanted by the call of uncharted territories.

For those starry-eyed dreamers gazing at the runway, Amina's journey is a glittering testament. Her message? Beginnings might be wrapped in challenges, but with passion as your compass, the world truly is your runway.



ONE RAINY AFTERNOON

As I sit down with my tea
With silence my only company
The raindrops against the leaves
Brought back forgotten memories.

Summers ago, my nights were bright
Bright with lights that gleamed
Gleaming against my dewy skin
Skin rubbing against me.

Such nights I've spent
In arms I don't remember
With faces I don't remember
With names I don't remember.

Those trances seem long behind me
But as I remember them fondly
Maybe those sins shaped me into who I am
I smile and sip my tea.

Summers ago, my days were hazy
Hazy with glee and giddy
My inhibitions were long forgotten
Only the next drink I could see.

Such days I've spent
In bars I don't remember
With faces I don't remember
With names I don't remember.

Those trances seem long behind me
But as I remember them fondly
Maybe those sins shaped me into who I am
I smile and sip my tea.

My smile slips away
As I glance down at my diary
Now the pages are blank
With nothing to be written.

Such days I've spent
With work I don't remember
With faces I don't remember
With names I don't remember.

These normal days seem so tedious ahead of me
And as I recall my impending deadlines
Maybe these slow days shape me into who I am
I sigh and sip my tea.



ADDITI OJHA

Amidst the structured realm of engineering, where logic and precision reign, Additi Ojha emerges as a delightful paradox. As circuits dance to the tune of logic, her heart beats in poetic meter. Each stanza she pens is a rebellion against the binary of 0s and 1s, a fresh breath she draws outside the confines of her academic blueprint. In a world of algorithms and analyses, Additi finds her true north in the whimsical swirl of words, proving that the heart of an engineer can, indeed, be the canvas of a poet.

THE VISUAL MAESTRO

A JOURNEY WITH SANA CHOWDHARY



In the bustling streets of Jaipur, where culture intertwines with modernity, a young Sana Chowdhary once wandered, eyes wide with wonder, clutching a Sony phone. Little did the world know that this innate observer would soon be capturing its essence.



With photos often described as a blend of dreamy and sublime, Sana's eye offers more than just a snapshot. It's an intimate dive into the heart of a moment. Each click isn't just an image; it's a tale waiting to be told. Whether it's the radiant joy of a bride or the fleeting glance of a passerby during Jaipur's vibrant festivals, Sana knows just when to freeze time.

Her ethos? Blend in to stand out. Channeling her inner 'Mr. India', she slides through weddings, not just as a mere photographer but as a silent participant. She recalls one sweltering summer wedding where the bride's father, amidst the grandeur, offered water to his panting photographers, a gesture that imprinted on Sana's heart.





In this digital age, where smartphones vie to be the next photography maestro, Sana reflects on the shifting sands of her profession. Yet, the influx of tech-savvy enthusiasts hasn't dimmed her spirit. Instead, she sees it as a challenge, pushing her to elevate her art. Her advice to budding photographers? Embrace trials, find your unique voice, and above all, be patient.

The future holds boundless promise. Sana's enthusiasm bubbles over as she hints at collaborations with other art maestros. Expect the unexpected, she quips. One can only wait with bated breath for the visual stories she will weave next, always reminding us of the beauty tucked in life's every corner.

The mask, the face and the story behind | Fineliners



Jasrah Ali

Jasrah Ali, an architecture enthusiast with a distinctive artistic flair. A student of architecture, Jasrah channels creativity into the world of sketching and painting. Each brushstroke and pencil line brings forth a spectrum of colors and imaginative designs. This profound commitment to art seamlessly intertwines with the architectural path, enriching Jasrah's journey with a captivating and unconventional perspective.



Nurtured Nature. (inspired from Jono Dry) | Inverted Art, graphite on paper.



Shreyasi Dey

A masterful blend of art and science defines Shreyasi Dey. With roots in both the world of art, soon completing her Master's, and a physics degree from St. Xavier's College, Kolkata, she embodies the dance between order and unpredictability. An anime enthusiast with a love for music, she strums the ukulele and dreams of further exploring realism and oil mediums. In Shreyasi, the chaos of creativity meets the cosmos of knowledge.

Aranyaa - The goddess of peace | Charcoal and graphite on paper



Rushikesh Kale

Rushikesh Kale, a civil engineer by training, has melded his technical foundation with a four-year artistic pursuit. By 23, he has mastered charcoal and graphite, exhibiting nationally from Delhi to Pune. His notable piece, "Aranyaa - the goddess of peace," exemplifies his skill in portraying strength and tranquility. Kale's work invites audiences to witness the balance of calm within chaos.

WHISPERS OF LIGHT

THE ARTISTIC ODYSSEY OF ELENA MUKHAYLOVA



In the vast, icy expanse of Russia, where stories linger in the cold air and history whispers from every corner, a tale of a mother's love and artistry unfolds. Elena Mukhaylova, with a heart full of dreams and hands cradling a camera, embarks on a journey that weaves emotions, memories, and the magic of the land she calls home.

Once upon a winter, amid the warm chaos of her home, surrounded by the laughter of her four children, Elena felt a pull—a yearning to bottle up the transient glow of childhood. Thus, she began to play with light and shadows, trying to paint memories not just in her heart but on film.



It wasn't long before her home expanded beyond its walls. The vast landscapes of Russia beckoned, offering a canvas as vast and deep as her aspirations. Whether capturing the jubilant twirl of a Tatar girl in Kazan or the silent conversations between a young girl named Viola and an owl, Elena's lens sought stories—each frame a page in her visual diary.

Her photographs, much like folklore, whisper tales of ancient traditions, the heartbeats of diverse cultures, and the untouched beauty of the Russian wilderness. Each click of her shutter wasn't just an image but a note in a symphony she was composing—a melody that resonated with every soul who glanced upon her work.



But every artist has her challenges. In Elena's ever-growing anthology of visuals, her greatest puzzle was choosing which moments to spotlight. It's a dance between what to reveal and what to keep close to her heart.

As technology evolves, offering her new brushes and palettes in the form of mirrorless cameras and updated Photoshop tools, Elena's essence remains unchanged. Looking ahead, she dreams not of accolades or fame but of a world where every photograph she crafts touches the very soul of those who behold it, making them part of her beautiful story.



Elena Mukhaylova



Russia

TRAPPED

I could see the lights,
 Could feel the warmth ,
 My wish to be free yet
 remain buried.
 To be out, to the light
 To see the world ,
 All remain buried.
 Is this the end ?
 Or
 Is this my fate ?
 Will it be?
 Or
 Will it be not ?
 Someday!
 Or
 Never?
 Everyday I ask myself
 Everyday...

I have just myself .
 Trapped in here , I have just myself.
 The lights, the freedom,
 It's so near ,yet so far.
 The end is near, yet so far.
 I have seen light ,
 I have felt the warmth ,
 I have been drenched in rain ,
 And dried myself here.
 Been sick, been hurt
 Just me and none.
 I ask myself one more time ,
 Will this end ?
 Or
 Will I?



S R E E P A R N A G H O S H


Sreeparna Ghosh is a multifaceted gem, weaving magic through her poetry, photography, songwriting, and direction. A gifted poet, she captures life's essence with finesse. Behind the lens, her photography narrates tales, while her songs touch souls deeply. A visionary director, Sreeparna's cinematic tales are enchanting. Beyond arts, her prowess in sports is unparalleled. With accolades from poetry contests to international film festivals, her journey is a confluence of art, passion, and athletic brilliance.

MOU AYSHA

PAINTING HUMANITY THROUGH
THE LENS

In the vibrant tapestry of Bangladesh, amidst hues of bustling bazaars and whispered stories, a storyteller emerges, not with a pen, but with a lens. Mou Aysha, not just a photographer but a visual poet, wields a unique perspective, one etched in the nuances of Applied English Linguistics.

Imagine a world where every click of the camera narrates a tale, where every frame captures an emotion, a memory, a moment in time. This is Aysha's canvas. Delving deep into the annals of linguistics, she's honed an intuitive sensitivity towards power dynamics, enabling her to portray stories with a raw, untouched dignity.



Every face Aysha captures tells a story of its own, narrated not in words but emotions. Rather than subjects, she sees collaborators. She listens, connects, and then captures—turning fleeting moments into timeless narratives. It's this dance of trust and authenticity that paints her work with an ethereal glow.

One project that stands as a testament to Aysha's brilliance delves into the mesmerizing eye colors of Bangladesh. In a world where colors become labels, where hues of green or blue may cast shadows of prejudice, Aysha's lens seeks to challenge, to question, to celebrate. Through her vision, she unveils the delicate web of societal biases, reminding us of the profound beauty inherent in our differences.



Guided by the luminous trails left by the legendary GMB Akash, Aysha has imbibed more than just technique. She's learned the heart of photography, understanding that true art springs from kindness, empathy, and a deep-rooted respect for every story.

In an era of pixel-perfect alterations, Aysha's frames reverberate with authenticity. They echo her mission: to sow seeds of kindness and understanding, to illuminate the world with the radiant beauty of raw humanity. With dreams as vast as the horizon, she yearns to journey through every nook and cranny of her homeland, unveiling tales that remain untold.

In the vast gallery of the world, Mou Aysha stands out, painting with light, weaving narratives, and reminding us of the boundless beauty in every fleeting moment.



Ravi Pandey

Ravi Pandey, a resident of Rewa, Madhya Pradesh, serves as a Development Officer with LIC OF INDIA, a position he has held since 2010. With a keen eye for detail, Ravi transitioned into the world of photography. Initially exploring varied subjects, he soon specialized in portrait and street photography. Captivated by the emotive depth of human expressions, Ravi's work seeks to narrate the untold stories behind each visage, underscoring his deepening commitment to the craft.



Chintan Vyas

Chintan Vyas, a 28-year-old virtuoso from Rajkot, Gujarat, seamlessly melds his love for travel with the artistry of photography. With a keen eye that captures everything from expansive landscapes to intimate wildlife moments, he has garnered accolades, including distinguished honors from Bangia Kala Kendra. His monochromatic masterpieces have graced the pages of '256 Magazine', standing testament to his prowess with 35 illustrious awards under his belt.



Utkarsh Sinha

Utkarsh Sinha, hailing from Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, seamlessly blends finance acumen with a profound passion for photography. With seven esteemed exhibitions under his belt, including a recent showcase at Mumbai's prestigious Jehangir Art Gallery, his work has gained national recognition, notably by the Ministry of Culture at Lalit Kala Academy in 2022. Triumphs in significant competitions such as the Heidelberg Photo Prize 2022 and Mira Mobile Prize 2023 further underscore his photographic prowess. Currently, Utkarsh is curating coffee table books spotlighting various cities.

EXPRESSIONS

in *Full Bloom*



Picture Courtesy : Sou...

Step into the dynamic world of Dr. Subhrajya Chatterjee, where music, fashion, medicine, and acting converge, painting a vivid tapestry of her multifaceted life. Not just a seasoned medical professional, Dr. Chatterjee effortlessly merges her love for aesthetics with her dedication to healthcare, reflecting her belief that "balance is an art."

From a young age, her zest for creativity was evident. She immersed herself in arts, showcased her singing prowess, and even danced with fervor at social events. Now, as a practicing doctor, she intertwines her medical acumen with her fashion sensibilities, advocating for brands that champion a positive body image. "Fashion should celebrate the body, not compromise it," she opines with characteristic flair.

