

## #ART EXHIBITION

### Fragrance of the Blue Moon



Ongoing at the Welcome Art Gallery of ITC Rajputana till March 5, the 'Fragrance of the Blue Moon' art exhibition showcases 35 evocative floral paintings of 3 women artists. From bold and vivid hues to calming strokes, the myriad art works on display are sure to enchant visitors.



**Tusharika Singh**  
Freelancer  
writer and city blogger

head of Women's Day on March 8, the Welcome Art Gallery of ITC Rajputana is showcasing the art works of 3 women artists - Minal Moon, Shrivani Dang and Vaishali Banerjee in 'Fragrance of the Blue Moon', a floral themed art exhibition.



**Lockdown Artist**  
A home chef and writer by profession, Shrivani Dang used the lockdown to explore and hone her artistic skills. "The lockdown was a time when we were all stuck in our houses with a lot of negativity and anxiety around. In this time, through my paintings I shared the joy and positivity of flowers. Not everyone has access to gardens or greenery and my work was an attempt to capture the beauty of flowers on canvas," says Shrivani.

**Lights as Muse**  
Like Shrivani, Minal Moon too unleashed the artist in her during the covid-19 pandemic. CA by profession, Minal found her muse in lotus. "There are so many different ways in which one can see a lotus. The way leaves standing firm in mud and mark inspired me to create these works of art. In my paintings, I have experimented with different colours and shapes of lotus. My paintings are an amalgamation of beauty, peace, myth, mysticism and eternal bliss," tells Minal.



years old. "I got inspired to paint from my mother (Aparna Banerjee). Art is synonymous with happiness for me. Though I usually paint landscapes, this is the first time that I have made floral paintings for this exhibition. For these paintings, I have taken inspiration from Mughal miniature as well as Dutch styles of art," shares Vaishali, whose assumingly 14 paintings are being exhibited at the show.

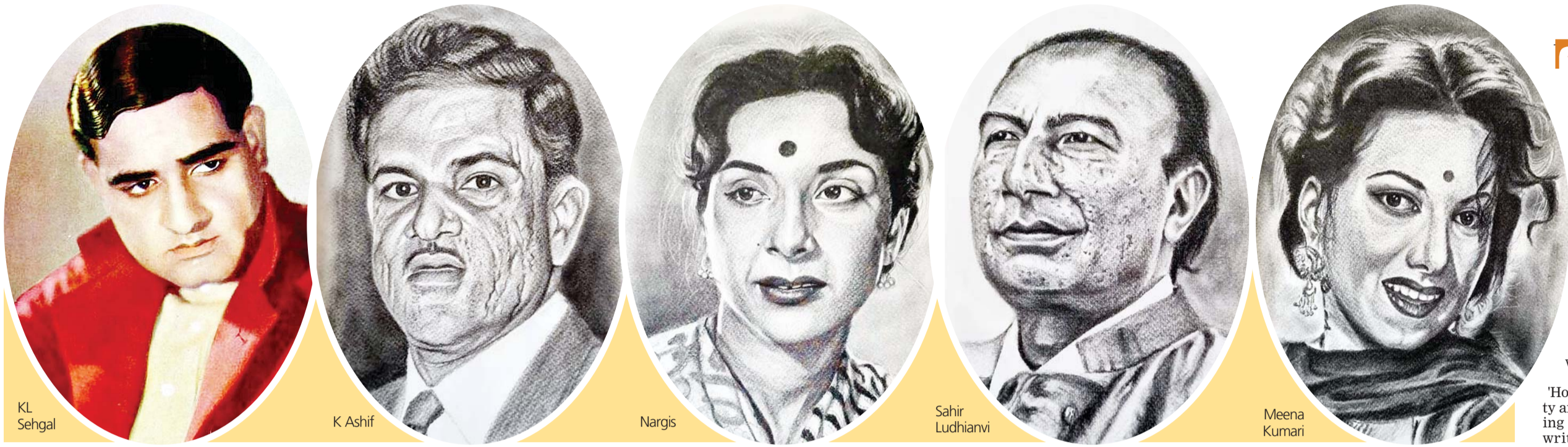
**From the Curator**  
The exhibition is curated by Gurgaon-based Aparna Banerjee, who is an acclaimed artist with over 55 international exhibitions, art summits, talks, and shows to her credit. She is also the mentor of all the three artists who are displaying their works at the exhibition. "The objective of this exhibition is to let the women artists make a statement through art. In the times of lull and despair, flowers bring a lot of positivity and beauty even if it is for a short duration."



personally in Jaipur but because of the warmth of the people and their understanding about art and culture, always make me feels like being at home."

**Inauguration**  
The exhibition was inaugurated by IAS Mugdha Sinha, Secretary, Department of Science & Technology, Rajasthan; Sudhir Mathur, Art Collector; and Rishi Mattu, General Manager of ITC Rajputana on February 26.

