



AINAK Dhar's first published work was when he was in class seven in Canada. He had stapled together maths solutions, with his collection of poems on the back, and sold it to his classmates at 50 cents a piece. "That day, I came home and told my mother that I had become a professional author," the MD at General Mills, and author of more than a dozen books, fondly recalls. Due to his father's government job, the Mumbai-based author travelled a lot during his childhood. "I think that had a lot to do with me relying on my own imagination. When you move so much you don't have a stable group of friends," says the author of the recently-released *03:02*, a contemporary thriller based in Mumbai.

Under attack

03:02 is set in Mumbai during a blackout—so, no working phones, television or the internet—and the world is facing a terror threat. When terrorism is a daily part of our reality today, the book seems very relevant to our times. Dhar, who had also conducted a survey on India's preparedness for terror attacks, explains that today there is a "heightened awareness and concern about this." His book deals with not only the prospect of a terror attack, but how ordinary people react when something happens. None of his protagonists are people with special skills because, as he puts it, in the event of an actual threat to our lives, "no superhero is going to come and save us. What if something happened where you didn't have a choice of changing the channel or logging off on Facebook?"

in conversation

Keeping it real

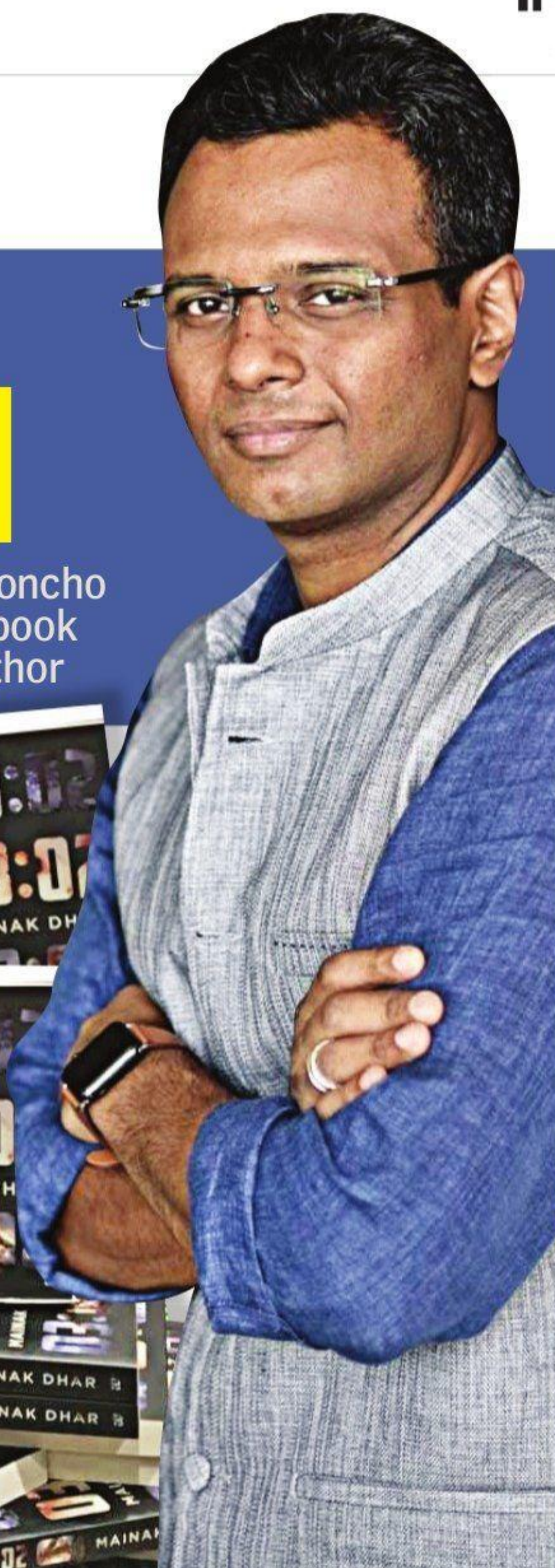
Novelist and corporate honcho Mainak Dhar on his new book and his journey as an author

Where you had to deal with it?" asks Dhar, explaining the inspiration behind *03:02*.