Beyond her talents, Dr. Chatterjee's influence is extensive, with her insights resonating with countless followers. Yet, she exercises this influence judiciously, ensuring her content remains both entertaining and educational. This balance, she jestingly remarks, makes her the "Spiderman" of the medical-fashion world.

Delving deeper, she reveals a profound resilience, stemming from her personal battles with mental health. Turning her challenges into opportunities, she extends her expertise and experiences to support others on similar journeys. Her message? Embrace challenges; they fortify you and craft compelling narratives.



The cinematic world captivates her. Leveraging her comprehensive understanding of human anatomy, she infuses authenticity into her roles, regaling us with tales of her memorable performances in OTT films.

At the heart of Dr. Chatterjee's universe lies a melodic blend of her musical lineage and her unique fashion sense. For her, life is a vibrant dance, and she encourages all to join in: "Turn up the music, dress with flair, and let loose!"

She also offers a poignant reminder: Instead of fearing societal judgment, we should confront and dispel our own self-doubts. "Society is but a reflection of our internal apprehensions," she notes.

As our exploration concludes, a hint at future endeavors, including a musical project, further ignites anticipation. Dr. Chatterjee embodies limitless human potential, her life an invigorating ode to passion and purpose. She doesn't merely juggle roles; she elevates them, inspiring us to chase our dreams with fervor and authenticity.

All Photo Courtesy : Sourav Dutta



Fashion Design & Styling: Uyoyo Okpwe
Hair & Make-up Artists: Jil-Mailin Kroll , Bakhora Pfautsch
Models: Ellinor Friesen from @eastwestmodels

Snapshots of a World on the Move



Through the Lens of Nadine Wuchenauer

Capturing a World in Constant Motion



Model: Marah @eastwestmodels
Hair und Make-up: Hranusch

In the world of artistry, sometimes the universe aligns perfectly, giving birth to prodigious talents like Nadine Wuchenauer. At 19, when most youngsters were grappling with life's directions, Nadine was charting her course, capturing life one frame at a time. Fresh out of high school, the whispers of her destiny were loud and clear, leading her to a media design apprenticeship.

However, every hero's journey encounters a moment of doubt. For Nadine, it was a daunting internship that made her question the viability of photography as a career. But just as embers light up with the right breeze, a university photography course rekindled her passion. The bustling lanes and towering skyscrapers of a new city painted a canvas ripe for exploration. Armed with her camera, she started crafting stories, leading to her first paid ventures.

Working with giants like Dunkin' Donuts and Zoeva wasn't about the glitz and glamour for her. Every brand, big or small, was a new story waiting to be told. Her preparation was meticulous, her approach consistent, yet there was room for that magical spontaneity. That's the Nadine touch - an alchemy of detailed preparation and bursts of inspiration.

**Model: Katya
Hair und Make-up: Oksana Onischuk & Jil-Mailin Kroll**



**Model: Mima Boysen
Hair und Make-up: Oksana Onischuk**

Nadine's photographs resonate with a unique rhythm, harmonizing modernity and emotion, a reflection of her mantra of "harmonious, modern concepts." Every image she crafts isn't just seen; it's felt. It's about the tale of a fashion statement, the allure of beauty, or the message behind a commercial shoot. They're interconnected, like notes in a symphony.

But not all stories are woven from threads of fantasy. Nadine recalls a poignant chapter from Somaliland, Africa, where she collaborated with "Deutsche Welthungerhilfe." Here, amidst the raw tales of communities facing climate change's wrath, Nadine realized the powerful role of her camera. It wasn't just about capturing moments; it was about amplifying voices that needed to be heard.

To those who see her journey and dream of following in her footsteps, Nadine offers golden nuggets of wisdom. In her world, creation and learning go hand in hand. Your strength lies in what comes naturally, she believes.

As for what's next in the chronicles of Nadine Wuchenauer? A refreshed portfolio, enlightening workshops, and the undying thirst to capture the world's ever-changing beauty. Her story continues, and it promises to be an enchanting ride.



**Model: Katya
Hair und Make-up: Oksana Onischuk & Jil-Mailin Kroll**

CHAPTER
4
Revealed
UNFILTERED REALITY

CONTRIBUTORS



Anjan Ghosh
Photography



Kriti Aggarwal
Photostory



Umesh
Photography



Mohammad Asif
Alli Khan
Photography



Sai Sanjay
Prasath
Photography



Suhail Bhat
Photojournalism



Anuj Medhavi
Photography

Gopal Munda

FROM WHISPERS OF DREAMS TO
RESONATING ECHOES OF RESILIENCE



Standing tall, Gopal today bears the countenance of life's intense journey. A mature visage, reflecting both battle scars and healed wounds, is a silent testament to the dreams once nurtured, battles faced, and lessons embraced.

**A VISUAL STORY
BY ANJAN
GHOSH**

2023

THE PRESENT: ECHOES OF LIFE'S SYMPHONY

In the very core of the tribal village, where ancient trees whisper secrets to the winds and time seems to have its own slow, rhythmical dance, stands Gopal. A man whose essence seems intertwined with the tapestry of life that surrounds him, painting a vivid mosaic of memories and moments. Each wrinkle that furrows his brow, every deep-set line etched by time, and the hardened calluses that grace his hands are testimonials to his enduring saga.

These silent markers, though often overlooked by the fleeting and casual glance, roar with tales of yesteryears for those who pause, observe, and truly immerse. Within them, one can discern the delicate balance of dreams once vibrant, despairs that threatened to cloud his vision, and desires that kept the flame of hope alive through the stormiest of nights. For in Gopal's presence, one isn't merely in the company of a man; one is in the embrace of a living, breathing chronicle of resilience and revelation.

step back
into the past



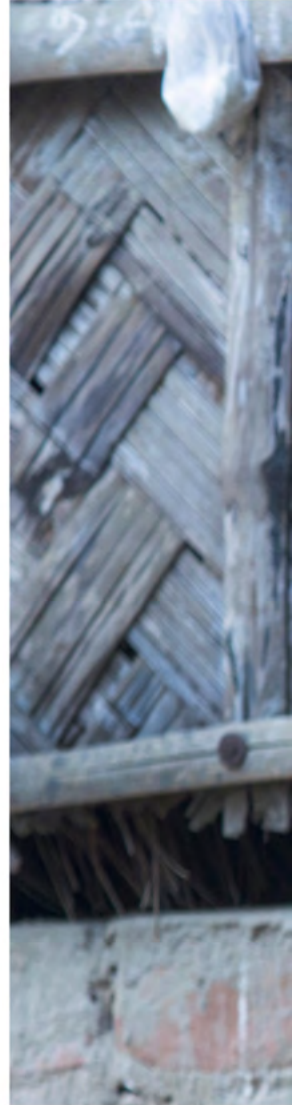
2008

15 YEARS AGO: GOLDEN DAYS OF YOUTH

In the lush expanse of the tribal sanctuary, where the songbirds serenaded the morning sun and the rivers whispered ancient tales to anyone who'd listen, a young Gopal flourished. His world was a mesmerizing canvas, drenched in the vibrant palettes of nature's bounty and radiated by his insatiable enthusiasm for life's smallest wonders. His laughter was as infectious as the evening chorus of crickets, and his dreams as boundless as the sprawling sky above.

However, as time's relentless march wore on, menacing clouds of adversity and heartbreak began to cast their oppressive shadows upon his radiant world. The vivid colors that once adorned his days slowly dulled, giving way to the cold, somber greys of trials and tribulations. Each passing challenge was like a torrential rain, attempting to wash away the essence of his jubilation, leaving behind traces of sorrow and anguish.

Yet, in the heart of this tempest, Gopal's spirit, resilient and undeterred, refused to be dampened. With unwavering determination, he sought out every fleeting silver lining, every ephemeral rainbow that promised respite. He clung fiercely to the fragments of hope and the distant memories of sunnier days, fueling his journey forward. For he believed, deep down, that beyond the darkest night awaited a dawn radiant with the promises of a rekindled joy and a future glistening with possibilities.



A midst the vastness of the ocean, Gopal stands, seemingly drawing strength and wisdom from its depths. As waves lap the shores, it's as if they carry messages of hope, urging him to rediscover his essence and renew his purpose.



A Tapestry of Dreams and Hope



Here stands Gopal, in the midst of life's battlefield, trying to shield his dreams from the incessant rains of despair. Every tear shed, every sigh heaved, narrates a poignant chapter of his journey, each a testament to the constant struggle between hope and reality.

2008 → 2023

THE ODYSSEY OF GOPAL MUNDA

A TESTAMENT TO HUMAN RESILIENCE

In the serene embrace of the fishing village, Gopal found more than just a livelihood. The rhythmic dance of the waves, with their tales of ebbs and surges, resonated deeply with his soul's journey. Here, by the ocean's vast expanse, he experienced profound moments of introspection, confronting his past choices, acknowledging his errors, and fostering a burning desire to realign with his true north.

Spanning the spectrum from the naive hopes of boyhood to the contemplative wisdom of manhood, Gopal's journey stands as a moving testament to the human spirit's resilience. His story, saturated with trials, transformations, and triumphs, is a poignant reminder that hope, though often tested, can persevere, heal, and guide us back to our cherished dreams.

Even in life's fiercest storms, a persistent ember of hope lies within us. With steadfast determination and bravery, we can shine through the gloom and revive once-lost dreams.

A VISUAL STORY BY ANJAN GHOSH

BHAGATWADI

A VILLAGE'S QUEST FOR WATER

Kriti Aggarwal

In the scenic hills of Igatpuri, Maharashtra, lies Bhagatwadi - a village where beauty meets adversity. Here, running water isn't a given. Every day, young girls trade classrooms for long treks, carrying heavy water pots instead of school bags. These brave souls, some barely out of their toddler years, assist their families in this daily ritual. Bhagatwadi's poignant reality highlights the stark contrasts within India, urging us to reflect on basic amenities, equity, and our collective role in bridging disparities.





Umesh

Umesh, a 24-year-old MFA student at Jamia Millia Islamia, hails from Kurukshetra but now thrives amidst Delhi's vibrant heartbeat. A passionate photographer, he seeks the city's essence in its tranquil dawns, crafting tales with light and shadow. Preferring black and white, Umesh's photos capture timeless moments, revealing stories richer than color could depict.



Mohammad Asif Ali Khan

Born in the storied confines of Allahabad and now anchored in Delhi, Mohammad Asif Ali Khan melds passion and precision in his photography. With expertise ranging from fashion to wildlife, his adaptability is unparalleled. As an aspiring filmmaker, he seeks not just to capture, but to narrate, ensuring every frame tells a tale. A master of diverse genres, Asif's lens truly translates the essence of his subjects.



Sai Sanjay Prasath

From Madurai, Tamil Nadu, the esteemed street and travel photographer, Sanjay, pivoted from a global career in civil engineering to immortalizing transient moments with his camera. He believes that every street whispers myriad stories, and his lens masterfully encapsulates these narratives. With distinguished exhibitions in Chennai, Dubai, and Qatar, Sanjay's artistry elevates photography, presenting the world in distinct, memorable frames.



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ISSUES

UNVEILING THE GRIM REALITY

How Human Traffickers Prey on Indian Women's Dreams of Employment in Oman

• **SUHAIL BHAT**



UNVEILED



In the shadows of desperation and hope for a better life, many brave women from Punjab embarked on a journey to Oman, seeking employment as domestic workers.

