

#ART EXHIBITION

Rare Miniature Exhibits

An exhibition of rare and registered miniature paintings 'Akhanda Eka Rasa' at the ICA Art Gallery in Jaipur showcased around 45 artworks of renowned art collector and patron, Radhamohan Bansal. Belonging to different schools of art such as Palam, Bundi, Kangra etc. these exquisite works are based on myriad subjects such as mythological stories, courtly art, romantic adventures, among others.



Tusharika Singh
Freelancer
writer and city blogger

Panchatantra, Palam School, 14th Century

Belonging to the 14th century, this art work of the Palam School depicts a story from the ancient collection of animal fables, Panchatantra.

Scene of Hell, Kangra School, Early 19th Century

This painting depicts one of the most unusual subjects in miniature art - the scene of hell. The work symbolically emphasizes on the importance of good values and conduct in human life. The composition shows different forms of punishment inflicted upon people who reach hell after death.

Mahisasur Mardini, Bundi School, Early 19th century

The episode of Goddess Durga defeating Mahisasur forms a legendary tale of Hindu mythology. In this painting, Goddess Durga is shown in the Mahisasur Mardini avatar.

Annakoot Mahotsav, Kota School, Early 19th century

Krishna lifted a huge mountain called Govardhan on his little finger to provide shelter to the residents of Brindavan from the wrath caused by Indra. The day is celebrated as Govardhan Pokhraya or Annakoot Mahotsav.

From the curators

The exhibition has been conceptualized by Avijit Dutta. Talking about the exhibition, he says: "When I first laid my eyes on the miniature paintings of the Radhamohan Bansal collection, I was overwhelmed. This exhibition is an initiative to share the unbounded splendour of the works with others by exhibiting them for public viewing." Radhamohan Bansal's grandson, Abhinav Bansal opened the ICA Art Gallery in Jaipur in 2008. Here, he supports and celebrates art and artists by showcasing traditional as well as contemporary art works. Sharing his insight about the exhibition and the art work, he says: "My grandfather's passion for the tradition of miniature painting saw no bounds. The journey of Akhanda Eka Rasa began with a humble concept but it has been previously showcased and hugely appreciated even in the Bihar Museum in Patna and Kalakriti Art Gallery in Hyderabad. This is the first time these rare works were shown in Jaipur." The collection of paintings of Radhamohan Bansal can be viewed at the ICA Art Gallery.



Scene of Hell.

Star Wars were fought between the Jedi and the Sith Orders who drew their power from the Force – "an energy field created by all living things. The Force surrounds us, penetrates us, and binds the galaxy together." The Force has two sides – a Light one & the other Dark. The Jedi Order was a monastic tradition that was devoted to Light side of the Force while the Sith, also another ancient religious order, was devoted to the Dark side. While the Jedi Knights stood as the guardians of peace and justice in the old Galactic Republic, the Sith Lords tried to bring the galaxy under their control as an Empire. Naturally, 'star wars' was inevitable.

Know Your Star-Wars (...1)

#THE SAGA



Nihal Mathur
FilmMaker,
writer, bon vivant

Star Wars is an extraordinary story of Lord Darth Vader, commander of the Evil Emperor Palpatine. George Lucas, the producer-director who was also the mind behind the Star Wars, stated that the name Darth Vader was derived from a German word which meant "Dark Father" - an archetype powerful male, a fatherly figure that had supernatural origins but represented darkness, death and fearful domination. Vader looked every bit a dark lord draped in black flowing robes, a large helmet with a frightening face mask. Perhaps the most iconic thing about Vader was the distinctive heavy sound of his breathing that ensured Vader's presence dominated a scene even when he was not speaking. He is truly the most loved villain of all times for how else can one explain that Darth Vader was featured no less than three times on the cover of the Time magazine.

Darth Vader

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The Force

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Darth Vader.



Original Star Cast.

story opens with Darth Vader in hot pursuit of Princess Leia who is leader of the Rebellion against the Empire. Leia is captured and imprisoned in Death Star, a man-made space station and Empire's ultimate weapon which could destroy an entire planet with a concentrated burst of laser energy. But before her capture Leia managed to spirit away R2D2, a most adorable droid, with the secret plans of the Death Star, to be delivered to Obi-wan Kenobi, who like other Jedi, was also in hiding, because the Jedi were being hunted by the Empire everywhere. Upon receiving Leia's message, "Help me Obi-wan Kenobi. You are my only hope", this old sage who always dressed in a hooded cloak, came out from his self-imposed exile and in a dramatic turn of events got the support of Luke Skywalker, a forlorn farm boy living with his uncle and aunt in Tatooine - a planet with two suns. They roped in Hans Solo, a galactic smuggler with a lot of swagger and bravado who behaved like a hero, to join them in this rescue mission, in his legendary old battered but faithful spaceship - the Millennium Falcon with Chewbacca, his large furry companion in tow.

