

Time to decorate rangoli and prepare Onasadya

T K Unnikrishnan speaks to renowned Malayalee suburbanites about Onam



Onam is celebrated all over the country by Keralites (Malayalees) to welcome King Mahabali who is believed to have ruled Kerala centuries ago. Under his rule his subjects lived in prosperity and harmony. It is believed that King Mahabali comes to meet his countrymen once in a year and the day is celebrated as Onam. 'Pookalam' (rangoli decoration using flowers) is one of the main attractions of Onam. Malayalees make it a point to be in their ancestral houses where most of them would wear new clothes gifted by their elders and have "onasadya" (onam feast), which will comprise of all the delicacies like avial, kalan, thoran, sambar, pulienci, pappadam and payasam (kheer).

onam special

"I always make it a point to celebrate Onam in a big way at home. It is one of the rare occasions where we all — my wife, children, grand children and I have the onasadya on banana leaves. All the delicacies like avial, kalan, thoran, sambar, pulienci, pappadam and payasam will be cooked at home. In Leela also we serve Onasadya to our guests and all my female staff will wear Kerala style "set mundu" with kasvukara on the day," said Captain Krishnan Nair, chairman of Leela Group of Hotels, Andheri (E).

"Onam to me means new dresses and the sumptuous onasadya. Actually daddy's friends, most of them non-Malayalees, come to have lunch with us at home and I also lend a hand to mom for preparations in the kitchen. And, of course I will take a day's off from the Miss World train-

ing which is going on everyday," said Parvathy Omanakuttan, Pantaloen Femina Miss India 2008, Andheri (W).

"Onam means a lot to me. I really miss the celebrations which we used to have in Kerala when we were kids. In my busy shooting schedules I hardly get any time for such celebrations. I will miss this year's Onam celebrations as I will be shooting for a Gujarati film in Ahmedabad. Of course my dad and hubby would celebrate Onam at home," said Sudha Chandran, actor and dancer, Goregaon (E).

"This Onam will be celebrated in a big way. My sons from abroad may join us for the celebrations this year. I invite all my non-Malayalee friends for the Onasadya at home which they enjoy the most," said P K Ravindranath, former press advisor to Maharashtra CM (Sharad Pawar) and veteran journalist, Bandra (E).

"We will be celebrating this year's Onam in our Vimala Centre, Versova. We'll have a lot of celebrations with the inmates of the centre and have Onasadya. I would be inviting my Malayalee and non-Malayalee IDF well-wishers to the celebrations," said Dr A R K Pillai, president, Indian Development Foundation, Goregaon (W).

dnawestcoast@dnaindia.net



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It is you who will define 'good' art

Lakshmi U Menon discusses with artists about their definition of good art

What is art? This is a question yet to be answered especially in situations when artists are persecuted for their creations by the society.

Recently, M F Husain ended his self-imposed exile in Dubai when the Supreme Court hailed his "Bharat Mata" as a "work of art" and declared it as not obscene. The apex body compared it to erotic sculptures that are often circulated.

It was a landmark decision for Indian artists. However, the question remains as to where the artist has to draw the line when it comes to his art. Or is there such a line at all?

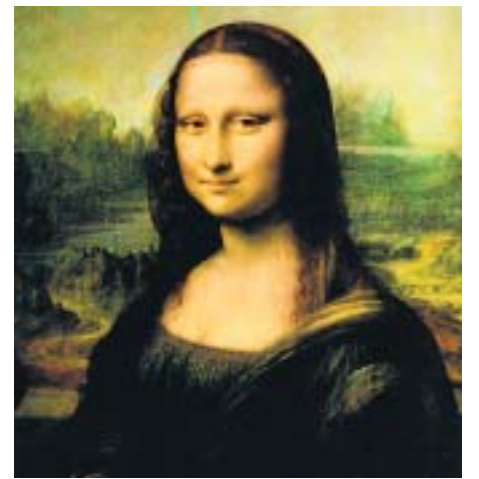
So I took it upon myself and "tried" to get an answer to this eternal question — what is art — by talking to a few artists about their opinions on where to draw the line.

"Art is to enjoy, it is to be felt. My work is not social or political. Also the art depends on the artist. The artist and the common man sees and thinks differently," said Tanuja Rane an Andheri-based artist.

Artist Sunil Gawde, whose Celini artwork adorns the halls of Grand Hyatt, agreed with this sentiment, saying, "Art is the reason for me to live and the source of my expression. As I am connected to art I can understand things."

For Borivli-based artist Krishnamachari Bose "art equals freedom." However, he said, "Art happens in various spaces. When in public space we need to understand the culture and society and then create art accordingly. Otherwise, it leads to controversy."

When it came to the question of obscenity Rane said, "I don't think any art is wrong. It is his creative way of depicting. My way of depiction may or may not be liked by people.



■ Mona Lisa painting by Leonardo da Vinci
Nothing is obscene or dirty in art. Art doesn't say anything is dirty. People should appreciate and accept things."

Gawde agreed, "It is all in the mind. It is how you define art. I cannot decide what is obscene and what is not. Art can have its own domination beyond any subject."

Bose stated, "In case of art exhibits, if you don't want it, don't take it. Probably, those who file such obscenity cases against artists want themselves to be known. Artists are often under a lot of political and social pressure. I don't think any artist would deliberately rake up controversy." He said art in India is restricted to limited spaces like temples and churches, which not many are exposed to.

m_lakshmi@dnaindia.net

Invest in your sleep

Andheri homes the first sleeping studio of the country

Westcoast Correspondent

If sleep is top priority for you and you don't mind spending to get that well-deserved siesta then Hush in Andheri is the place for you. It is the first of its kind sleep studio in the country.