These women, who frequently come from low-income families, risk their safety by taking the risk in an effort to improve the prospects for their families.

Little did they know that their dreams would be shattered, and their lives forever scarred by the harrowing ordeal they would endure at the hands of unscrupulous agents and heartless employers. Their story is not isolated; it echoes the plight of countless Indian women who fall victim to the dark underbelly of human trafficking.

Most rescue cases that are being reported, of women from Muscat, are from Punjab. These women were lured to Oman on the pretext of jobs as either “domestic help” or “caretakers” at good salaries. However, after reaching Muscat, the women often find themselves captive by some local agents who have confiscated their passports and cellphones and forced them to sign agreements without their knowledge. They are then sold to the locals for anything between Rs 80,000 and Rs 1.50 lakh each.

Those women had been sold by a travel agent to a person in Oman for Rs 80,000. The woman also revealed that many other women from Hoshiarpur, Jalandhar, and Amritsar were living tough lives in the Gulf country under similar circumstances.



Anuj Medhavi

Anuj Medhavi isn't just a name, but a lens through which Delhi's vibrant streets and the world's enchanting terrains come alive. As a devoted street and travel photographer, Anuj has cultivated an artistic vision, allowing him to capture life's moments with remarkable authenticity. Beyond the camera's frame, photography has enriched his worldview, drawing parallels between the delicate art of capturing light and the innovative solutions to life's myriad puzzles. Anuj's craft is both a journey and a revelation.

CHAPTER 5

Expression

THE BLOOM OF INDIVIDUALITY

CONTRIBUTORS



Alexandra
Surkova
Photography



Gunjan Daga
Painting



Debashruti Aich
Painting



Chandrima
Ghosh
Poem



Vicky Chauhan
Photography



Alexis Rateau
Photography



Dipin
Sreepadmam
Photography



Ankit Mitra
Photography



Debjyoti Sarkar
Photography



Kristina Makeeva
Photography



Dr. Ankita Goenka
Painting



Roma Varadkar
Fashion



Joan Carol
Photography



Anoushka Ghosh
Photography



Dylan Gill
Painting

ALEXANDRA SURKOVA

THE SYMPHONY OF WILDLIFE THROUGH
A SPANISH PRISM



In a digital age, it takes a keen ear to tune into nature's unsung ballads. And from the heart of Spain, Alexandra Surkova emerged not just as a listener but a visual storyteller, crafting wildlife sonatas with her camera. As the pandemic silenced cities, nature took center stage, painting Surkova's surroundings with roe deer and skies alive with kites.

Yet, her journey to international acclaim took flight when an unexpected package arrived - a Sony 200-600 lens, sent anonymously. This lens transformed Alexandra's candid captures into professional masterpieces, delving deep into the lives of her subjects.



Spain, with its mosaic of landscapes, became Surkova's canvas. One memorable escapade led her to wait for hours in a tent under scorching heat, all for the sake of two prized owl photos. These experiences, drenched in sweat and anticipation, not only honed Alexandra's patience but also shaped her artistic perspective.

However, her magnum opus lay in Africa's Serengeti. Here, amongst the wild orchestra of zebras and giraffes, she found her true rhythm. Such was the Serengeti's pull that Alexandra has since helmed photo tours, guiding photography enthusiasts through her lens-sculpted paradise.



ALEXANDRA SURKOVA

Each frame of Alexandra's work is a testament to her dedication. Behind every shot lies meticulous research into animal behavior and habitats, ensuring her presence is unobtrusive. She's known to select specific optics based on the anticipated distance to her subjects. For birds, she swears by fixed optics like the 600mm or 400mm lens, while mammals often see her wielding versatile zoom lenses.

But Surkova's endeavors transcend artistry. Through her platform, she champions conservation. She uses her imagery as an advocacy tool, aiming to incite passion for wildlife in her audience. Her fervent hope? That a hunter might swap his rifle for a camera.

As we anticipate her next voyage – perhaps to the tiger realms of India or the chilly expanse of Antarctica – what remains clear is that Alexandra Surkova doesn't merely photograph the wild; she interprets its stories, turning fleeting moments into timeless narratives.

Fearless | Charcoal on paper



Gunjan Daga

Gunjan Daga, a commerce graduate who defied norms to passionately chart an unorthodox journey in the realm of art. Drawing inspiration from life's minutiae, her innate artistic prowess shines through her intricate charcoal portraits. While forgoing formal art education might be viewed as a shortfall by many, for Gunjan, it's been the catalyst for unbridled growth. Her art is characterized by meticulous detailing, ensuring every gaze upon her work remains ensnared. Guiding philosophy? "Only undying passion and dedication can take you places."



I am five feet and one inch tall | Watercolor



Debashruti Aich

Debashruti Aich, a professional artist based in Hyderabad, India, embarked on a transformative journey from commerce student to dedicated artist. His creations serve as a visual memoir, peeling away layers of unspoken emotions and concealed connections with his environment. Aich's art mirrors the duality of existence, capturing solace within this complexity. His works encapsulate memories, past and present, and evoke a profound sense of longing, resembling an ever-expanding anthology of fictional narratives.

SOLIVAGANT

One day, I'll wander northwards
 where the wind blows a little colder
 trekking on broken trails
 through rugged hills and vales green
 where the sky meets the horizon
 and the night air has a strange flavour.

There I'll build a small cabin
 by the cool, murmuring stream
 where trouts swim in plentiful.

From the quiet seat
 under a fruit-laden apple tree,
 I'll watch great flocks of swallows
 soaring high up in the sky,
 the dragonflies skimming across the water,
 mistle thrush singing on the low wall
 and the drumming woodpecker
 on the highest branch of the pine tree.

I'll wish upon the dandelion seeds
 carried to the meadow by the wind
 and count the daisies and violets
 dancing from sunrise to sunset.
 When the night slips quietly
 I'll gaze at the starry sky
 and the moon peeking shyly,
 enchanting the night sky.

I'll hear the distant whisper of the hills,
 the gentle rippling of the stream
 mirroring the constellations overhead,
 crickets chirping, and owls hooting
 in the still of the night.

And if one day,
 I disappear from your world,
 you'll always know where to find me.



C H A N D R I M A G H O S H

Chandrima Ghosh stands at the intersection of two profound art forms: painting and poetry.

At a mere 19 years of age, she possesses a maturity and depth that belies her years. As a writer, Chandrima crafts narratives that captivate, while her painterly pursuits showcase her keen eye for visual storytelling. Her dual expertise provides a unique lens through which she interprets the world, making her a notable name in the contemporary artistic landscape.



Vicky Chauhan

Hailing from the vibrant streets of Mumbai, Vicky Chauhan is a 26-year-old mobile photographer whose lens tells tales. For Vicky, mobile photography isn't just a passion; it's therapeutic, a medium to narrate stories. Whether he's exploring bustling streets or capturing the silent beauty of nature, Vicky's patience ensures he frames every shot to perfection. His images, rich in depth, turn the ordinary into the extraordinary, making photography his eloquent language.



Alexis Rateau

Alexis Rateau, a 30-year-old French marvel from LIGNIERES-DE-TOURAINNE, has an eye that captures the wild heart of nature through his lens. While his roots lie in the picturesque landscapes of France, Alexis's current expedition has led him to the bustling streets and hidden natural gems of BANGKOK, Thailand. This wildlife photographer's journey is as dynamic as the images he creates.



CAPTURING THE ESSENCE OF WINGS

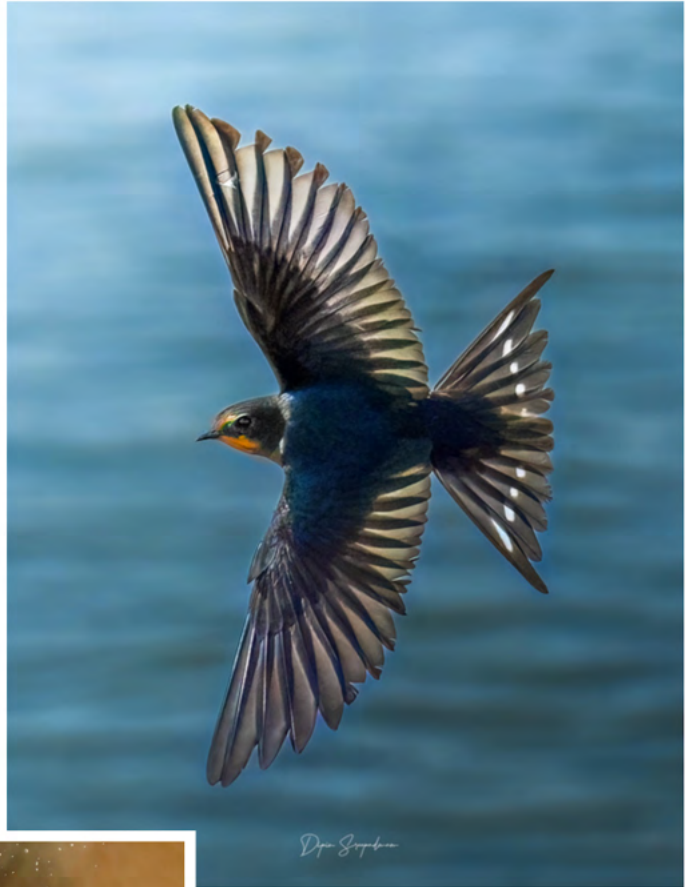
DIPIN SREEPADMAM'S AVIAN ODYSSEY

Nestled amidst the urban rush, a soul rises early, camera in tow, aiming to capture the dance of a wing, the tilt of a beak, and the mystery of avian eyes. This is the daily pilgrimage of Dipin Sreepadmam, the maestro of avian photography. Each click of his camera tells a tale, an echo of his profound connection with the world of wings.

It all began at a Paws Trails exhibition in Dubai. Mesmerized by the breathtaking images, Dipin felt an irresistible pull towards the wild. The journey, however, wasn't without its lessons. Earlier attempts to approach birds often led to startled flights. But as time passed, Dipin turned into a keen observer, fusing into the background, and letting the birds be the artists of their moments.

But, of all his avian muses, it's the Jungle Owlet that holds a special place in his heart. In the quiet corners of Kerala's Kuniyan, under the watchful guidance of the local birder, Abhilash Padmanabhan, Dipin's patience was tested and rewarded with spectacular head-on shots of this mysterious owl. The quiet power of the image was a testament to his dedication; it was a dance of waiting, observing, and seizing the split second.

Another such dance was with the Paradise Flycatcher. After missing the bird once, destiny gave him a second chance, letting him capture the ethereal beauty of this migratory marvel.



However, not all dances were easy. The desert search for the Little Owl stood out as a testament to his tenacity. A challenge that spanned across five months, the final images were a perfect blend of dedication, patience, and a dash of desert dust.

Dipin's photographs are more than just stills; they're a clarion call for conservation. As habitats wane and the earth warms, his images serve as a powerful reminder of the fragile beauty that hangs in balance. His work, while a masterclass in patience and technical prowess, emphasizes the importance of respect—respect for the subject, their habitats, and the delicate balance of nature.



Dipin Sreepadman

Dipin Sreepadmam

For those eager to follow in his footsteps, Dipin's message is clear: gear up, respect the wild, and let the birds tell their story. As he shows, in the world of avian photography, it's not just about the bird in the frame, but the story it tells and the world it inhabits.