Juggling act

From getting 54 rejection slips for his first book to becoming a bestselling author, Dhar has come a long way. Two decades of working in the corporate set up and simultaneously authoring fiction and non fiction novels, I ask Dhar how he does it all. "The inspiration part of it can come anytime," he says, for which he keeps an old diary handy to jot down ideas. Dhar, who goes for a run daily and devotes that time to figure out how to develop his stories, says that with time he has learned to become more disciplined with his writing and has found ways to balance it with other aspects of his busy life. He also tries to get in 30 minutes for writing every day. Available at *Higginbothams*. ₹295 Details: 28513519

—Simar Bhasin



what's on



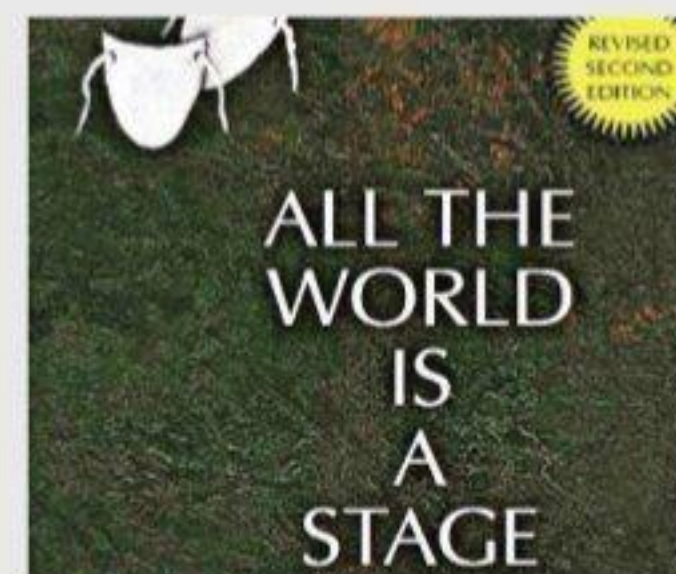
Sweet deal

Short+ Sweet South India is back with its fifth edition. Forty seven plays, carefully filtered from over 150 scripts, will be performed at the Édouard Michelin Auditorium till July 31. Don't forget to catch Lalitha Dharini's *Manidha Uruvagul* (July 8-10) and *Goon* written by Pete Malicki (July 13, 15, 16 and 17). From 7 pm onwards. ₹200. Details: eventjini.com



Sound check

Head to Phoenix MarketCity to catch the Sax Duet today. The LA-Chennai duo of Basanth and Naveen has also performed with the likes of AR Rahman and the Raghu Dixit Project. End the weekend with Stevie, Ganesh, Reswin and the artists from Humphrey and the Aglets, as they perform popular rock 'n' roll numbers. Details: 30083007



New horizons

An interesting take on the importance of expression in organisational environments, TT Srinath brings in his experience as a sensitivity trainer to understand the importance of dramatics in opening up one's mental horizons. Grab your copy of the second edition of *All The World Is A Stage*. ₹350. At Starmark. Details: 64550262

exhibition

Red for resistance

Artist Soghra Khurasani on why her paintings are filled with passion and protest



SHE may come across as shy, even soft-spoken, but when it comes to her art, Soghra Khurasani is anything but. The Vadodara-based artist, who is exhibiting her third solo work, *Cratered Fiction*, at InKo Centre, is vociferous with her woodcut prints on paper—they are almost like emotional outbursts, depicting her frustration at how society treats personal freedom and women's rights. "Every day we see how women are being treated—the violence, the discrimination. But they do so much, they give their bodies for the next generation; we need to give them respect," says Khurasani, speaking to me from Khoj, where she is participating in an Indo-Iranian residency and experimenting with photography. "When I give expression to my thoughts, the way I handle my tools is quite hard. And I find it easier to let it all out on wood," she says, adding it takes her over

a month to make one woodcut print.

While her first two solo projects came out in the aftermath of the Delhi rape—where she used the violence of volcanoes to portray turmoil—her latest is a more cathartic one. The craters show what happens after the "eruptions", the more silent protests and the change that can come from giving women equal voices. "I have so many colours in my studio, but I gravitate towards reds and pinks as they denote passion," says the 32-year-old, who will also be displaying her wood blocks, so people can get a better idea of how she works. Organised as part of Emerging Frame, InKo's arts-in-partnership initiative with select galleries across India, this exhibition is with Mumbai's Tarq Gallery.