On the occasion, Rishi Mattu said, "ITC Rajputana is dedicated to the cause of nurturing local artists and their art by giving them a platform where they can exhibit their artworks. This forum known as 'Welcome Art' over the years has earned recognition for the quality of its many initiatives to promote the cause of art and artists."



**Dr Rajeev Bagarhatta**  
Cardiologist

My car comes to a gentle halt at the traffic signal near the end of Ajmer flyover. A long queue of cars means that the traffic shall not be able to clear soon. I don't mind.

The radio was tuned to Vividh Bharti playing a segment 'Ujale unki yadon ke' at this time of the day, around 4:00 pm. The legendary music director, Naushad, is doing what he is best at: spinning stories of his childhood in Lucknow of his own marriage, of Mother India, of Mughal-e-Azam, of KL Sehgal and his drinking binges. Naushad, the musician who is now an accomplished raconteur.

As I turned towards right, I saw we were about to approach Jaipur club. Sullen, I get off the car; take my goggles and my tennis kit, making sure to put the ignition off, as I do not want to miss even a moment of the chaste Urdu pouring out of the keys. The tinkling of the car engine dies out slowly. I am left unfulfilled.

Time and again, these wonderful interviews have taken their listeners to the era of the Moguls of cinema history, when the only access to them was either a programme like Jai Mala on radio, or 'Chitrahhaar' on Doordarshan, or some Hindi film magazines, which were replete with cheap gossips of the world of motion pictures having no literary claims to talk about the reading material they provided. But then, most of the times I miss out on these radio interviews, or am able to listen to them only in pieces at times, leaving a lot to be desired, just like the feeling of some unfinished task.

So, when flipping through the shelves at Crossword, I bumped into a book 'Ye Un Dinon Ki Baat Hai' by Yasir Abbas. I realized my search for a respectable and literary account of stories of cinema legends was over. Based on the memoirs from the Urdu magazines like Shama and Gullam the book is a compiler's delight for an obsessed and starved movie buff like me.

The section Khakey is based on pen portraits of Greats by Greats. A very poignant start to the book Meena Kumari by Nargis goes like, "Meena maat Mubarak ho!" Summing up the persona that was Meena Kumari, who breathed just to die. The personal account by Nargis brings forth the longing which Meena Kumari indulged in to become a mother, but failed. When she changes the nappies of a toddler Sanjay in a Madras hotel during a shoot, one is reminded of the affection which Meena dripped with towards Bhoonath in Sahib, Biwi aur Gulam.



**THE WALL**  
THE LIAR'S PUNISHMENT IS NOT IN THE LEAST THAT HE IS NOT BELIEVED, BUT THAT HE CANNOT BELIEVE ANYONE ELSE.  
-GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

## Yaadon Ke Jharokhon Se...



### Temperamental Perfectionist

Nargis and Kaifi Azmi when they were writing about Sahir Ludhianvi mentions about the skepticism which had crept into Sahir's temperament. Sahir, if a girl wished him, was worried about an increase in the list of his failures, while if a girl actually loved him, then he used to get skeptic and would write:

*Teri saanson ki thakan, teri nigaahton ka sukoot,  
Dar-hageeqat koi rangen sharaar hi na ho  
Main jise pyaar ka andaaz samajh baitha hoon.*

*Woh Tabassum, woh takallum, teri aadat hi na ho.  
(The weariness in your breath, the silence in your glance,  
In truth, could all be a mischievous trick  
What I may consider signs of romance,  
Those smiles, that eloquence, could merely be your habit)*

'Suraiyya' written by the blatantly bold Ismat Chughtai, narrates about the legions of fans who lined in front of her bungalow and then aged with the star herself

### #THE MIST

realizing the stupidity of their wishful yearning for the star in their younger days. Described as stunning, Suraiyya's beauty had the power of completely taking over the senses and was dawat-e-gunah.

The story of music director Jaidev takes one from Africa, his birth place, to Ludhiana, where he smoked and had tea with his friend Sahir Ludhianvi at Jagraon bridge in 1942, and finally to Bombay where he created soul-stirring magic with soulful number "Albath Tero naam, isharw tero naam," in Hum Dona and "Tu Chanda main chandni" in Reshma aur Shera, but still could not get the credit which was his due, thanks once again to his friend Sahir. Jaidev's long

struggle in the film industry has been amply summed up by the following couplet penned by Dr Iqbal: *Tamanna aabroo ki hai agar Gulzara-e-hasti mein,  
To kaanton mein ulajh kar zindagi kame ki khoo kar le  
(If you yearn for honour in the garden of life,  
Then get used to living with thorns entwined)*

Naushad remembers the temperamental but perfectionist K Asif while remembering the years of making of Mughal-e-Azam. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto would visit the sets daily for a week while the shooting of the song Mohe pan ghat par Nandlal Ched gayo re and would enjoy lunch with the unit as he shared great friendship with K Asif.