Ankit Mitra

Ankit Mitra, a fusion of artistry and passion, wears many hats with flair - from a diligent wildlife photographer to an enthusiastic artist. Deeply rooted in biology and fueled by wanderlust, Ankit serves as the photography coordinator for his university's official club. Not just limited to the lens, his heart beats for global causes; he proudly stands as a donor for UNICEF India, a Panda Ambassador for WWF, and an active luminary in the Young Club of Calcutta Lansdowne. His talent has garnered him numerous accolades, both on national and international fronts.



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Debjyoti Sarkar

Hailing from the picturesque town of Bongaon, Debjyoti gracefully balances the roles of an educator by day and a fervent photographer by twilight. While he imparts knowledge in a classroom setting, his lens captures the untamed beauty of the wild. With a heart equally devoted to teaching and wildlife photography, Debjyoti truly epitomizes the blend of profession and passion.

Dreams in Focus

THE ETHEREAL WORLD OF KRISTINA MAKEEVA

In the shadowy embrace of a small, gray town skirting Moscow's perimeter, a beacon of vibrant imagination flickered to life. Kristina Makeeva, a child of dreams and dreaminess, sought to paint her world with brighter hues. Driven by an insatiable thirst for color and magic, her foray into photography soon became a journey into crafting realities that defied the ordinary.

Her photographs are not just snapshots; they're doorways into enchanted realms. Whispered tales of hidden trails, secret fairy gatherings, and objects plucked from the wildest dreams come alive under her lens. These whimsical settings often merge seamlessly with glimpses of the world's diverse cultures, offering a mesmerizing blend of the ethereal and the real.



Drawing upon her training in graphic design, Makeeva pioneered a unique technique, stitching together hundreds of images to birth a singular vision. But her connection to the enchanting world of fairy tales is innate. One can see the elegance of Chinese epics and the delicate charm of Victorian fairy paintings dancing in her works, leaving viewers spellbound.



The call of far-off lands has always resonated with her. As Makeeva wanders the globe, every destination – from the frozen embrace of Baikal to the ethereal landscapes of Cappadocia – molds her craft. Through her travels, she doesn't merely capture sights; she absorbs the very soul of cultures, allowing her to narrate visual tales that are both captivating and authentic.

Today's cutting-edge technology has further refined her art. From humble beginnings with a Panasonic video camera to now harnessing the latest in photographic innovation, Makeeva's passion is palpable. Her bond with Photoshop is a testament to her dedication – a journey that began in a university classroom and blossomed into a cherished partnership.

Yet, when probed about her muse, Makeeva's eyes drift homeward. The vast expanse of Russia, with its poignant tales and boundless landscapes, beckons her. While the allure of foreign lands is undeniable, it's the rhythms of her homeland that truly inspire her magic.

In the heart of this enchanting tale stands Kristina Makeeva – a sorceress with a camera, weaving spells that beckon us into her dreamy tapestry. And as we step into her world, we're reminded that magic, indeed, is all around – if only we dare to see it.



The Autumn Series 2 | Mixed media on canvas | 20 x 30 inches



Dr. Ankita Goenka

Meet Dr. Ankita Goenka, a dental surgeon and a gifted artist hailing from Cuttack, Odisha. With a dual identity as a healer and a creator, she seamlessly merges her medical expertise with a passionate pursuit of art. Drawing inspiration from her surroundings and the wonders of nature, Dr. Goenka's canvases come alive with vibrant, bold colors and rich textures. Her unique artistic perspective reflects a harmonious blend of her professional prowess and her creative soul.

finance to fashion



THE UNCONVENTIONAL PATH OF ROMA VARADKAR

When you think of an investment banker, the world of high fashion and modeling might not be the first association. But Roma Varadkar isn't one for staying inside the lines. Transitioning from the boardrooms of banking to the glamorous runways of India, her journey is a testament to passion and self-realization.

Roma's time in banking instilled a unique calmness in her – an ability to face challenges head-on. But a moment of introspection revealed a desire for more. More challenges, more empowerment, and an avenue to truly express herself. And so, Roma traded in her business suits for evening gowns and never looked back.

Despite the hurdles, like the grueling daily commute which involved changing six trains to attend grooming sessions, her passion remained unshaken. "When you have a goal," she declares, "obstacles simply become milestones." Every train ride, every challenge faced only fortified her resolve.

Balancing a demanding career with motherhood isn't easy. But Roma seamlessly marries her role as a mother of two with the glitz and glamour of the fashion world. Family remains her anchor, yet her work gives her a sense of exhilaration that's unparalleled.



Her dedication bore fruit when she clinched the title of Mrs. India Best Face of the West 2018. From being a novice in the fashion realm, she transformed into a confident icon. This metamorphosis wasn't just physical but deeply personal, honing her essence and amplifying her beliefs.

Today, as a revered fashion influencer in Maharashtra, Roma captivates thousands. Her love for sarees, juxtaposed with her versatility in western outfits, mirrors her life – a blend of tradition and modernity. Yet, she hints at bigger aspirations on the horizon, including a potential foray into cinema.

In Roma Varadkar's journey, we witness the remarkable tale of a woman who continually evolves, inspiring countless others to embrace change, chase passions, and craft their own narratives.

JOAN CAROL



CAPTURING THE WORLD THROUGH A
DIFFERENT LENS



O n a sun-soaked afternoon in Palamós, Joan Carol's hometown on the Costa Brava, the world of photography first beckoned him. At just nine, a simple gift — a camera — not only transformed his playtimes but eventually, his life's direction. As he peered through the viewfinder, seeking the perfect frame, Joan found a canvas that was both boundless and intimately personal.

From the humble streets of Palamós to prestigious exhibits in Korea, Joan's photographs have traversed continents, speaking the universal language of emotions. Surprisingly, he believes the diverse cultures he's been exposed to haven't altered his artistic DNA. At heart, he remains that child in Palamós, endlessly enchanted by the act of capturing fleeting moments.

Living in the embrace of Costa Brava's winds and waters, it's no wonder Joan's works often resonate with elemental vibes — Earth, Water, Fire, Air, and Ether. They intermingle, sometimes seamlessly, sometimes with fierce contrasts, challenging the artist every step of the way. But for Joan, therein lies the magic. "Real and natural elements come with a 50% uncertainty. While many ideas don't make the transition from my mind's eye to reality, understanding this unpredictability is essential," he muses.





His ambition goes beyond just capturing landscapes or phenomena. Joan seeks to mirror the profound depths of the soul. The reactions to his photographs have been diverse, emotional, and deeply personal. He shares, "People often tell me how a photograph resonated with their own experiences. This feedback drives me, infusing every frame with a desire to touch souls."

Today, with the internet and media catapulting local talent onto global platforms, Joan's work has garnered significant international recognition. This digital age, he feels, has democratically democratized art appreciation, making local art global. Recalling his big international break, Joan describes an almost surreal experience of walking through a dedicated exhibition of his work in Korea — a testimony to art's ability to transcend boundaries.

Artistic evolution is relentless. As Joan puts it, "The journey is about research, trials, failures, and growth. The learning process never ceases." While he remains tight-lipped about his upcoming ventures, there's a palpable excitement in his voice. For followers of his work, the future promises new visual tales, as Joan continues his quest to craft stories through his lens.



Anoushka Ghosh

In the vast canvas of life, Anoushka Ghosh crafts tales with her lens, capturing fleeting moments and transforming them into timeless narratives. Every click reveals her unique vision, blending emotion with artistry. As moments morph into masterpieces, Anoushka's passion radiates, celebrating the beauty of individuality within each frame.

Blue Tartan | Acrylic on Canvas



WHISPERS OF HUES



DYLAN GILL'S SYMPHONY ON CANVAS

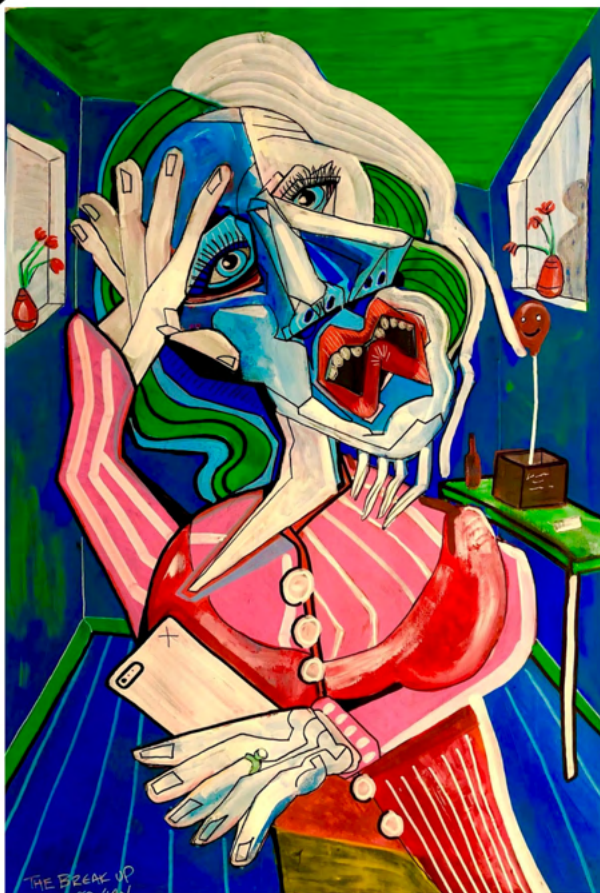
Imagine stepping into a realm where time bends and whispers, where colors hold conversations and shapes share stories. This is the universe that Dylan conjures with each brushstroke, where the canvas becomes a portal and every artwork an adventure.

Take "The Peace Pipe" - not merely a painting but a puzzle, an enigma. It's a traditional Native American symbol, but in Dylan's hands, it fragments, shatters, and then so beautifully reconfigures in a striking cubist embrace. This piece isn't just a fusion; it's a poetic dialogue between epochs.



The Woman with Red Hair | Acrylic on Canvas

The Breakup | Acrylic on Canvas



The world has shifted dramatically over a decade, and Dylan's canvases pulsate with its rhythm. His art doesn't merely mirror reality but refracts it, casting myriad perspectives, each vying for a viewer's attention, each resonating a different emotion.

Hints from art's grapevine promise a forthcoming treat. As the leaves rustle with tales of nature embracing the urban, and old-world artistry kissing contemporary flair, the air is thick with anticipation. Vin Gallery in Vietnam is all set to be a cauldron of emotions this September 9th. And later, at the iconic Art Basel, Miami, Dylan's masterpieces promise to be the pièce de resistance.

Dylan's realm, though anchored in art, soars into the domain of the magical. Here, colors don't just paint pictures; they narrate tales. And as you immerse yourself, you realize - with Dylan, you don't just see art. You feel it, breathe it, and live it. In this dance of hues and tales, we don't merely observe; we become a part of the grand narrative. And that is the true magic of Dylan.



The The Bucket List | Acrylic on Canvas

Dylan Gill
United Kingdom

CHAPTER 6

Transformation

THE METAMORPHOSIS OF THE MUSE

CONTRIBUTORS



Sergey Fond Savenko
Photography



Ruhi Dularey
Painting



Megha Sidharth
Fashion



Abhishek
Photography



Anup Sunam
Photography



Pascal Mannaerts
Photography



Indranil Saha
Photography



Pratya Nag
Photography



Alessandro Bergamini
Photography



Rashi Choudhary
Travel



Kodiganti Srikanth
Photography



Ritwick Dey
Photography



Anuska Samanta
Fashion



Rajdeep Das
Photography



Debrup Samanta
Photography

A Nighttime Luminary

WORLD OF SERGEY FOND SAVENKO



The darkness of the night is often deemed silent and still. But for Sergey Fond Savenko, the twilight hours are where visual magic happens. Born in the picturesque terrains of Rostov region in Russia, the night skies dotted with stars mesmerized young Sergey.

