

#CARL BLOCH

"In a Roman Osteria"

A Glimpse into 19th-Century Genre Painting



In a Roman Osteria (1866) is a celebrated work of genre painting by the Danish artist Carl Heinrich Bloch. The painting is oil on canvas, measuring approximately 143.5 x 177.5 cm. It is housed in the National Gallery of Denmark (Statens Museum for Kunst) in Copenhagen.

Historical Context and Commission

Bloch painted this piece at a time when genre scenes, depictions of everyday life, domestic or communal, were highly valued in European art. The work was commissioned by Bloch's friend and patron, Moritz G. Melchior, who asked for something in the style of the Italian 'osteria' scenes, particularly inspired by Wilhelm Mastrandini's *Italian Osteria Scene, Girl Welcoming a Person Entering* (1847).

Melchior was more than just a patron; he appears in the painting itself. The artist includes him conversing with friends in the background, a subtle personal touch that adds depth and intimacy to the scene.

Composition, Style, and Visual Details

The scene is set inside a rustic Roman osteria (an informal eatery/tavern). In the foreground are three figures seated around a table: two women and a young man. The man's expression is stern, almost confrontational, as he turns towards the viewer. One of the women, wearing a headscarf, looks outwards with a gentle smile; the other, dressed in a yellow shawl, is slightly older and appears amused. A cat, small but noteworthy, sits to

the left of the table, 'silently judging' the viewer. Such small details are typical of Bloch's style: rich texture, realistic rendering, attention to gesture and expression. The objects, tablecloth, cutlery, the decanter, are carefully painted and help anchor the scene in a lived reality.

Themes and Interpretations

At its core, *In a Roman Osteria* is about social interaction, gaze, and the dynamic between observer and observed. The varied expressions of the figures, curiosity, amusement, sternness, invite the viewer to wonder: what stories are being told? What relationships exist between these people? The painting captures a moment in time lends it a sense of narrative potential. Bloch's painting fits within the Realist/Academic traditions: detailed rendering, lifelike expressions, authenticity of setting. But beyond style, the painting's strength comes from its psychological tension, the way the subjects respond to the viewer's gaze.

Legacy

After its creation in 1866, the painting was acquired by the Danish National Gallery. It remains one of Bloch's best known genre works and continues to be praised for its technical mastery, warm palette, and evocative storytelling.



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Et Tu Maran!!!



Prakash Bhandari
The writer is a senior journalist

signing, a wave of criticism and backlash appeared on social media with fans questioning the decision debating whether the team should reconsider the move.

Sunrisers Leeds, and the co-owner Sun TV (owned by Kalanithi Maran) operates not only in England, but in South Africa also, under the name and style of Sunrisers Eastern Cape in South Africa's SA20 league. As part of the 2025 Hundred sale, the ECB gave Yorkshire County Cricket Club a 51 per cent stake in the franchise, with the remaining 49 per cent sold in the auction process. Yorkshire County Cricket Club opted to sell its stakes for 100 million pounds to the Sun TV Network Limited, acquiring 100 per cent of the franchise and changed the name to Sunrisers Leeds.

Cricket forgets the failures and rushes on to the next lot, they say, yet the sport is so engrossing that people never stop talking of it before a big match, during the match, and the 'analysis' is done even after the match is over. In recent years, the advent of social media has given the cricket buffs in all cricket playing nations to freely express their views on a wide range of subjects from team's selection to ground and wicket conditions.

There is a different type of outcry in social media and other platforms over the Hyderabad based Sunrisers Hyderabad these days, an IPL franchise, who also operate in England under the name of Sunrisers Leeds and is a franchisee owner of the Hundred, a 100 ball cricket format, played under the banner of the England & Wales Cricket Board (ECB). Sunrisers Leeds signed the Pakistani players, mystery leg spinner Abrar Ahmed and Usman Tariq to play in the Hundred league. Ever since the

The team plays at Headingley Cricket ground, the home of Yorkshire cricket club. Sunrisers Leeds was formerly known as Northern Superchargers. The Hundred is a cricket league played in England on a 100-ball cricket format and the league, which is very popular and draws big crowd, is scheduled this year from July.