K Asif and Z A Bhutto while composing the song Pyar kiya to darna kya had many interesting alternatives like: *Nigaahein neechi kiye, sar jhukaaye baithe hain,  
Yehi to hain jo mera dil churaaye baithe hain.*

After many dismissed trials,



### World Book Day

Books are more than simple pieces of paper with words on them (or in case of digital books, a bunch of pixels on a screen). They are a door into another world, whether one full of fiction and imagination or a factual one that teaches us incredible new things. World Book Day is all about celebrating the wonderful power of books and the joy of reading. It's especially meant to help encourage love of reading in children, but people of all age groups can recognize and celebrate the day too.

## #BACTERIOLOGY

### Why Your Kitchen Sponge is so Grose?

Bacteria are just like people living through the pandemic-some find it difficult being isolated while others thrive.

our kitchen sponge is a better incubator for diverse bacterial communities than a laboratory Petri dish, researchers report. It's not just the trapped leftovers that make the cornucopia of microbes swarming around so happy and productive; it's the structure of the sponge itself. In a series of experiments, researchers show how various microbial species can affect one another's population dynamics depending on factors of their structural environment such as complexity and size. Some bacteria thrive in a diverse community while others prefer a solitary existence. And a physical environment that allows both kinds to live their best lives leading to the strongest levels of biodiversity. Soil provides this sort of optimal mixed-housing environment, and so does your kitchen sponge.

**Microbial Community Survivors**  
The findings of the new study suggest that structural environments should be taken into account by industries that use bacteria to accomplish tasks such as cleaning up pollution or producing commercial products, researchers say. "Bacteria are just like people living through the pandemic-some find it difficult being isolated while others thrive," says Lingchong You, professor of biomedical engineering at Duke University. "We've demonstrated that in a complex community that has both positive and negative interactions between species, there is an intermediate amount of integration that will maximize its overall coexistence."

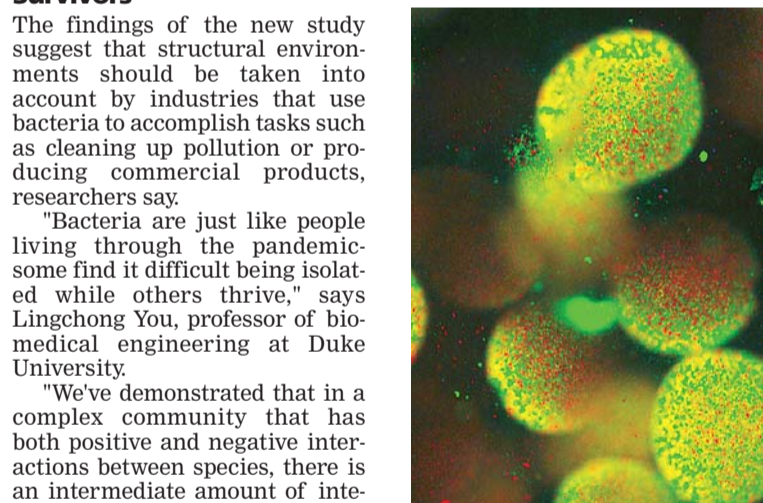
Microbial communities mix in varying degrees throughout nature. Soil provides many nooks and crannies for different populations to grow without much interaction from their neighbours. The same can be said for individual droplets of water on the tops of leaves. But when humans throw many bacterial species together into a structure-less glop to produce commodities like alcohol, bio fuel, and medications, it's usually on a plate or even a big vat. In their experiments, You and colleagues show why these industrial efforts may be wise to begin taking a structural approach to their manufacturing efforts.

The researchers barcoded about 80 different strains of E. coli so that they could track their population growth. Then they



mixed the bacteria in various combinations on laboratory growth plates with a wide variety of potential living spaces ranging from six large wells to 1,536 tiny wells. The large wells approximated environments in which microbial species can mix freely while the small wells mimicked spaces where species could keep to themselves. "The small portioning really hurt the species that depend on interactions with other species to survive, while the large portioning eliminated the members that suffer from these interactions (the loners)," You says. "But the intermediate portioning allowed interactions with other species depending on factors of their structural environment such as complexity and size."

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The results create a framework for researchers working with diverse bacterial communities to begin testing what structural environments might work best for their pursuits, You says. They also pointed towards why a kitchen sponge is such a useful habitat for microbes. It mimics the different degrees of separation found in healthy soil, providing different layers of separation combined with different sizes of communal spaces.

To prove this point, the researchers also ran their experiment with a strip of regular household sponge. The results showed that it's an even better incubator of microbial diversity than any of the laboratory equipment they tested. "As it turns out, a sponge is a very simple way to implement multilevel portioning to enhance the overall microbial community," You states. "Maybe that's why it's a really dirty thing the structure of a sponge just makes a perfect home for microbes."

### BABY BLUES

YOU'RE WRITING ABOUT THE EXTINCTION OF THE DINOSAURS?



THERE'S NEW EVIDENCE ABOUT HOW THEY DIED.



CHOLESTEROL: THE DOWNFALL OF THE DINOSAURS...



### ZITS

(GROAN!) WHAT?



MY BACK. MY NECK. MY KNEE.



WOW, THE OLD GUY TRIFECTA!



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman