

Man behind the wheel

Artist Pratik Sharma takes his love for cars so seriously, it translates onto canvas for his show, Motorscapes



Sharma at his Hughes Road studio. PIC/ONKAR DEVLEKAR

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FROM Pratik Sharma's sea-facing studio on the 16th floor at Hughes Road, the cars below look like miniscule remote controlled toys. But, for the artist these are more than just vehicles. "For me, cars are living entities. They are characters with a mind of their own, who simply love attention. The more you take care of them, the longer they live," he says with much earnestness. Sharma will bring these cars to life on his canvas at his upcoming solo show, Motorscapes that opens tomorrow at Jehangir Art Gallery, Kala Ghoda.

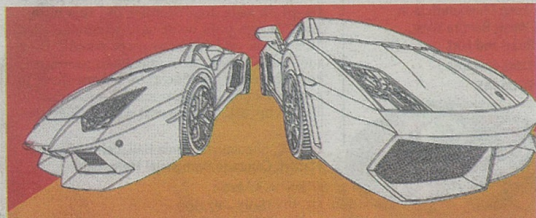
The 28-year-old's automobile paintings that line the walls of his spacious room, are in direct contrast with his father artist Charan Sharma's Buddha artworks that hang on the adjacent wall. Using pen and ink to draw the automobiles, Sharma chooses to fill the background with contrasting colours of blue, mustard and red to give the paintings a vibrant feel. "I chose to keep the sketches black and white because it opens a window for interaction between the viewer and the canvas. He can choose to fill it with the colours he/she wants," says Sharma, who is an alumni of the Raffles Designing Institute in Singapore.

Pointing out to a painting of an old Chevrolet classic, he says, "Here, I've concen-

trated on the frontal features of the car to give it a 'face'. The focus is on the heated bonnet to show that is an old, experienced car that has run miles and is now in its sunset years." The forms range from comic vintage ones to swanky, edgy automobiles that appeal to the Gen X. "I still love the classics," he smiles.

Like most boys, Sharma grew up with an incorrigible love for cars. So much so, that as a child he could not sleep without a hot wheel in his hand, and if somebody would take it away from him, he would wake up. "Even today, I check updates and news on cars first thing in the morning, instead of newspapers," he laughs. Being the son of celebrated artists, Nimisha and Charan Sharma, painting came to him naturally. Infact, his first exhibition was held outside Jehangir Art gallery as 7-year-old. "I sold the paintings in exchange for ice-creams," he fondly recollects.

While his parents dabble in artworks that are rooted in India's past like the traditional paintings of Krishna and ruins of Rajasthani havelis, the 28-year-old feels no sense of connection with those themes. "I wanted to create my own path that was unique. The only elements I have imbibed is my mother's energy and my dad's discipline," says Sharma. For now, he is in a phase of experimenting, which is evident from his sketches of bikes on canvas. "I find that bikes are feminine. I'm still in the process of discovering them."



Pratik Sharma's artwork

WHERE: Jehangir Art Gallery, 161 Kala Ghoda
WHEN: TILL Feb 28, 11 AM - 7 PM
FREE
CALL: 22843989

order of the day



Visit a Bollywood set

12.10 PM: This is a shoutout to all Bollywood buffs. Go on a two-hour guided bus tour of Film City, its famous studios, various locations and get to hear some interesting nuggets about their history. It is one of India's largest studios where scenes can be shot outdoors and indoors. Permanent sets include a church, temple, courthouse, and even a bridge. If you're lucky, you may also stumble upon a live Bollywood shoot or your favourite actor.

22
monday
WHERE: Dadasaheb Phalke Chitranagri, Santosh Nagar, Gate # 1, Goregaon (E)
ENTRY: ₹599
LOG ON TO: www.bookmyshow.com



Eat, play, love

FEB 9, 7 PM - 11.30 PM: Playing cool boardgames while munching on sliders could be a fun way to spend your Tuesday evening. Juhu's Fat Man's Café and Grill has introduced a games night, where you can play UNO, Taboo, Jenga and Scrabble while. There's an additional 15 per cent discount on the food bill, only on Tuesday nights. And, if healthy food interests you, the café has also rolled out a 'fit' menu ranging from salads to mains.

23
tuesday
WHERE: Fat Man's Café & Grill, 2nd and 3rd floor, Tian building, 48, Gulmohar Rd, JVPD Scheme, Juhu
CALL: 26254446

Catch an award-winning play

FEB 23, 9 PM: Reyhaneh Jabbari, a 19 year old Iranian girl, was jailed for defending herself against the man who tried to rape her. The man died and she was hanged last year after a seven-year trial. During her time in prison, Reyhaneh wrote intimate accounts of her experiences. Faezeh Jalali's award-winning play 777 is based on those letters.

WHERE: Prithvi Theatre, 20, Juhu Church Road, Janki Kutir
ENTRY: ₹175
CALL: 26149546



Put health first register now

FEB 29, 1.30 PM - 6 PM: With Women's Day around the corner, Hinduja Healthcare Surgical, Khar, has organised a free informative discussion on Women's Wellness Through The Ages. The event aims to create awareness among the city's women, who often neglect themselves in the grind. The event will be attended by Dr Kiran Coelho, expert Breast Onco-plasty Surgeon Dr C Koppiker, uro-gynaecologist and surgeon Dr Hemant Tongaonkar and radiologist, Dr Anupam Dudani. Actors Kajol and Mandira Bedi will also be present.



Dr Kiran Coelho

WHERE: Ball Room, Hotel Taj Lands End, Bandra (W)
FREE
Free on Prior Registration only. Open to Women only
CALL: 9820348919

Clarification

In the article, 'The Triangle of Creativity' (Sunday Mid-Day, February 14), we inadvertently captioned the photograph accompanying the story as that of Vijay Kenkre with his spouse Mangal. However, the actress in the photograph was Savita Prabhune. We regret the oversight. Above is a photograph of actor Vijay Kenkre with his wife Mangal.