From July 13 to August 16. Details: 24361224

—SPK



SPY

Dakshina Chitra is holding two workshops this weekend. The two-day Macrame jewellery making session will teach you braiding techniques, while the one on Thappattam will teach you the basic beats of the folk instrument, thappu. ₹1,500 onwards. Details: 9841777779



Painting volcanoes



Vadodara-based artist Soghra Khurasani exhibits her artworks as part of Emerging Frame, an initiative by In-Ko Centre, in collaboration with select galleries across India.

Titled Cratered Fiction, the exhibition features Soghra's woodcut prints on paper, which includes both violent imageries of volcanoes and dormant, yet life-sustaining craters.

Soghra has been part of several solo shows all across India, 'Interstices'

– a collateral project of the Kochi-Muziris Biennale 2012, and more. She is a recipient of the National Academy Award granted by the Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi (2015), and has participated in residencies and camps across the country.

The exhibition will be held between July 13 and August 16, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., at The Gallery@InKo Centre.

For details, call 2436 1224.

what's on

REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE



today

An eggless baking workshop will be conducted, wherein the participants can learn to bake pine apple cake, black forest, photo cake, muffins, chocolate brownie and two varieties of icing.

Date: July 3

Time: 2 to 5 pm

exhibition

All India Handlooms and Handicrafts is holding an exhibition, wherein Gujarath, *Kalamkari*, *Bandhini*, *Venkatagiri* and stone studded bags will be displayed.

Date: Till July 15

Venue: 57, Arcot Road, Saligramam.

Contact: 74185 01101

InKo Centre is conducting an exhibition of the works of Soghra Khurasani at their gallery.

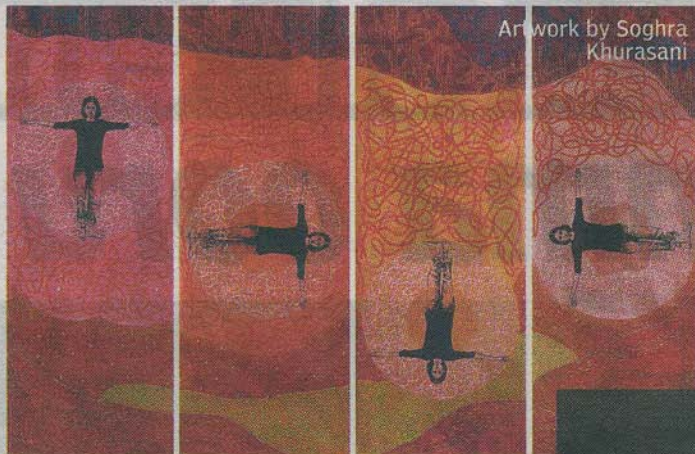
Date: July 13 to 16

Time: 6 pm

Venue: 18, Adyar Club Gate Road, Chennai.

Contact: 98400 13017

culture



Artwork by Soghra Khurasani

Crea Shakthi is presenting the Tamil adaptation of William Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, written and directed by Samyuktha PC. The play's narrative will also take a page from Chennai's story with water, from last year's floods to this year's water shortages. Tickets

are available on Book My Show.
Date: July 30
Time: 7.30 pm to 9 pm
Venue: Museum Theatre, Egmore.

InKo Centre is conducting an

exhibition of the works of Soghra Khurasani at their gallery.

Date: July 13 to 16

Time: 6 pm

Venue: 18, Adyar Club Gate Road.

Contact: 98400 13017

Kolkata based Odissi dancer Sharmila Biswas is choreographing and performing a dance-drama that will be touring seven cities including Chennai. The theme is 'Temple Dance Traditions'.

The Tempest



Date: July 16
Time: 7 pm to 9 pm
Venue: The Music Academy, Old No. 306, 168, T.T.K. Road, Royapettah.

Academy, Old No. 306,
168, T.T.K. Road,
Royapettah.

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FRIDAY 15 JULY 2016

WHAT'S HOT | CHENNAI TIMES

MRC Nagar, till Jul 30, 11am to 7pm; A painting exhibition by Bhavna Sonawane and N Ramachandran who use metallic lustres in their work evoking the lyricism of nature.

Movement On The Edge, Apparao Galleries, 7, Wallace Garden, Nungambakkam, Jul 30, 11am to 7pm; A painting exhibition by Madhukar Maithani and John Tun Sein.

Affordable Art Show, Vinnyasa Art Galery, 1st Main Road, CIT Colony, Mylapore, till Jul 30, 11am to 7pm; An art show based on different themes featuring works by more than 70 artists, including Achuthan Kudallur, Anasuya, Chiquita Ravi, Gayathri Deenadayalan, Harshavardhini and Manikandan.

Primitive Parallelism, Varija Art Gallery, DakshinaChitra, East Coast Road, Muttukadu, till Jul 31, 10am to 6pm; A painting exhibition by Nagpur-based painter Hemanth Suryawanshi on rock paintings converted on canvas.

Group Show, Kadambari Art Gallery, DakshinaChitra, East Coast Road, Muttukadu, Chengalpattu, till Jul 31, 10am to 6pm; A group painting exhibition by various artists like Jagadeesan, Ravee, Rajmohan, Gopikrishna, Guruselvam and Ravichandran.

Cratered Fiction, The Gallery, Inko Centre, 18, Adyar Club Gate Road, till Aug 16, 10am to 6pm; An exhibition featuring Soghra Khurasani's signature woodcut prints on paper. This series of prints is exhibited along with some of her earlier works that explore the beginning of themes currently pivotal to her practice.

AN ART EXHIBITION WITH A DIFFERENCE

SRAVIA SIVARAM

DECCAN CHRONICLE

Printmaking is a form that involves the creation of artworks, usually multiples of a same piece, by printing on paper. This medium is well-suited to the expression of one's desires and feelings. Printmaking uses incredible attention to detail to accurately depict an artist's inner thoughts.

Artist Soghra Khurasani, one of the few artists in India to create woodcut prints on paper, feels that this medium gives her more freedom of expression, as well as ideas of beauty and nature. The artist, who has done her MS in printmaking from the University of Baroda, says that unlike other media, woodcut prints take about a month to complete. "It's a big challenge for me to carve the woodblock and transfer the image onto paper. Most of my woodcut works are in a large format, as this medium helps me in producing the size as per my requirements when compared to other printmaking mediums," says Soghra.

The themes that Soghra adopts in her works are varied, and have a strong root in her personal experiences. The theme of her works predominantly revolves around gender, aesthetics, and the role of woman.

Artist Soghra Khurasani credits the time spent at the University of Baroda for igniting her artistic sensibilities



One of her works using woodcut print on paper

"Landscapes are a major part of my work, as those are the places where we get inspired, and are free to walk around in," she says. "I imagine the female body as the sky, mountains, valley, soil and earth. I try to represent land as the skin beneath our body. The flesh, scars, and blood are the

marks created on nature that depict the bodily phenomena as mother Earth. All other associated entities are to be assumed, paradoxically, as the feminine body and its gestures in representation," informs Soghra.

Talking about her ongoing exhibition in Chennai — *Cratered Fiction*, she says, "Craters in this context focuses on the ones that appear after a volcanic eruption. The designs that I have adopted for this theme resemble not just a crater but also a blood pond. This signifies the peaceful protest of silence. Some of the other meanings depicted in this series of artwork are more about the stillness of presence, the aftermath of expressions, as well as the beauty of life, death, and healing reformation."

Soghra says that her days in Baroda triggered her interest in printmaking. "Working and practicing this art along with veterans helped create an impact on me, as I have always been passionate about working on a huge canvas. The tools I use make me



Soghra Khurasani

free to express on a big surface," she says.

Explaining about the nature of her work Soghra explains, "Woodcut printmaking is a relief printmaking process made on the plank side of the wood with the grain running lengthwise. After an image is prepared on the wood, the excess or unwanted areas are cut away by hand with carving tools. Ink is applied to the wood with a rubber roller and a sheet of paper is then placed on top of the inked wood, and the back is rubbed by hand or run through a press to make the impression. For multiple

colours the wood block is further cut. The printing process is same. As most of my works are large in scale, I take the impression manually."

According to Soghra, the reason for the lack of printmaking artists is that many shift to other mediums either because they can't afford print studios, or the process involved is very lengthy. "It is also not very easy to work in large format prints, and is tedious process to do it for long hours," she says. This young artist, driven by passion, wants to continue with this medium despite all the difficulties and wishes to continue expressing herself through this medium for a long time.