Obi-wan

Meanwhile, Obi-wan played a mentor to Luke, to whom he introduced the ways of the Jedi. After sacrificing himself in a duel

against Darth Vader, Obi-Wan simply vanished as his cloak just fell to the ground with no body inside. Obi-wan did not die but continued to live within the Force to make appearances as a spirit at critical moments to guide Luke. In the end, the Rebel fleet mounted an attack on the Death Star with their X-Wing fighters that flew incredible sorties in the trenches where the target was a small vent which led to the main reactor that powered the Death Star. It was a target the on-board computers could not accurately compute so after failing repeatedly, Luke shut down the computers and the aiming sights, instead he closed his eyes and invoked the Force to take over and that resulted in a precision hit that exploded the Death Star into bits. But Darth Vader got away. Only to return in the next box office hit, "Empire Strikes Back" in 1980.

The Empire Strikes Back

In the original trilogy, Episode V: The Empire Strikes Back is widely considered the "best" of the three movies, by fans and critics alike. They consider it thought provoking because it stirs up emotions that imparts a mythic quality to the series and connects the first to the third film. Although the Death Star was destroyed, the Imperial troops relentlessly pursued the Rebel forces because Darth Vader was obsessed with finding young Skywalker. He sent out probes in the universe that

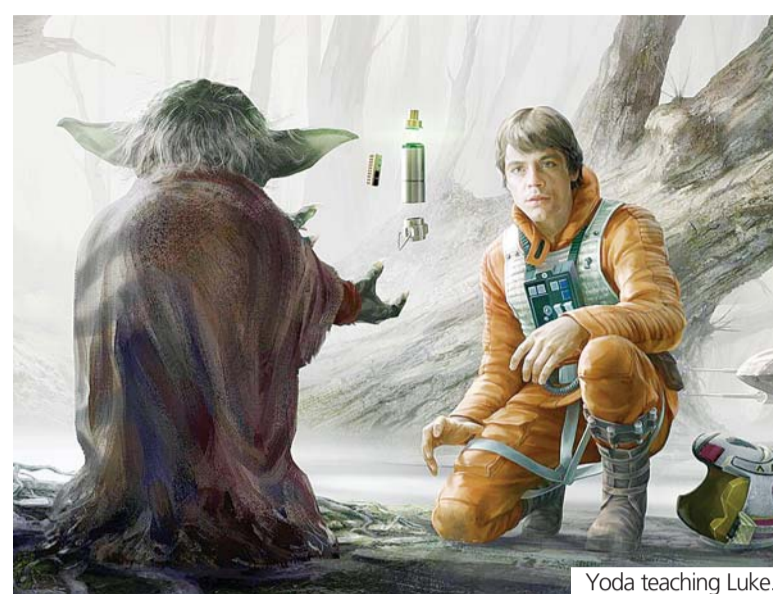


Emperor Palpatine.

eventually discovered the Rebellion's secret base. In a swift strike the base was destroyed as everybody fled. Obi-Wan Kenobi had earlier instructed Luke to go to the swamp planet Dagobah to train as a Knight under a Jedi Master named Yoda who would teach him the ways of the Force so he could confront the powerful Sith lord, Darth Vader.

Yoda

Yoda was truly a strange looking creature that was immediately very endearing to. He was small in size, a green humanoid alien who was powerful with the Force and was a leading member of the



Yoda teaching Luke.

Jedi Order. What was striking about Yoda were his long pointed ears and his distinct style in speaking, what the fans called the "Yoda Speak": "Try Not. Just Do. Or Do Not. No try there is." "Take you to him I will". "Much to learn you still have". With skewed grammar and subject-verb arrangement, Yoda Speak sounded exotic but appropriate for a wise two-foot-high goblin-like Jedi master who happened to be 900 years old!