An innate artist, Sergey's early love for drawing at school took a digital turn in 2003 when he encountered Photoshop, leading him to transform faces into movie posters and later music with FL Studio. As the strings of life played on, his journey intertwined with nightlife, becoming a DJ and designing party posters.



While the shimmering night lights captured Sergey's attention, it was the human stories that resonated most. "A photo without a person feels less alive," he mused. "The human figure not only conveys the scale but becomes the story itself." With a technique he refined over time, Sergey added light drawings, employing it as an artistic language. To him, the dance of lights is not just about illumination, but a narrative tool emphasizing the primary character.

Inspiration struck hard in March 2017 when Sergey stumbled upon the entrancing light balloons by Denis Smith. This was the spark that ignited his passion for night photography, further fueled by the duo, Eric Pare & Kim Henry. Their influence was pivotal, setting Sergey on an illuminating adventure.

Even with the darkness as his canvas, Sergey's photographs are vibrant and alive. One such instance is his daytime capture of his wife running towards Mount Elbrus which won the coveted Sony World Photography awards. However, accolades are not the destination for Sergey but a reassurance. He believes in continuously evolving, analyzing, and innovating. He recalls, "Bringing something new requires effort, patience, and resources."



With a world swiftly gravitating towards realistic 3D and neural networks, Sergey sees them as gateways to expressing his ideas. But for him, uniqueness is paramount. "The more you know, the better you are," he asserts, promising the world a glimpse of something truly distinctive soon. In Sergey's luminous universe, the night is not just about stars and lights but about stories waiting to be told.

In Contrast | Acrylic



Ruhi Dularey

Introducing Ruhi Dularey, a prodigious 21-year-old artist from India, whose expertise spans Abstract, Portraits, and Indian Contemporary art. Nurtured by India's rich tapestry of historic arts and crafts, her passion ignited in grade three through historical tales. Fluidly melding Acrylic and Oil, with an adventurous foray into mixed media, Ruhi aspires to rejuvenate ancient art forms, intertwining them with modern interpretations.

JOURNEY THROUGH THE MOSAIC

MEGHA SIDHARTH'S TAPESTRY OF DREAMS

On the canvas of bustling Bangalore, a figure stands out against the fast-paced backdrop, embodying ambition and elegance.

The sun had barely risen over the horizon of Bangalore when Megha Sidharth, a dynamic persona with more titles than most, began her day. Not just a renowned cosmetic dentist, Megha's tapestry of life was intricately woven with threads of fashion, fitness, travel, and digital influence.

As the city around her whirred into action, Megha's day unfurled, a delicate balance of passions. Each hour was a dance, choreographed to perfection, from patient appointments to reviewing fashion collections, from sculpting her body in fitness routines to editing her latest travel vlog. Through it all, Megha had a secret - not just prioritization but also the power of delegation and an unwavering support network.



The corridors of her dental clinic echoed with more than just medical consultations. They whispered tales of aesthetics, of Megha's unique ability to merge her profession with her love for beauty. The same eyes that assessed dental structures also discerned fashion trends, crafting content that resonated with thousands.



Her fitness journey, inspired and fuelled by her commitment to health in her dentistry, found its way into the homes and hearts of many. With every sun salutation or high-intensity interval, she sent out a message - find joy in movement, and let that joy echo in every facet of life.

And as the sun dipped below the skyline, Megha would often be found reminiscing her travels. Each journey, from cobblestoned European streets to the serene beaches of Southeast Asia, added layers to her understanding of global fashion. Fitness wasn't just gym routines; it was a hike in a foreign land or a dance beneath a different sky.

However, amidst the whirlwind, Megha had a sanctuary - her self-care rituals. Moments of tranquility amidst chaos, where she recharged, reflecting on her journey, her aspirations, and the myriad experiences she sought to share with the world.

In the vast digital landscape of India, Megha watched and contributed to its evolution. From being mere platforms for sharing, digital spaces had become arenas of influence, and Megha was at its forefront. Her content, authentic and resonant, spoke of an India where passion met profession, where dreams were woven into the fabric of everyday life.

Yet, her journey was not without its shadows. In the realms of fitness and travel, where male voices often drowned out the rest, Megha carved her niche. Her success, she often mused, was buoyed by her unyielding spirit and the relentless support of her husband and family.

As night cloaked Bangalore, and as the city's pace finally slowed, Megha's story stood as a beacon - a testament to what could be achieved when one dared to dream beyond conventions.

With her tapestry ever-expanding, Megha Sidharth's journey was more than just an inspiring tale; it was an invitation for others to weave their dreams, one vibrant thread at a time.





Abhishek

From the heart of Jamshedpur, Jharkhand, emerges Abhishek, a prodigious visual chronicler. Renowned for his adeptness in travel photography, he meticulously maps India's myriad facets. From animated bazaars to placid landscapes, Abhishek's lens paints a vivid tableau of India, unearthing its authentic, mesmerizing essence.



Anup Sunam

Anup, a seasoned photographer from the picturesque hills of Darjeeling, employs his lens to weave tales of light and sentiment. His expertise transcends conventional imagery, instead capturing the very essence of transient moments. Through Anup's eyes, landscapes come alive, portraits convey emotions, and urban scenes tell stories. His work seamlessly merges varying cultural nuances, offering viewers a captivating visual journey.

CAPTURING THE WORLD'S PULSE

GLOBETROTTING THROUGH PASCAL MANNAERTS' LENS

Amidst the digital age's visual deluge, Pascal Mannaerts emerges not just as a photographer but as a maestro of moments. With a camera that's seen more corners of the world than most, his journey began in the unlikely by lanes of Brussels. But for Mannaerts, Brussels was just the prologue to an epic tale of global exploration.

Though trained as a lawyer, Mannaerts traded legal briefs for travel diaries, turning the Earth's vast expanse into his personal canvas. He possessed an innate ability to be at the heart of the narrative, freezing moments ranging from India's bustling bazaars to Tajikistan's peaceful panoramas.



His romance with India was initiated amidst Delhi's whirlwind, evolving into a passionate love affair marked by over a dozen odysseys. India, with its intoxicating blend of hues, sounds, and flavors, became his muse. But Pascal's solo quests weren't merely about visuals; they sought to unveil India's soul, raw and unscripted.

Yet, to pigeonhole Mannaerts as just an "Indian aficionado" would be simplistic. His portfolio dances across continents, weaving a tapestry of images that are both globally relatable and intimately personal. Whether it's the joyous crinkles of an elder in Brazil or the reflective stare of an African child, Pascal zeroes in on the vibrant essence of humanity. His camera, it seems, has a mission: "Share your tale, and I'll immortalize it."

Esteemed platforms like National Geographic and BBC have spotlighted his unparalleled perspective. The ecstasy of witnessing his work in esteemed publications? Think of a connoisseur relishing a rare vintage whilst cracking an enigmatic code.

Yet, the true magic unfolds in his exhibitions. From the artistic alleys of France to the vibrant venues of Brazil, his frames come alive, forging connections and transcending borders.



At the core of Mannaerts' illustrious career lies an unwavering passion: to chronicle the world in all its raw, radiant glory. Through his evocative lens, we've journeyed to realms and emotions previously uncharted. To Pascal Mannaerts, the visual virtuoso, here's to countless more frames of wonder. Raise a toast to the master!





Indranil Saha

Indranil Saha, a 27-year-old luminary from the quaint town of Mathabhanga in West Bengal, paints tales through his camera lens. To him, photography transcends mere visuals—it captures fleeting history and eternalizes moments. Hailing from Cooch Behar's verdant landscapes, every shutter click is a testament to his evolving journey, a perpetual quest for perfection inspired by the world unfolding before him.



Pratya Nag

Pratya Nag, A fervent soul whose lens seeks the ephemeral dance of life. With dreams anchored in photojournalism, he envisions a journey canvassing the globe's vibrant tapestry of events and festivals. Bolstered by the unyielding faith of his family, notably his guiding star, his elder sister, and surrounded by a chorus of encouraging friends, Pratya is poised to weave visual narratives that echo the world's heartbeat.



EPHEMERAL MOMENTS AND TIMELESS TALES

JOURNEY WITH ALESSANDRO
BERGAMINI

In the vast expanse of travel photography, few possess the magic to transcend the visible. Alessandro Bergamini, a maestro hailing from Emilia Romagna, Italy, is one such artisan. Through his eyes, the world is not just a series of images but a tapestry of stories, emotions, and hidden souls waiting to be unveiled. Bergamini's photography isn't merely visual; it's a voyage.

Born in a quaint town in Emilia Romagna, Alessandro's foray into photography was ignited by his father's old reflex camera. A young man filled with wanderlust, he set forth on his travels with a close friend, cameras in tow, crafting narratives with every shot. He reminisces about a heartwarming moment in Zanskar, where he stayed with an elderly couple. Amidst the rugged terrains, it was a simple act of the man kissing his wife on the forehead that struck Alessandro deeply. Such intimate nuances, often overlooked, become the heartbeat of his photographs.

Alessandro's approach is refreshingly human. While many photographers may seek the perfect frame, he seeks connection. Whether it's greeting locals in their native tongue, playing with children, or sampling regional delicacies, the camera is his final step. This commitment to genuine human interaction ensures that every portrait exudes warmth, respect, and an uncanny spiritual connection.

Yet, for Alessandro, the act of capturing an image is only half the tale. His post-production process is a dance of light and shadow, an art form where the true essence of his subjects shines. His expertise in manipulating light bestows his subjects with an ethereal glow, bridging the realms of the tangible and intangible.

Recently joining the esteemed Team of Great Photographic Travels, Alessandro's journey is ever-evolving. Encounters with diverse cultures, like the warm-hearted people of Afghanistan or the more reserved communities in certain Indian villages, offer both challenges and inspiration. Each experience, whether uplifting or sobering, adds another layer to his intricate mosaic of tales.

With exciting projects on the horizon, including upcoming ventures in South Sudan, Mongolia, and Papua New Guinea, the world waits with bated breath. For in the hands of Alessandro Bergamini, every photograph is a revelation, a blend of ephemeral moments and timeless tales. Through his lens, the world is not just seen; it's felt, understood, and cherished.



WANDERLUST & WISDOM



RASHI CHOUDHARY'S GLOBAL TAPESTRY

Rashi Choudhary's rise as a revered travel and lifestyle influencer wasn't a matter of mere serendipity. It was a culmination of passion, consistent effort, and the unique intertwining of her Indian heritage with global travel experiences exemplified by projects with India's Ministry of Tourism and Culture. She holds the distinct honor of being the sole influencer chosen to promote Prime Minister Narendra Modi's radio program, Mann ki Baat.

Rashi's repertoire boasts a myriad of locations, from the serenity of Spiti's Himalayan valleys to the timeless allure of Paris. While Spiti encapsulated the raw majesty of nature and cultural richness, Paris presented her with an enthralling dance of history, beauty, and gastronomy. Two distinct geographies, yet both imbued with moments that made her heart soar.