I imagine the female body as sky, mountains, valley, soil and earth. I try to represent land as the skin beneath our body

— SOGHRA KHURASANI

EVENTS

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ART

Spring Fever: A photography exhibition covering the wonderful landscapes of the UK, France and the Netherlands. The exhibition features images by Chennai-based international landscape and travel photographer Kamal Chilaka, at Eyemage Gallery, Navalur, OMR, from 11am to 7pm, till July 23.

MUSIC & DANCE

Parampara : A special vocal concert by Vidya Kalyanaraman on Swvarnavenkatesa Deekshitar's 95th Jayanthi, at 6.15pm, at Arkay Convention Center, 146/3 R.H.Road, OMS Lakshana.

Naada Inbam: Vocal concert by Varalakshmi Anandkumar with Meera Sivaramakrishnan and R Shankaranarayanan, at 6.15pm, at Ragasudha Hall, Luz Avenue, Mylapore.

Aadi Isai Vizha: Vocal concert Lakshmi Priya at 4.45pm, at PS Dakshinamurthy Auditorium, RK Mutt Road, Mylapore.

ART

Cratered Fiction: An exhibition featuring Soghra Khurasani's signature woodcut prints, at 18, Adyar Club Gate Road, from 10am to 6pm, till Aug 16.

The Moon City & The Sun Dream: A painting exhibition by Bhavna Sonawane and N Ramachandran who use metallic lustres in their work evoking the lyricism of nature, at Apparao Galleries, The Leela Palace, Adyar Seaface, MRC

6pm, at till July 31.

What A Colour —

Watercolours: The fluidity of water along with the drama of colour in a series of works where artists have explored many facets of the medium is what this entire show is all about, at Apparao Infinity, Wallace Garden, Nungambakkam, from 11am to 7pm, till July 25.

Affordable Art Show: An art show based on different themes featuring works by more than 70 artists, including Achuthan Kudallur, Anasuya, Chiquita Ravi, Gayathri Deenadayalan, Harshavardhini and Manikandan, at Vinnyasa Art Galery, 1st Main Road, CIT Colony, Mylapore, from 11am to 7pm, till July 30.

Group Show: A group painting exhibition by various artists like Jagadeesan, Ravee, Rajmohan, Gopikrishna, Guruselvam and Ravichandran, at Kadambari Art Gallery, DakshinaChitra, East Coast Road, Muttukadu, Chengalpattu, from 10am to 6pm, till July 31.

EVENTS



ART

Painting Exhibition: A group painting exhibition by artists like Ronald Arockiaraj, Anu, Annapurna, Chitra, Kavitha and Rakhi Dev, at La Galerie D'Expression, Hotel Ambassador Pallava, Montieth Road Egmore, from 11am to 7pm, till August 15.

MUSIC & DANCE

Music Concert: Concert by Kamalakaran Vinjimuri on violin, Sanjith Narayanan on violin

V Baradwaj on keyborad, Thillaisthanam Suryanarayanan on mridngam and J Sowmianarayanan on ghatam, at 6.30pm, at Arkay Convention Centre, OMS Lakshana, 146, RH Road, Luz, Mylapore.

Dance Performance: Bharathanatyam performance by Lakshita Madhan, at Vani Mahal, Obul Reddy Hall, T Nagar, at 5.30 pm

ART

Factual Fictions: A painting exhibition by VG Venugopal that focuses on the world around us, human life and environment, will

be held at Gallery Veda, The Muse, L 20, VSI Estate Phase 2, Off OMR, Thiruvanmiyur, from 10.30am to 6pm, till Aug 31.

Introspective Revelations: A group exhibition that includes both paintings and sculptures, at Gallery Veda, 4/22, 1st Floor, Rutland Gate 5th Street, Nungambakkam, from 10.30am to 6pm, till Oct 5.

Cratered Fiction: An exhibition featuring Soghra Khurasani's signature woodcut prints on paper. This series of prints is exhibited along with some of her earlier works that explore the beginning of themes currently pivotal to her practice, at The Gallery, Inko Centre, 18, Adyar Club Gate Road, from 10am to 6pm, till Aug 16.

EVENTS



MUSIC

Light Music Concert: A music performance by Nithyashree. She will be performing some popular Tamil and Hindi numbers, at 3.30pm, at Kamraj Arangam, Anna Salai, Teynampet.