Training of Luke

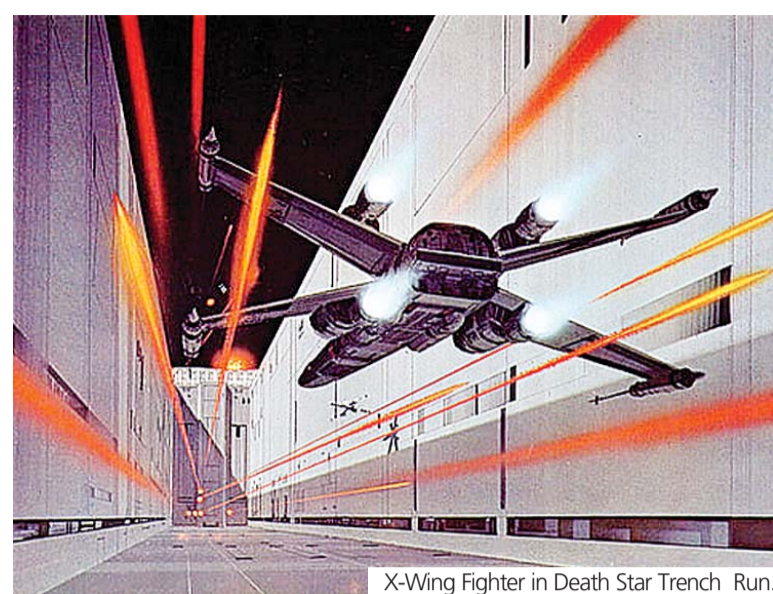
In the slushy swampy world where he lived, Yoda trained Luke in the ways of the Force by enforcing a strict regime. Once Yoda made Luke enter 'a rabbit hole' of sorts, and inside that eerie subterranean world, Luke came face to face with Darth Vader only to realize that it is he, Luke himself! This created a strong link between the two which was revealed later at a more dramatic moment in the film. Luke left before Yoda could complete his training because he sensed Leia was in deep trouble. And so she was, taken prisoner along with Hans Solo who were now used as a bait by Darth Vader to lure Luke to come to their rescue. And he did. Because by then, he had also come to know that Leia is not only the leader of the Rebellion but his real twin sister! But by the time Luke arrived, Hans Solo was already entombed alive by carbon freezing and given to a bounty hunter as prize. And Leia, in a smart move, fled in the Millennium Falcon with Chewbacca.

Fight with Vader

What followed was a faceoff between Darth Vader and Luke. When they confronted one another, Vader said "The Force is another with you but you are not yet a Jedi". They drew their light sabers and had a good old fashioned sword duel. With every strike of the light sabers there was no clanging of metal but a sharp eerie electric buzz which gave the weapon an elegant feel and look, like those of medieval knights. In the fight young Luke proved no match for powerful Vader who told him: "Obi-wan has taught you well. You have learnt to control your fear. Now release your anger. Your hatred can only



I am your Father.



X-Wing Fighter in Death Star Trench. Run.



Vader Time Cover.

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destroy me". In the ensuing grueling fight there was no escape for Luke. And then Vader, in one deadly strike, severed his hand. "Don't let me destroy you" Vader pleaded, "It is your destiny to join me and together we can rule the galaxy as father and son". Father & Son?!

"I am Your Father"

This is arguably the greatest plot twist in film history when Darth Vader reveals "I am your father." After an agonizing "NOOOOOO..." of disbelief, Luke surveyed the predicament he was in - hanging precariously above a bottomless air shaft. "I will never join you" Luke shouted out and then jumped into that abyss. After sliding down the chutes, Luke was finally ejected beneath the floating city and at the very last second, grabbed onto an antenna,

Vader" words of both Yoda and Obi-wan resonated in Luke's mind. Leia asked "But why must you confront him?" and Luke answered: "There is still good in him. I can save him and turn him back to the good side".

"I am a Jedi like my father". In the epic setting of the Death Star, in the presence of the Emperor, Darth Vader and Luke confronted each other once again. Between intense light saber duels, there were pauses for some brilliant dialogues between a father and son, each wanting the other to cross over to the other side. In the end Luke overpowered Vader and the Emperor provoked Luke to kill Vader and "Take your father's place by my side. It is your destiny Luke." But Luke refused to kill his father and told the Emperor: "I am a Jedi like my father". This enraged the Emperor who unleashed bursts of lethal electric charges to kill Luke who appealed to Vader "Father please." Vader was torn between the Light & Dark Force but finally in redemption, crossed over to the Light side. In what can be called a most classic change of heart, Vader moved swiftly to save his son by lifting the Emperor and dumping him in the reactor shaft which pulverized him instantly. In doing this Vader was grievously injured and in his dying moments, expressed his last wish to Luke and asked him to remove his face mask. "Just for once let me look at you with my own eyes."