Integral to her success is a meticulously crafted content strategy. She undertakes extensive pre-travel research, ensuring a balance of posts, stories, and reels that resonate with her audience. She advocates for authenticity, urging aspiring content creators to remain passionate, consistent, and true to themselves.

Yet, it hasn't been a journey devoid of challenges. Rashi recounted a harrowing experience in Himachal Pradesh, where she found herself trapped amidst devastating floods. Such moments are sobering reminders of the unpredictability of travel and underscore the importance of preparedness and awareness.



In the evolving paradigm of travel, the pandemic introduced new dimensions. Rashi's approach evolved to emphasize local explorations, stringent planning in line with safety guidelines, and maintaining safe practices like social distancing. Beyond just sharing scenic beauty, she melds her content with lifestyle elements, drawing her audience into her holistic experience.

Staying abreast of dynamic social media landscapes, Rashi is keen on continuous learning, audience engagement, and leveraging new platform features. Amidst pressures of digital spaces, her compass remains her authenticity. Sustainability anchors her travel ethos, from supporting local businesses to promoting eco-friendly practices.

Looking ahead, Rashi's aspirations are encapsulated in her upcoming documentary on sustainable travel. With plans to explore Bali and Europe, she remains committed to her mission: using her platform to inspire, educate, and make a positive impact in the world.



Kodiganti Srikanth

Kodiganti Srikanth, a 26-year-old engineer, has transcended his professional background to emerge as a distinguished self-taught street and documentary photographer. Initiated on Hyderabad's vibrant streets, Srikanth's unique perspective shines through his adept use of a Sony Alpha 7M3. With a notable feature in the Sony All India Corporate Photography Contest 2023, Srikanth champions the ethos that observation is paramount in capturing compelling stories, a belief he diligently applies to every frame.



Ritwick Dey

In the vast realm of visual arts, few possess the innate ability to capture a moment's raw essence as astutely as Ritwick Dey. With a discerning eye and a heart deeply connected to his work, Ritwick Dey has elevated the art of photography beyond mere imagery. To him, it isn't just about capturing light and shadow; it's an all-consuming passion, a medium through which he weaves narratives, frames emotions, and immortalizes transient moments.

ELEGANCE IN EVOLUTION



ANUSKA SAMANTA'S FASHION FABLE





Anuska's canvas was never limited. While she loved her sarees and Durga Puja styles, don't be surprised if she suddenly strutted in chic western wear. Because why not? She wasn't just a Kolkata belle but a global style sensation.

She wasn't all about the dazzle though. Anuska was a firm believer in the mantra "buy less, choose well". She was the queen of fashion recycling, turning heads without making our planet turn in distress. Just when you think, "Hasn't she worn that before?" she'd sashay in, wearing it in a way you'd never imagine.

In a world where social media trends blinked faster than you could refresh your feed, Anuska remained undeterred. Her trick? Blending the old with a sprinkle of new, much like her fashion choices. Anuska was more than an influencer; she was a story, a movement, and boy, was she here to stay!

Once upon a time in the vibrant streets of Kolkata, a Bong girl named Anuska Samanta decided she'd mix tradition with a pinch of modern flair. She didn't just wear a saree; she styled it with a backless blouse, sending shockwaves through grandmas everywhere. "Who pairs a khadi saree with THAT?!" they'd whisper. Anuska, that's who!

Now, what turned this style enthusiast into an influencer was not just her daring fashion choices. It was a special day in 2022. Drum roll, please! Retro Kolkata magazine dubbed her "The Rising Fashion and Lifestyle Blogger." Overnight, her phone was flooded with congratulatory texts, and somewhere in that flurry, her dad might have asked, "How do I share this on WhatsApp?"



Pratya Nag

Pratya Nag, A fervent soul whose lens seeks the ephemeral dance of life. With dreams anchored in photojournalism, he envisions a journey canvassing the globe's vibrant tapestry of events and festivals. Bolstered by the unyielding faith of his family, notably his guiding star, his elder sister, and surrounded by a chorus of encouraging friends, Pratya is poised to weave visual narratives that echo the world's heartbeat.



Rajdeep Das

Rajdeep Das melds the pulse of the street with the lens's gaze, transforming fleeting moments into timeless narratives. Navigating challenges over a four-year odyssey, he's balanced passion with profession, culminating in accolades like the 'Photo of the Week' by the Photography Club of India. For Rajdeep, street photography isn't just a hobby—it's a calling, waiting to intertwine with the right opportunity.



Debrup Samanta

Debrup Samanta, an 18-year-old fresh graduate from the Higher Secondary Exam, holds a profound connection to photography. Unlike many who term it a hobby or passion, for Debrup, photography is an inseparable bond. This deep-rooted affinity was inspired by his father, who dabbled in photography as a pastime. For Debrup, however, it transcends mere interest—it's an unexplainable love.

CHAPTER 7

Reflection

THE ECHOES OF THE ODYSSEY

CONTRIBUTORS



Varun Thakkar
Photography



Ruhi Dularey
Painting



Gyana Mohanty
Photography



Shubham Vinod
Singh
Photography



Partha
Mukhopadhyay
Photography



Ishita Banerjee
Painting



Nabhoneel
Chatterjee
Painting



Arijit Chakraborty
Painting



Sohini Paul
Travel



Arvind
Ramamurthy
Photography



Soumyaditya
Halder
Poem



Debmalya
Chowdhury
Photography



Dipayan Maity
Photography



Debdatta
Debnath
Photography



Bose Family
History



Jafar Abbas
Photography



Zainul Abedin
Artwork



Chandrima
Ghosh
Painting

varun thakkar



CAPTURING NATURE'S ENIGMATIC BALLET



In the verdant embrace of India's jungles, amidst the golden horizons of African savannahs, and dwarfed by the Himalayas' imposing majesty, Varun Thakkar weaves tales not with words, but through the lens of his camera. Every frame, a mosaic of raw emotion, a symphony of nature's unsung ballads.

A childhood entranced by nature's theater laid the foundation of a journey less trodden. As a boy, Varun's trusty point-and-shoot became the diary where he etched fleeting moments. However, 2007 dawned as an epiphany. With his first DSLR in tow, the jungles beckoned, not just as realms of biodiversity but as vast canvases of light, shade, and myriad tales that whispered through the leaves.

The dance between entrepreneur and photographer isn't always easy. Yet, Varun's love for the untamed often takes the lead. His recent endeavor, Nagpur Camera Rental, mirrors this harmonious ballet, allowing others to pen their own visual narratives.



From the enigmatic 'Collarwali' tigress of Pench, cradling the stories of her 29 cubs, to the mischievous twirls of Himalayan red panda cubs, every expedition of Varun's paints a vibrant tableau. Yet, this path is strewn with trials. Facing the Himalayas' icy wrath or gasping for breath at dizzying altitudes, his passion's flame never flickers.

Having chronicled the lives of over 500 tigers, the jungle whispers dub him a 'good luck charm'. But for Varun, it's a dance of patience and perseverance. His shots, an ode to these feline kings and their regal habitats.

Beyond the frame and the acclaim, Thakkar wields his camera as a clarion call for conservation. His lens has been a catalyst, birthing change from curbing illegal fishing in Pench to safeguarding Nagpur's life-giving wells. With the encroachment on Central India's fragile wildlife corridors, his visuals shout a plea for sanctuary.

To the next-gen nature lovers, he whispers a mantra – meld with the wild, revere its marvels, and let creativity flow unbridled. As for tomorrow? The enigmatic tales of the Himalayas beckon, waiting for Varun to unfurl them, one frame at a time.



Centre of Attention | Acrylic and Plaster



Ruhi Dularey

Introducing Ruhi Dularey, a prodigious 21-year-old artist from India, whose expertise spans Abstract, Portraits, and Indian Contemporary art. Nurtured by India's rich tapestry of historic arts and crafts, her passion ignited in grade three through historical tales. Fluidly melding Acrylic and Oil, with an adventurous foray into mixed media, Ruhi aspires to rejuvenate ancient art forms, intertwining them with modern interpretations.

CAPTURING THE PULSE OF THE WILD

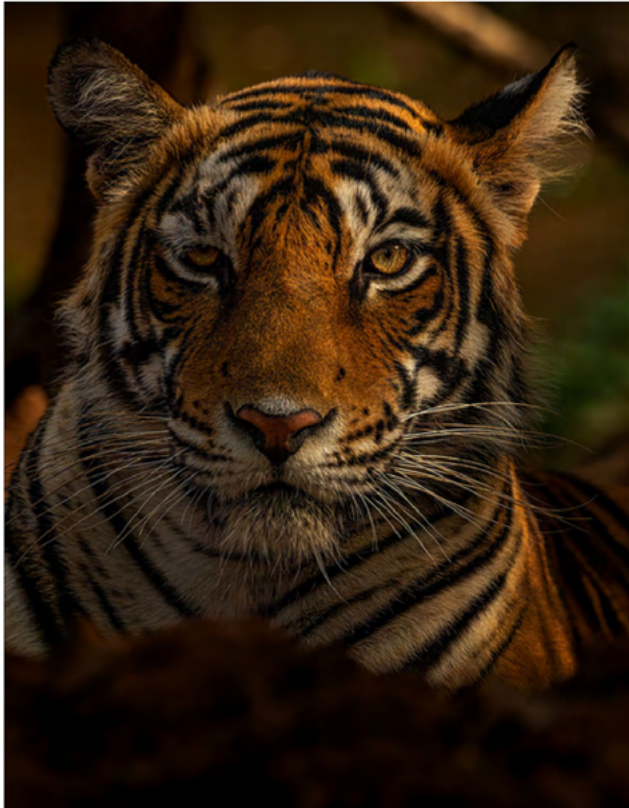


Gyana Mohanty's journey into the mesmerizing realm of wildlife photography began with an unexpected muse: an office manager's stunning photographs. By 2018, Mohanty, equipped with a Nikon D850 and a 200-500 iconic lens, embarked on a mission. Today, his timeless captures invite global audiences to witness the splendor of untamed nature.

Mohanty has a unique ability to encapsulate the profound essence of each creature, whether majestic tigers or petite birds. His principle? Respecting nature's boundaries. In places like the dense rainforests of the Western Ghats, Mohanty navigates through daunting challenges, from dark canopies and deadly vipers to scorpions and unpredictable monsoons, always ensuring that he preserves the fragile beauty around him.

Gyana Mohanty





One gripping encounter in Ranthambore paints a vivid picture of his commitment. As a male tiger emerged just five feet from Mohanty's lens, he recalls the chilling stare that gripped him, his heart pounding, but ever the professional, he stayed calm and composed, capturing the creature's grandeur.

Mastering the delicate balance between light and gear is essential to Mohanty's artistry. He believes in understanding a subject, visualizing the desired emotion, and then portraying it through his lens, creating a narrative that resonates deeply. To young aspirants, his advice is rooted in patience and persistence, emphasizing the importance of honing one's skills over rushing to acquire high-end equipment.

As a conservationist at heart, Mohanty is acutely aware of the duality of his role. While he illuminates the beauty and intricacies of wildlife, he simultaneously underscores its vulnerability. In the face of climate change and habitat loss, Mohanty is judicious about the information he shares, striving to protect the habitats and species he so loves.



His most profound message lies in the portrayal of endangered species. Through breathtaking images, Mohanty spotlights the intricate web of life, underscoring the importance of habitat preservation for maintaining biodiversity. It's his vision that through the power of visual storytelling, the world will recognize, respect, and rally to protect our planet's unparalleled wildlife.