MUSIC

Music Concert: 'Nadam Sangeetham' — a lec-dem by Tadepally Lokanadha Sarma, at 10am, and vocal concert by NS Kamatchi, at 4.30pm, and Vocal concert by Mambalam Sisters, at 6.30pm, at Arkay Convention Centre, OMS Lakshana, 146, Royapettah High Road, Luz, Mylapore.

Gokulashtami Sangeetha Utsavam: Concert by Vamsi Krishna, at 4pm, and vocal concert by the Trichur Brothers, at 6.30pm, at Sri Krishna Gana Sabha, 20, Maharajapuram Santhanam Salai, T Nagar.

Naada Inbam: Vocal concert by NJ Nandini, at 5pm, and concert by TV Ramprasad, at 6.30pm, at Ragasudha Hall, Luz Avenue, Mylapore.

Sunday Kutcheri: Saxophone concert by Shishir, at 6.30am, at In The Park, Nageswara Rao Park, Luz, Mylapore.

Aadi Naataka Vizha: 'Neeya Naana' by SL Naanu, at 6.45pm, at TAG PS Dakshinamurthi Auditorium, RK Mutt Road, Mylapore.

THEATRE

dream of attaining independence from Pallava dynasty, at 2.30pm, at Rajah Annamalai Mandram, 5, Esplanade Road, Broadway.

ART

Factual Fictions: A painting exhibition by VG Venugopal that focuses on the world around us, human life and environment, at Gallery Veda, The Muse, L 20, VSI Estate Phase 2, Off OMR, Thiruvanmiyur, from 10.30am to 6pm, till Aug 31.

Cratered Fiction: An exhibition featuring Soghra Khurasani's signature woodcut prints on paper. This series of prints is exhibited along with some of her earlier works that explore the beginning of themes currently pivotal to her practice, at The Gallery, Inko Centre, 18, Adyar Club Gate Road, from 10am to 6pm, till August 16.

Juxtaposing: An exhibition of paintings and sculptures by BO Shailesh, inspired by yoga, where the human figures emulate the flexibility and prowess of animals, will be held at Forum Art Gallery, 57, 5th Street, Padmanabha Nagar,

EVENTS

ART

Layers And Journey Of The Heart: An art exhibition by Pondicherry-based Akmal Hussain from India and Keiko Mima from Japan, at DakshinaChitra, East Coast Road, Muttukadu, till August 31.



MUSIC

Naada Inbam: Vocal concert by Vivek Sadasivam, at 6.15pm, at RagasudhaHall, Luz Avenue, Mylapore.

Gokulashtami Sangeetha Utsavam: Vocal concert by Akshay Padmanabhan at 6.30pm, at Sri Krishna Gana Sabha, Maharajapuram Santhanam Salai, T Nagar.

ART

Freedom of Expression: An art work showcasing work by Vani Pradeep, Madhula and Divya, at Srishti Hearts, Isha Signature Villas Commercial Complex, Lake Bund Road, Jalladianpet, from 10.30am to 7pm, till Aug 21.

Cratered Fiction: An exhibition featuring Soghra Khurasani's signature woodcut prints on paper, will be held at The Gallery, Inko Centre, 18, Adyar Club Gate Road, from 10am to 6pm, till today.

Factual Fictions: A painting exhibition by VG Venugopal that focuses on the world around us, human life and environment, at Gallery Veda @Shilpa Architects, The Muse, Off OMR, Thiruvanmiyur, from 10.30am to 6pm, till August 31.

EVENTS

MUSIC

Hamsadhvani: Laya Chatura — a kanjira quartet by B Sreesundar Kumar, BS Purushothaman, KV Gopalakrishnan and Anirudh Athreya, at 5.30pm, and Tiranga — a concert featuring Anil Srinivasan, Jayanthi Kumaresh and Pravin Godkhindi, at 6.45pm, at Youth Hostel, II Avenue, Indiranagar, Adyar.



Anil Srinivasan

MUSIC

Naada Inbam: Vocal concert by Gayathri Venkatraghavan, at 6.15pm, at RagasudhaHall, Luz Avenue, Mylapore.

Gokulashtami Sangeetha Utsavam: Flute concert by Visveshwar with Pappu Gyandev and Rohith Prasad, at 4pm, and Krishna Geetham — a thematic concert by Radha Bhaskar, Kalpalathika Ravishankar and Deekshitha Venkatraman, at 6.30pm, at Sri Krishna Gana Sabha, 20, Maharajapuram Santhanam Salai, T Nagar.