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#CRICKET



side the county championship, the one-day Cup and the T-20 blast. The Hundred comprises eight teams, with seven based in England and one in Wales.

The format was invented with the expectation that each match would last around two-and-a-half hours. The BBC showed free-to-air broadcasts of the competition, while all of the women's matches and some of the men's matches were available to stream for free on Sky

Sports YouTube channels. Almost all matches take place as back-to-back double-headers at the same venue on the same day. One ticket gives access to both the men's and women's games. The men's salaries are four times higher than the women's, but the tournament prize money is equal.

Many supporters argued that signing a Pakistani player would create controversy, while others defended the decision on cricketing ground citing the ECB rules that prevent any franchise from discriminating against any player on the ground of his nationality. The two Pakistani players were bought in the bidding war with another franchisee Trent Rockets for GBP 190,000 (Rs. 2.34 crore approximately). Thus, Sunrisers Leeds became the first Indian owned company to sign a Pakistani player since 2009, when the Pakistani players played in the IPL.

The outrage in the social media against Abrar is rooted in the alleged social media posts by Abrar Ahmed last year, during a period of heightened tension between India and Pakistan because of Operation Sindoor. Abrar, in his post, mocked India with having a tea picture and he used to mock Indian players with unwanted celebrations in the Asia Cup played in Dubai. Indian armed forces led to call for a boycott of the Sunrisers brand. Netizens in this unprecedented outcry argued that handling the lucrative contract to

But the BCCI's Vice President Rajeev Shukla has come public with the BCCI stand by saying that BCCI's domain is limited to IPL only. The BCCI is not concerned with other leagues organised by various nations. "It is clearly up to the franchisee that has bought a team outside India if they are taking some players somewhere outside India," added Shukla. Apart from Abrar Ahmed and Usman Tariq, Pakistani player Imad Wasim was hired by Indian company GMR Group...

Pakistani players, who had publicly disparaged Indian security forces, is showing the franchise owner's way of ignoring national sentiment for tactical and financial gain. Following the outrage, the Sunrisers X account was suspended for sometime, but the account is restored now.

Sunrisers' head coach, Daniel Vettori, said that they were looking forward to the England spinner Adil Rashid, but as Adil was picked up by

other franchisee, we looked for an alternative, Usman Tariq, the other Pakistani player. Rashid was to play the IPL. He said that the players were chosen on merit and performance and no other criterion.

There is growing demand in the social media to ban Sunrisers from playing in the IPL for the act of hiring Pakistani players. "Surely the owner should have had an understanding of the situation and discouraged the purchase. Is winning a tournament in a format that no other country plays in, more important than Indian lives?" Gavaskar wrote in his column on *Mid-Day*. Gavaskar explained that his earnings will be taxed, which would then be used to fund violence against Indian soldiers and civilians. In cricketing circles, it is debated that the national interest is paramount and when the Bangladeshi fast bowler Mustafizur Rahman was banned from playing in the IPL by the BCCI, the franchise Mumbai Indians dropped him from the team under the directives of the BCCI as it was in the national interest.

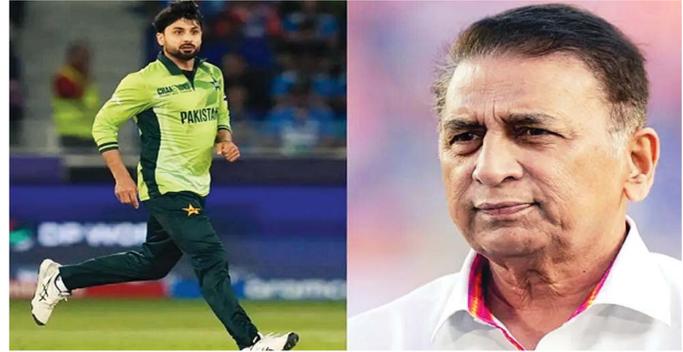
But for clarity, the BCCI should lay down rules on hiring players and they would have a say in all such matters where Indian owned companies, having ownership or stakes in foreign companies, should take a clearance from the BCCI.