Who was helplessly watching torn between the two sides of Light & Dark.

Meanwhile, the Rebels managed to knock down the shield and their fleet of X-wing star fighters attacked the Death Star and once again blew it to smithereens, but just in time for Luke to get out with dying Vader. Amidst jubilation & celebrations of triumph over the Empire, Vader was cremated on a wooden pyre by Luke. And in the parting shot, we see kindred spirits of the Jedi Masters Yoda, Obi-Wan and yes, Anakin his father, watching over the victory festivities with approval. So, was this the end of the Skywalker Saga? Not really. This was just the beginning of the American epic.

To be continued...

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Luke Vader face off.

#PARENTING

Becoming Conservative

"Becoming a parent may have psychological effects that you don't expect."



Becoming a parent makes people more likely to become conservative, according to a new study. The researchers detected the association across different countries and cultures and found that it became even stronger the more children people had.

"Becoming a parent may have psychological effects that you don't expect," says senior study author Damian Murray, associate professor of psychology at Tulane University School of Science and Engineering.

"We commonly talk about how parents are going to shape their children's attitudes, but we also need to acknowledge how simply having children shapes their parents' attitudes." Researchers sought to understand how attitudes on divisive issues including abortion, immigration, and sexual behaviours arise. They conducted surveys to find out if those who were already parents, along with those who had more parenting-type motivations, were more likely to be drawn to more conservative values.

They surveyed 2,610 people in 10 countries and found that people who are already parents or who had greater parenting motivations scored higher in social conservatism. Another part of the investigation using archival data from over 400,000 individuals in 88 countries similarly supported this parenting-conservatism link.

Finally, a set of experiments revealed that participants who wrote about positive interactions with children subsequently reported greater social conservatism than those who were asked to write about other types of social interactions.

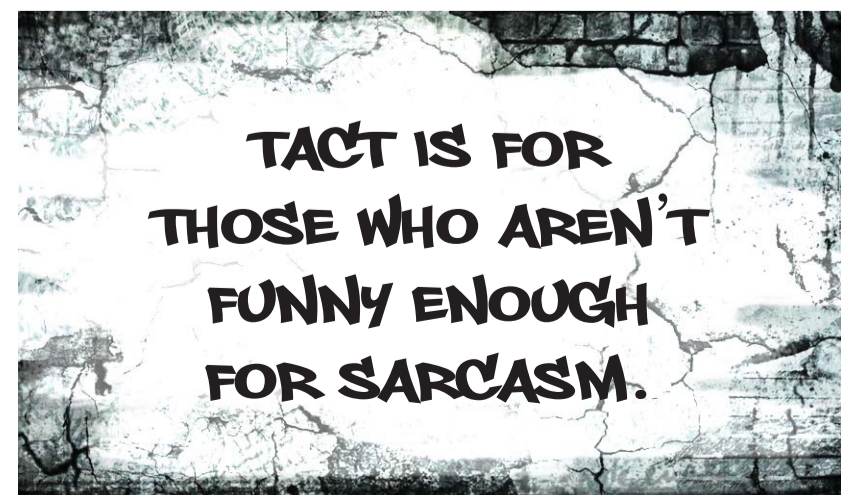
"Given that socially conservative values ostensibly prioritize safety, stability, and family values, we hypothesized that being a parent or being more invested in parental care might make socially conservative policies more appealing," says corresponding author Nick Kerker, a Tulane alumnus who is now a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Pennsylvania.

"Parental status and parental care motivation were robustly associated with social conservatism in many diverse countries, from Lebanon to Japan." The study also dispels a common belief that people get more conservative with age. When researchers statistically controlled the effects of parenthood among participants, they found older childless people were no more conservative than younger ones.

Murray realizes that the study's findings may have skeptics-especially among parents who may not identify as conservative. "We've now tested this possibility across multiple investigations and have tried to prove the idea wrong in innumerable ways. We've controlled for any variables we, or others, could think of that might account for the parenthood-social conservatism link. But the relationship remains," he says.

By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman

THE WALL



BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

ZITS