Music Concert: Performance by the blues, rock 'n' roll, alternative rock band, Little Coffee In Your Sugar, at 7pm, at Phoenix MarketCity, Velachery.

Yennodu Pattu Paadungal: This event, by Mouna Raagam Orchestra, features evergreen songs from the films of Mohan, which had music by Ilaiyaraaja, at 7pm, at German Hall, Bala Mandir, 17, Prakasam Street, T Nagar.

THEATRE

E Vaa Kaa (Tamil): Directed by Sureshwar, Endhiya Vakalar Katchi aka E Va Ka is a hilarious political satire similar to the 1971 Tamil comedy film, *Muhammad bin Thughlaq*, with a satirical take on the political and social affairs of the country, at 7pm, at Dr MGR Janaki College, Durgabai Deshmuk Road, RA Puram.

ART

Freedom of Expression: An art work showcasing work by Vani Pradeep, Madhula and Divya, at Srishti Hearts, Isha Signature Villas Commercial Complex, Lake Bund Road, Jalladianpet, from 10.30am to 7pm, till Aug 21.

Cratered Fiction: An exhibition featuring Soghra Khurasani's signature woodcut prints on paper, will be held at The Gallery, Inko Centre, 18, Adyar Club Gate Road, from 10am to 6pm, till August 16.

Painting Exhibition: A group painting exhibition by artists like Ronald Arockiaraj, Anu, Annapurna, Chitra, Kavitha and Rakhi Dev, at La Galerie D'Expression, Hotel Ambassador Pallava, 30, Montieth Road, Egmore, from 11am to 7pm, till Aug 15.

Factual Fictions: A painting exhibition by VG Venugopal that focuses on the world around us, human life and environment, at Gallery Veda @Shilpa Architects, The Muse, Off OMR, Thiruvanmiyur, from 10.30am to 6pm, till August 31.

Layers And Journey Of The Heart: An art exhibition by Pondicherry-based Akmal Hussain from India and Keiko Mima from Japan, at DakshinaChitra, East Coast Road, Muttukadu, till August 31.

EVENTS

ART

Sacred Sensual: A painting exhibition by N. Subramaniam. The artist uses dramatic lines as renderings of great confidence and drama in exploring the secrets of a body, at Apparao Galleries, Wallace Garden, Nungambakkam, till from 11am to 7pm, till August 24.



MUSIC

Naada Inbam: Vocal concert by Sumithra Vasudevan, at 6.15pm, at Ragasudha Hall, Luz Avenue, Mylapore.

Gokulashtami Sangeetha Utsavam: Vocal concert by Sunil R Gargyan at 4 pm and vocal concert by Jayasri Vaidhyanathan at 6.30pm, at Sri Krishna Gana Sabha, Maharajapuram Santhanam Salai, T Nagar.

Music Concert: Performance by the blues, rock 'n' roll, alternative rock band, Little Coffee In Your Sugar, at 7pm, at Phoenix MarketCity, Velachery.

Hamsadhvani: Bhagawad Gita parayanam by Baby Vijayalakshmi at 6pm and concert by Malladi Brothers, at 6.30pm, at Youth Hostel, II Avenue, Indiranagar, Adyar.

THEATRE

Aadi Naataka Vizha: 'Oru Kodi Kanavugal' by Muthukumar, at TAG PS Dakshinamurthi Auditorium, RK Mutt Road, Mylapore, at 6.45pm.

Dummies Drama Festival: Memory Minus, at Infosys Hall, Ramakrishna Mission School Campus, Krishna Street, T Nagar, at 7pm.

Google Gadothgajan: A Tamil play directed by Crazy Mohan at Sir Pitty Thyagaraya Road, GN Chetty Road, T Nagar, at 7pm.

ART

Freedom of Expression: An art work showcasing work by Vani Pradeep, Madhula and Divya, at Srishti Hearts, Isha Signature Villas Commercial Complex, Lake Bund Road, Jalladianpet, from 10.30am to 7pm, till Aug 21.

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Factual Fictions: A painting exhibition by VG Venugopal that focuses on the world around us, human life and environment, at Gallery Veda @Shilpa Architects, The Muse, Off OMR, Thiruvanmiyur, from 10.30am to 6pm, till August 31.