lashed out Sunrisers' decision to sign Pakistan's Abrar Ahmed in The Hundred Auction. Gavaskar opined that paying huge money to Pakistani players or artists was contributing to Indian casualties. He said that while Coach Daniel Vettori might have seen competitive benefits, the owner should have had the insight and intervened.

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#YOU MATTER

A Reason To Live!

And Emma, little Emma I'd never met, pressed her face against the kindergarten fence and yelled, "You're back! I was so scared you died!"

"My name's Pauline. I'm 69. For fifteen years, I walked the same route every morning. Out my door at 6:45 a.m., down Elm Street, through the alley behind the Korean grocery, past the elementary school, and back home. Exactly forty-two minutes. Rain or shine. It wasn't exercise. It was escape. From my empty house. From memories of Tom. From the silence that swallowed me whole if I stayed still too long. But last month, I twisted my ankle. Doctor said no walking for six weeks. I was devastated. But also? Secretly relieved. Finally, an excuse to stop. Stop pretending the walks helped. Stop forcing myself out of bed. Just..... stop.

The first week was fine. Slept in. Watched TV. Felt like a vacation. Second week, my doorknob rang. The Korean grocery owner, Mr. Kim. Looked worried. "Miss Pauline. You okay? You sick?" "Just a sprained ankle. I'm fine." He nodded, but didn't leave. "You need anything? Groceries?" "No, thank you."

He left. Weird, but whatever. Three days later, the school principal knocked. Mrs. Henderson. I'd never spoken to her in my life. "Ms. Pauline? We wanted to check on you. The crossing guard mentioned you haven't been by."

"I hurt my ankle. Why does everyone..." "Oh, thank goodness. We were worried something happened."

"Why would you be worried about me?" "She looked surprised. "Because..... well..... you're part of the routine."

I had no idea what she meant. Next day, an envelope appeared under my door. Inside, a drawing. Crayon. Stick figure with gray hair walking. At the bottom: "Get better soon. Love, Emma (2nd grade)."

I didn't know any Emma. Then more letters came. A card from the alley cat lady I'd never spoken to. A note from the mailman. The teenager who



worked at the Korean grocery. All asking if I was okay. All saying they missed seeing me.

I was baffled. I didn't know these people. Never said more than "hello" to any of them.

"So I called Mrs. Henderson. "Why does everyone care that I'm not walking?"

Long pause. "You really don't know?"

"Ms. Pauline, you've been the neighborhood clock for fifteen years. Mr. Kim opens his store when he sees you pass. The crossing guard knows to head to her post when you walk by. Parents know if their kids see you, they're not late for school. The alley cat lady feeds the strays right after you walk through. You're..... you're the signal that the day is starting."

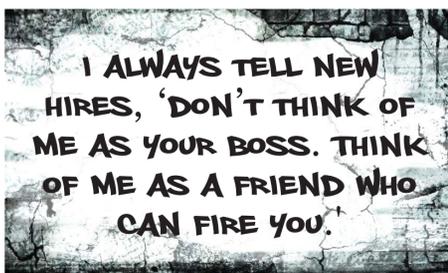
Here's what I learned. You have no idea what you mean to people. The small, ordinary things you do? They might be someone else's only constant. Their signal that the world is still turning. Their reason to be brave.

So, don't stop. Don't assume you don't matter. Don't think nobody notices. They do. And your 'just surviving' might be someone else's entire reason to start their day. Keep walking. Someone's counting on you. Even if you'll never know who."



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman

THE WALL



BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

ZITS