Shubham Vinod Singh

Shubham Vinod Singh, hailing from Mumbai, seamlessly merges the realms of digital marketing and professional photography. Embarking on this visual odyssey during college with merely a mobile phone, he's driven by an innate passion to narrate tales through his lens, aptly deemed his 'third eye.' With acclaimed features in "The Light Down" and "Mirage," his pan-Indian exhibitions narrate vibrant stories. Anchoring his accomplishments, lie the unwavering support and inspiration from his parents.



Partha Mukhopadhyay

Partha Mukhopadhyay, based in Kolkata's illustrious City of Joy, stands distinguished in the finance realm, contributing diligently to the Power Sector and aligning with ICAI as an examiner. Beyond his professional finance endeavors, Partha has an intrinsic passion for photography. He meticulously captures authentic moments with a dedication to originality, ensuring each snapshot speaks volumes of its own unique narrative. Instead of confining himself to a specific genre, he embraces the spontaneity of whatever catches his discerning eye.

BOSE LEGACY

THE FORGOTTEN HISTORY OF BELEGHATA

In the heart of East Kolkata, the bustling streets of Belegkata carry whispers of a forgotten past. There lies a quiet lane named after Chandi Charan Basu, a man whose tales are lost in the annals of time.

Chandi Basu wasn't just any man. With the vision of an entrepreneur and the heart of a pioneer, he glimpsed opportunity where most saw swampland. Amidst the lilies and reeds of the East Kolkata Wetlands, Chandi Charan Basu, along with the steadfast farmer Balram Dalui, birthed a labyrinth of fish ponds, transforming the landscape of Belegkata.

But Chandi Bose's dreams reached beyond fish and ponds. By the Maratha Ditch, where he once traded wood, he staked claim to vast tracts of land. In 1855, amidst the serene surroundings of his ancestral home, he kindled a tradition — the worship of Jagaddhatri.

As decades rolled, the family's fortune soared. By 1880, they relocated their grand Jagaddhatri and Durga Pujas to Belegkata, setting precedents even before renowned families like the Naskars and Sarkars. Yet, as time wove its tales, shadows fell upon the Bose family. The 1930s marked their foray into politics, and young Manindra Nath Basu emerged as a beacon, Belegkata's very own cricket sensation. At that time, Bidhan Chandra Roy was the esteemed family physician to the illustrious Bose family.

However, what truly set the Boses apart was not wealth, power, or fame. It was their indomitable spirit of unity and tolerance. In the tumultuous backdrop of the 1946-47 riots, the Bose residence transformed into a sanctuary. Sheikh Samiruddin's tales of his father being embraced by the Bose household, despite societal reservations, narrated tales of humanity triumphing over adversity.

Today, as one walks down Chandi Bose's lane, the noisy chatter of the market might drown the tales of the past. But if one listens closely, the stories of entrepreneurship, unity, and rich traditions still echo, painting a vivid portrait of a family that once etched its mark on Kolkata's heart.



Barrister Babur Bari, 92, Kavi Sukanata Sarani



Barrister Babur Bari, 92, Kavi Sukanata Sarani

INSIDE THE VISIONARY WORLD OF ISHITA BANERJEE





Ishita's works often delve into the juxtaposition of light and dark, the interplay of opposites. Drawing inspiration from profound thinkers like Rumi, Coelho, and Nietzsche, she doesn't align herself as a philosopher but leans towards the observational side of human experience. These abstract interpretations are interwoven with spatial dimensions in her art, creating an intricate and thoughtful balance.

While her affection for the Cubist style is evident, her unique artistic signature becomes apparent in the manner she integrates the past with the present. Banerjee's fusion of retro influences from the '70s, encapsulated under the banner of "Mad Men Modern", with contemporary techniques positions her in a niche of her own.

Despite her strong classical training background spanning over three decades, Banerjee's willingness to embrace technology showcases her adaptability and forward-thinking approach. The marriage of traditional mediums with modern digital techniques enhances the depth and breadth of her work, allowing for a richer narrative to unfold.

In the heart of Montreal stands a studio that defies convention, embodying the artistic genius of Ishita Banerjee. This space acts as a testament to a journey where the lines between life's experiences and vivid imagination blur harmoniously.

From her inception into the art realm, Banerjee has demonstrated an uncanny ability to encapsulate human emotions, connections, and our shared existence. One of her paramount pieces, "The Kiss," for instance, is not just an ode to a singular act but a profound exploration of the myriad emotions it can encompass.



Her choice of materials and techniques also echoes her commitment to sustainability. Montreal's influence is indisputable in her artistry, from locally sourced materials to its cultural impact, seen vividly in the color palettes and shapes that populate her canvases.

Concluding our introspection into Ishita's world is the revelation of the 'Soul Curry Story.' It is her evolving narrative, aiming to bridge the artist, the artwork, and the beholder. Banerjee's aspiration is clear: that each viewer not only appreciates the beauty in her creations but also discovers their own stories and reflections within. Her work stands not just as an artistic expression, but as a mirror to society, reflecting back the intricate layers of our shared human experience.



Nataraj | Graphite on Paper



Nabhoneel Chatterjee

Nabhoneel Chatterjee, a recent postgraduate in Physics from St. Xavier's College, Kolkata, hailing from Berhampore, West Bengal. At just 23, Nabhoneel blends his profound fascination for graphite with a versatile artistic palette, ranging from detailed landscapes and characters to abstract expressions. His dedication to refining techniques illuminates his continuous journey towards artistic perfection.

The Silencing | Oil on Canvas | 30 x 36 inches



Arijit Chakraborty

Arijit Chakraborty, a self-taught artistic virtuoso, has been weaving visual stories for over 15 years in India. Specializing in photography and fine art, his lens captures the essence of performances, locales, and candid moments. His lens also delves into historical treasures such as Kolkata, Old Delhi, and Amritsar. A maestro of socio-political and psychological art, Arijit employs impressionist and surrealist nuances, often in monochrome, to unveil the essence beneath the surface. Currently, he also influences Creative Hands Art Materials Pvt. Ltd. as a brand influencer.



THE SOLO VOYAGER'S TALE

Sohini Paul

From a childhood of poring over tales of distant lands, Sohini Paul's dreams have now spanned across 24 countries and over 80 awe-inspiring destinations. While India's diverse landscapes were her initial canvas, it's her solo journeys that truly paint her travel chronicle. These voyages have been more than just sightseeing for Sohini; they've been transformative escapades, underpinned by unexpected kindness from locals, reaffirming her belief in global camaraderie.

Egypt, with its ancient whispers, holds a special place in her traveler's heart. A vivid memory remains of her journey through the Sahara, from Aswan to Abu Simbel. Yet, Benaras, closer to home, resonates just as profoundly with her spirit.



While mainstream destinations have their allure, it's the lesser-trodden paths, like the serene town of Chamonix or the majestic Neuwachstein castle, that have captured her imagination. But Sohini's adventures aren't just about serene vistas. They're also punctuated with heart-racing moments, from skydiving in New Zealand to paragliding in Turkey and diving into the vibrant underwater worlds of the Andamans and Maldives.

And yet, amidst all her travels, if there's a place that calls out to her soul time and again, it's Europe, with its timeless beauty and diverse cultures. Through her tales and blogs, Sohini isn't just documenting her journey; she's inviting and inspiring countless others to weave their own tapestries of discovery.



A Chronicle of Passion and Perspective



IN THE EYES OF ARVIND RAMAMURTHY



In the realm of wildlife photography, where the grandeur of iconic species often commands attention, Arvind Ramamurthy stands apart, shining a spotlight on the unheralded wonders of the natural world. Born in the rich tapestry of South India, Arvind's childhood was adorned with wildlife documentaries rather than cartoons. His early fascination with nature was further kindled by mesmerizing images from National Geographic, which he would eagerly download over a nostalgic dial-up connection.

But how does a telecom engineer transform into a photographer of the wild? For Arvind, the journey wasn't about an abrupt pivot but a harmonious merging of two worlds. While his profession in telecom keeps the realities of life in check, it's his unwavering passion for the untold tales of wildlife that truly defines him. He believes in the charisma of every creature, big or small, urging viewers to perceive the innate allure of lesser-known species. His striking images of creatures, from the mighty elephant to the inconspicuous ant, challenge the viewer to question, "Is there truly a difference in their charisma?"

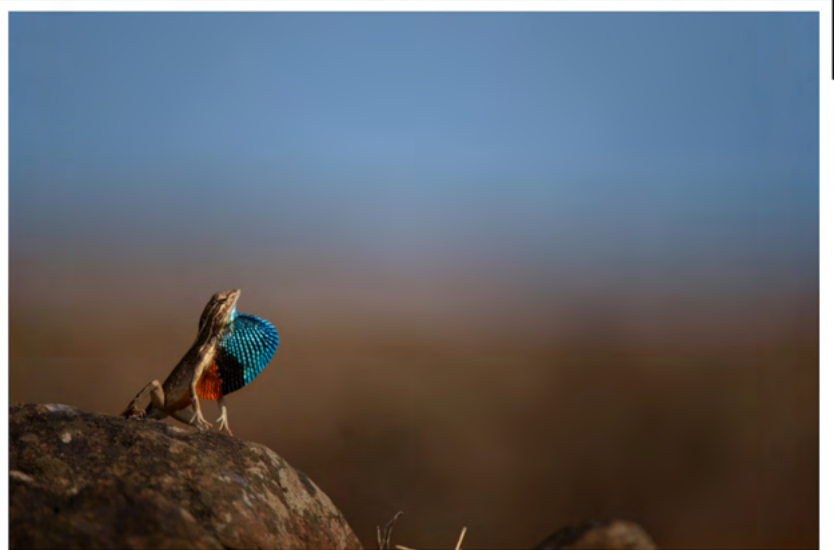
However, Arvind's experiences are not without challenges. Nature, in its unpredictable essence, has led him on treks without a single shot to show for it, yet he perseveres, knowing the next casual foray might present the unexpected masterpiece. His work, spread across platforms like Instagram, extends beyond the confines of algorithms and digital validation. He emphasizes the role of art, valuing genuine connections over mere numbers.





Ethics stand at the forefront of Arvind's practices. Respecting the comfort zones of his wild subjects, he reads signs of distress and knows when to step back. He's a firm believer that while photography can usher awareness, the realm of true conservation is a broader spectrum, best handled by the forest front-liners and local communities.

As technology continues to redefine the world of photography, Arvind's trust remains rooted in his eyes, complemented by tools that technology offers. And as he looks ahead, he shares a longing to traverse the Himalayas, while continuing his quest to expand and refine his vision.



Arvind Ramamurthy's tale is a poignant reminder that true passion transcends boundaries, fusing profession with purpose, technology with intuition, and most importantly, embedding stories and emotions in every snapshot. Through his lens, Arvind beckons us to not only witness but also cherish the boundless wonders of the world we inhabit.

Melancholy Rain

That day! how obscure,
It was raining cats and dogs,
Too penitent was the flame of the lamp,
The evening lamp, the dazzle of our love;
Was it not the sullen veena
Soothed by your hand?

Oh dear!
Couldn't you bask on the past?
The yester time we spent!

Recall, the blest dusk
Didn't I ask you on that eve
"Shall I be eternal in your mind,
And green in my youth –
Stay cherished to your eyes?"