It is your regular living room and bedroom furniture showroom but with a difference. If ever you intend to buy a mattress from here, you don't have to stand aside and gauge the comfort-level but test it by sleeping on it.

"The sleep studio is an entirely new concept especially in a place like Mumbai where space is a luxury," said Deepika Joshi Gupta, senior manager of Hush Sleep Studio. "We encourage our clients to come, lie down and then choose the mattress," she added. The sleep studio is equipped with individual bedroom space for each type of mattress. Explaining the reason for this she said, "Mostly, Indian ladies with their sarees find it uncomfortable to test the mattresses by lying on them. So we have made a private setting."

It has been almost three months since the launch of studio. "It is the brainchild of the

Gunjan Zatakia, director of Hush India Pvt Ltd," she informed. However, Hush has been in the hotel industry for 10-15 years supplying them with sleep systems.

"Customers wanted to have the comfortable mattresses like the ones in hotels. So it ventured into retail seeing the market potential. Now, people want to invest in a good sleep," said Deepika explaining the purpose of the venture. The studio not only lets you sleep in

but also advises on what is the best mattress to suit your sleeping style. "We give our customers sleep test tips, like which mattress would be best if you have a back problem. If a husband and wife have entirely different sleeping habits, then we would recommend them to buy two single mattresses," she said.

About the type of mattresses that are sold here, Deepika elucidated, "We use only spring technology in our mattresses not foam."

When asked about the price of the mattresses, she said, "The price depends on the size, quality and the thickness of the mattress. A usual six feet by six feet mattress can cost anywhere between Rs 17,000 to Rs 55,000."

dnawestcoast@dnaindia.net

New trend

One can sleep on the spring mattress before buying it in the private setting arranged by the Hush Sleep Studio



Recreate moments and memories at Gorai

T K Unnikrishnan finds out about restaurants in Gorai that have sprouted near the creek in Borivli

Gorai in Borivli (W) has one thing in plenty - restaurants. There are about 16 restaurants in and around the Gorai creek area, ten big and six small restaurants.

Gorai, which is the entry point to Essel World Water Kingdom and Gorai Beach is fast becoming a lovers' nest as they can always find some place in one of these restaurants which provide lot of privacy. On week days,

most restaurants are deserted and the staff play soft to the lovers by not asking them to vacate the tables faster.

"Chunk of our clientele is of course college students. But we get lot of families dining in our restaurant on holidays," said Masurkar who runs Green Channel vegetarian fast food restaurant which is on the main Gorai Road, near the

BEST Depot.

According to Rajeev Chaudhary, Cashier of Neelam's Pride Family Restaurant & Bar, one of the finest restaurants of the area, their customers are mostly middle-class businessmen. "Our customers are always mixed - businessmen as well as high-class families, come to enjoy our good food, liquor and hospitality," said Chaudhary.

Deepa and Sandeep (names changed) were found sitting in one of the restaurants in a cozy mood. "We come all the way from Santacruz to Gorai where we get lot of secluded moments," said Deepa confirming that they frequent these restaurants. Sandeep said that few of the restaurants even provide special AC rooms where nobody disturbs the lover couples.

dnawestcoast@dnaindia.net



Bayview
Location: Facing Gorai Creek; Capacity: 60 (restaurant) 200 (party hall); Alcohol: Served; Popular Food: Tandoori, Kabab, Chinese; Ambience: Good; Credit cards: Accepted; Free home delivery: 28679256 or 28678234



Suyogi
Location: Near Suvidya School; Capacity: 80 (restaurant) 120 (party halls); Alcohol: Not served; Popular Food: Tandoori, kabab, Chinese; Ambience: Satisfactory; Credit cards: Accepted; Free home delivery (10 per cent discount): 28673142 or 43



Status
Location: Near Suvidya School; Capacity: 110; Alcohol: Not Served; Popular Food: Punjabi, pav bhaji, South Indian; Ambience: Satisfactory; Credit cards: Not accepted; Free home delivery: 28695464 or 28679726



Neelam's Pride
Location: Near Gorai Creek; Capacity: 84; Alcohol: Served; Popular Food: Butter Chicken, Neelam Khabab; Ambience: Good; Credit cards: Accepted; Free home delivery: 28680930 or 28698076



Shivam
Location: Near Gorai Creek; Capacity: 166; Alcohol: Not served; Popular Food: Punjabi, South Indian; Ambience: Good; Credit cards: Not accepted; Free home delivery: 28696050 or 28696020



Humpty - Dumpty Location: Gorai Creek Road; Capacity: 30; Alcohol: Not served; Popular Food: Tandoori, khabab, Chinese; Ambience: Satisfactory; Credit cards: Not accepted; Free home delivery: 28690473 or 9869738328



Sea Side
Location: Near Suvidya School; Capacity: 50; Alcohol: Served; Popular Food: Fish fry, prawns koliwada, tandoori; Ambience: Satisfactory; Credit cards: Accepted; Free home delivery: 28690079



Green Channel
Location: Gorai Creek Road; Capacity: 65; Alcohol: Not served; Popular Food: Chinese, pav bhaji, pizza, Maharashtrian food; Ambience: Good; Credit cards: Not accepted; Free home delivery: 28697805 or 28692277



Sagar
Location: Gorai Creek Road; Capacity: 50; Alcohol: Not served; Popular Food: Chinese, Tandoori; Ambience: Satisfactory; Credit cards: Not accepted; Free home delivery: 28695215 or 28678627



Shiv Sagar
Location: Gorai Creek Road; Capacity: 35; Alcohol: Not served; Popular Food: Paneer Tikka, Vegetarian Kolhapuri; Ambience: Satisfactory; Credit cards: Not accepted; Free home delivery: 28675006 or 28686927