



Taking it live

Artist Viveek Sharma will hold a unique art show today encouraging audiences to pick up the paint brush and contribute to his canvas

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As part of the ongoing Art Week being held across the city, artist Viveek Sharma has planned a unique 'live art' show at Phoenix Mills, Lower Parel. "I will start painting on a huge canvas and will then encourage people to join in. This is my attempt to connect people to art and make them realise that art is not as difficult or impossible as they think," says the artist who specialises in photo-realistic paintings.

The concept of the Art Week is built on the same thought — connecting art with the public. On till November 4, events include workshops and open discussions between renowned artists and amateur art enthusiasts. This week aims to help one understand art not only as a passion, but also as a way of expression. "Anybody can paint. When people start coming closer to observe what I am painting, I will hand them a brush and ask them to try their hand," says Viveek. "They can write on the canvas if they want. They can scribble their name, pen a few lines, their favourite quote...Anything! The canvas won't be complete till everybody has played a part in making it," he adds. So why did he come up with such a concept? "Art for me is a form of therapy.

Colour is the most important element in one's life. We wear a new dress or a new shirt to work and as soon as somebody compliments us, we get happy. It is the colour that suits the person, that makes the person look great," says Viveek, who was one of the 70 artists to felicitate actor Amitabh Bachchan on his 70th Birthday. At the live show, Viveek is going to showcase his definition of *Navarasa*. "Every colour has emotion. And this is different for every artist. Yellow for me is *Hasya*, while pink is *Shringar*. I will be explaining the other colours and the meaning behind them"

While the live show is a new concept in India, Viveek is known for them internationally. "I have been holding live art shows all over the world including London, Canada and Switzerland. I have held such shows in corporate parks, open spaces and also at homes where people have invited me just to experience this," he adds. He considers art to be a great method of beating stress. "Art can make a person happy. It is not just about looking at paintings. It's being a part of it. Connecting with it. If you indulge in art after work and then go home, you will instantly see a change. You will be happier, forget your problems and sometimes even find solutions while doing so," ends Viveek.

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A few works by artist Viveek Sharma



A shopper's delight

overs of traditional arts and crafts are in for a treat. The Sankalp Kala Bazaar is back in Mumbai from November 3 to 9 at the Coomaraswamy Hall, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya, (formerly Prince of Wales Museum of Western India), Colaba. More than 50 na-

tional award winning artisans from over 35 locations in India will be displaying their works here.

"When a product is purchased from the exhibition, not only do you get a unique handcrafted product, you actively participate in preserving Indian arts and crafts and in sustaining the livelihoods of the craftsmen," says Santosh Meena, secretary of Sankalp Samaj

Utthan Samiti, an NGO that is organising the event. The focus is on products that are handmade by local artisans across the country. The disappearing Indian art forms, and the creativity and skill of their makers will be displayed here. The organisers are hoping that shoppers will experience a comprehensive slice of India through the hands of the craftsmen.