Two hands united, you said:
"How can a soul unleash the other?
A body abandon the touch, so pure?"
– was it too fragile and sublime
to stand the test of time?

Yes, it was!
Cursed be that eve,
Doomed be us!
And once again, it's that dusk,
Morose be the sky in my grief,
Oh dear! It's the melancholy rain.
Alas! I am without you;
Isn't for this–
The agony rises in monsoon,
To flood unnecessarily,
beloved?



S O U M Y A D I T Y A H A L D E R

In the heart of Howrah, West Bengal, Soumyaditya Halder emerges as an epitome of the intersection between science and the arts. Aged 23 and holding an MSc in Physics, Soumyaditya delves deep into the complexities of the universe. Parallely, his passion for poetry and painting reflects a profound appreciation for artistic expression. Seamlessly bridging two worlds often seen as poles apart, Soumyaditya embodies the fusion of scientific rigor with artistic finesse, asserting that discipline and creativity can, indeed, coexist in harmony.



Debmalya Chowdhury

Based in Kolkata, Debmalya Chowdhury stands out as a distinguished photographer with a flair for capturing the nuances of nature, urban streets, and artistic narratives. Although his professional journey began in earnest in 2018, his affinity for photography traces back to college days, initiated with a simple point-and-shoot camera. A proud alumnus of PAD, Kolkata, where he completed his FECF course, Chowdhury's exemplary works have been acknowledged and lauded both in India and on the international stage.



Dipayan Maity

Dipayan Maity, a 24-year-old maestro from Kolkata, seamlessly blends his roles as a researcher, explorer, and professional photographer. For him, each snapshot is a narrative, capturing everything from vast landscapes to intimate portraits. With accolades that include contributions to renowned magazines and features on platforms like YourShot and Canon India, his work has graced numerous galleries. Dipayan firmly believes, "Anything that tells a story and arouses curiosity, is worth framing."



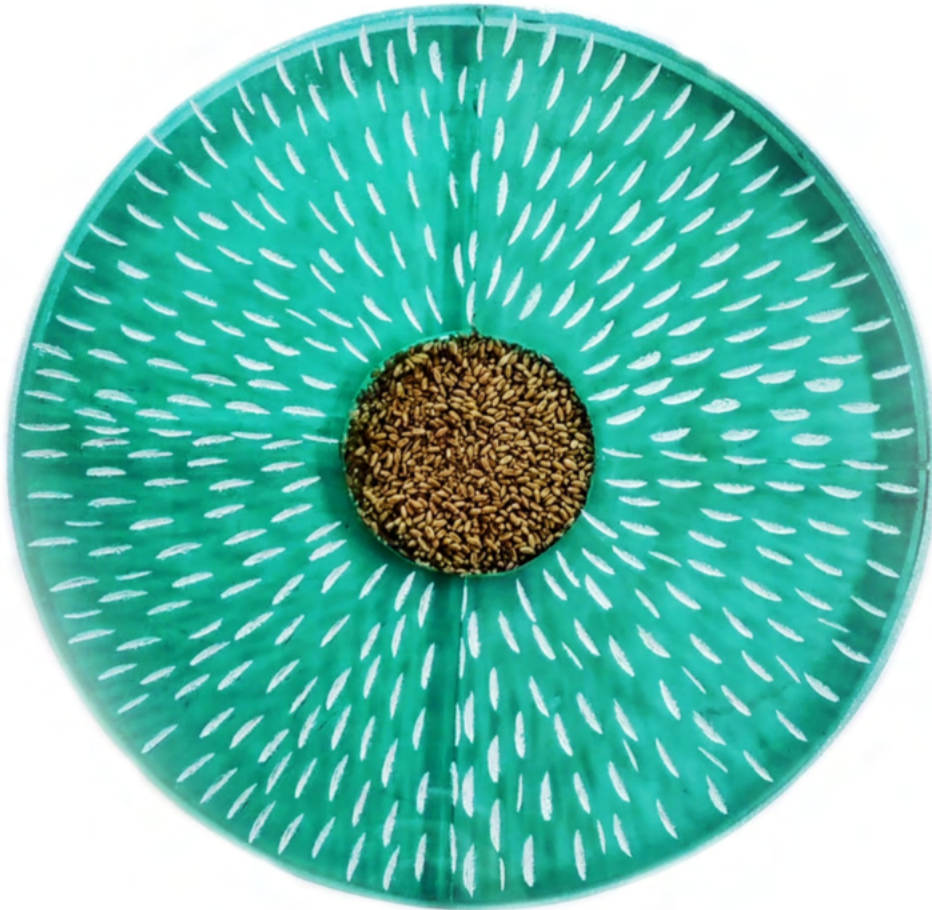
Debdatta Debnath

From the mystical North East of India, Debdatta Debnath, now based in Kolkata, uniquely marries fashion, art, and culture in her captivating vision. Her work, a harmonious blend of contemporary style and ancestral narratives, offers more than mere imagery. Through Debdatta's lens, every snapshot becomes a vivid tale, echoing both modern vitality and the deep-rooted tales of her heritage.



Jafar Abbas

Hailing from the historic city of Murshidabad, West Bengal, Jafar Abbas discovered his passion for photography at a tender age of 14. Originally capturing the world through his mobile lens, he swiftly elevated his craft, eventually embracing professional photography with his trusted DSLR. A self-taught maestro, Jafar embarked on his professional journey in 2019, specializing in fashion, portrait, and wedding photography. His self-belief remains his driving force, turning his once nascent passion into a thriving profession.



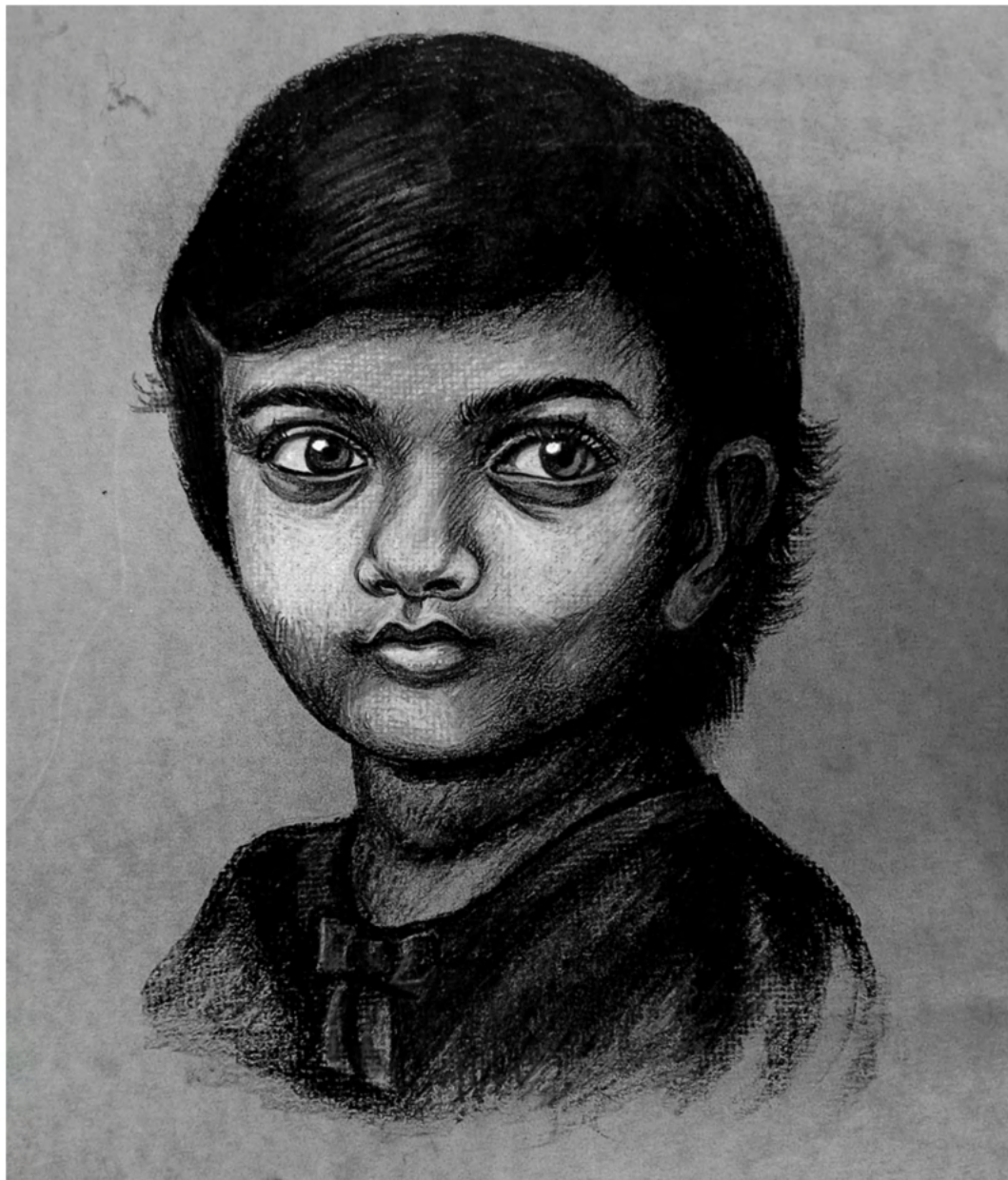
(Chakki) A mill is a small device used for grinding something such as wheat, flour, rice, mill. | Glass



Zainul Abedeen

In the quaint village of Nawla, Muzaffarnagar, on 18th August 1995, the art world was unknowingly gifted Zainul Abedeen. This Delhi-based visual maestro, an alumnus of Aligarh Muslim University, specializes in the ethereal realm of glass sculptures. Zainul's transparency of thought resonates through his chosen medium, with masterpieces like 'shoe' and 'book' echoing his profound vision. From impactful performances at AMU to showcasing at prominent exhibitions, today, he crafts magic from his Kala Dham abode in Noida.

Innocent Eyes | Pastel on toned paper



Chandrima Ghosh

Chandrima Ghosh, a dedicated painter, seamlessly merges evolving painting techniques with her academic commitments. Her artistic fervor draws from the human form and the wonders of nature. Guided by her mother's unwavering encouragement, Chandrima breathes life into her canvases, each stroke reflecting a fragment of her essence.

EPILOGUE



As the final pages of Retro Kolkata Magazine - The Global Edition come into view, we pause, reflect, and are overwhelmed with gratitude. The journey you embarked upon with us wasn't just through pages of a magazine, but through the hearts and souls of artists from every corner of our vast world.

Each artwork, photograph, note, and word you encountered was more than just an expression; it was a piece of someone's soul, shared openly, inviting you to experience their world, their emotions, their dreams. The universal language of creativity has shown us that though oceans and mountains may separate us, our shared human experience brings us closer than ever.

In this global tapestry of art and expression, we found unity. A reminder that despite our diverse backgrounds, languages, and cultures, there's a common thread that binds us - the undying spirit of creativity. Every artist, every contributor, echoed the sentiment that creativity knows no boundaries.

As you close this edition, we hope it leaves an indelible mark on your heart. May it inspire you to seek beauty in everyday moments, to cherish the stories that surround us, and to celebrate the shared human experience that ties us all together.

Thank you for allowing us into your world, and for journeying with us through the kaleidoscope of global artistry. Until our paths cross again in the next edition, keep the flame of creativity burning bright.

With deepest gratitude and warmest wishes

RETRO KOLKATA

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