

XUV AERO CONCEPT WE'RE MORE EXCITED ABOUT IT THAN ANAND MAHINDRA HIMSELF

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## EXPO STARS

Renault Kwid Racer, Maruti Vitara Brezza and other showstoppers

## FERRARI CALIFORNIA T

MARANELLO'S OPEN-TOP SENSATION IN MAXIMUM CITY FROM DUSK TO DAWN

# SPORTSCARS & SUVs

(AND SOMETHING IN BETWEEN)



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VOLUME 11 ISSUE 6



### POWER PLAY

C63 S MEETS M3. FIREWORKS GUARANTEED

**X5M vs X6M**  
FAMILY AT BIRTH. FEUDING AS GROWN-UPS



### ENDEAVOUR vs FORTUNER

THE CHALLENGER TAKES ON THE CHAMPION. STEP BACK





# CAR-NAMA

Cars have their own stories.

Artist **Pratik Sharma** narrates their tales on canvas

Words: **Monica Bathija** Photography: **Parag Parelkar**

**A**t the age of two, presented with scale models of cars brought back from a trip to Germany, Pratik Sharma promptly told his father to go back... to bring more cars.

At 12, after being a 'coolie' to his mother on a trip to San Francisco, it was only natural that he be rewarded with a toy car of his choice. Obsessed as he was with cars, it was also perhaps natural that he pursued a degree in product design.

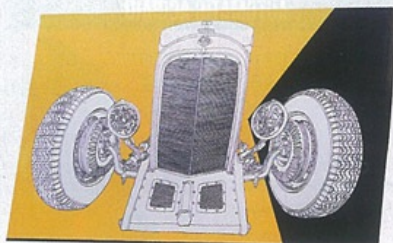
But then he realised that a job was not for him. So though he had tried very hard not to be an artist, considering both his parents are artists, he ultimately picked up six canvasses and locked himself up in his room. Naturally thinking of painting, what else but cars.

"When I finished product design, I didn't want to get a job. What I had not realised was that I would have to work to someone else's brief," he says, sitting in his studio gallery at Hughes Road in Mumbai.

Though he knew that his art would be about cars, it took him "six months to come to the strength of spoiling a canvas." He finally took up the challenge one night and since then has done 250 paintings in five years, the latest of which form his show 'Motorscapes-Heros' – black and white sketches against bold bright colours. "In this show there is a sense of Americana, more of



**“YOU HAVE YOUR JOURNEY. A CAR, TOO, HAS ITS OWN JOURNEY”**



American cars. I totally understand American culture in terms of cars," says Sharma who doesn't use an easel but instead works on the floor since the pen has to be held at 90 degrees.

And cars, according to Sharma, tell their own stories. "The cars all have a character, they have faces. You have your journey, I think a car too has its own journey. The eyes of the car, the headlights, they capture the whole journey," he says pointing to the detail in the headlights of the cars in his paintings.

A sedan that has done its time, "he must be 40 to 50 years old, has moved families around" and is now taking a break cooling off with its hood up, stands next to another similar sedan. A Model T stands proud ready to fight, flanked by two others, backing it up.

To Sharma, they're all almost human. So much so that when his father sold the first car he had driven, an Opel Astra, he was so downcast that his father remarked, "*Koi mar nahin gaya hai* (No one has died)." "I knew that car for ten years," he says. "That car went to MP. After that I decided that next time round I'll make sure they don't go out of town. My last two Mercs... I still go visit them," says Sharma who currently drives a Mercedes-Benz E-Class. **TD**

*Motorscapes-Heros* is on from February 22 to 28 at Hirji Jehangir Gallery, Mumbai



