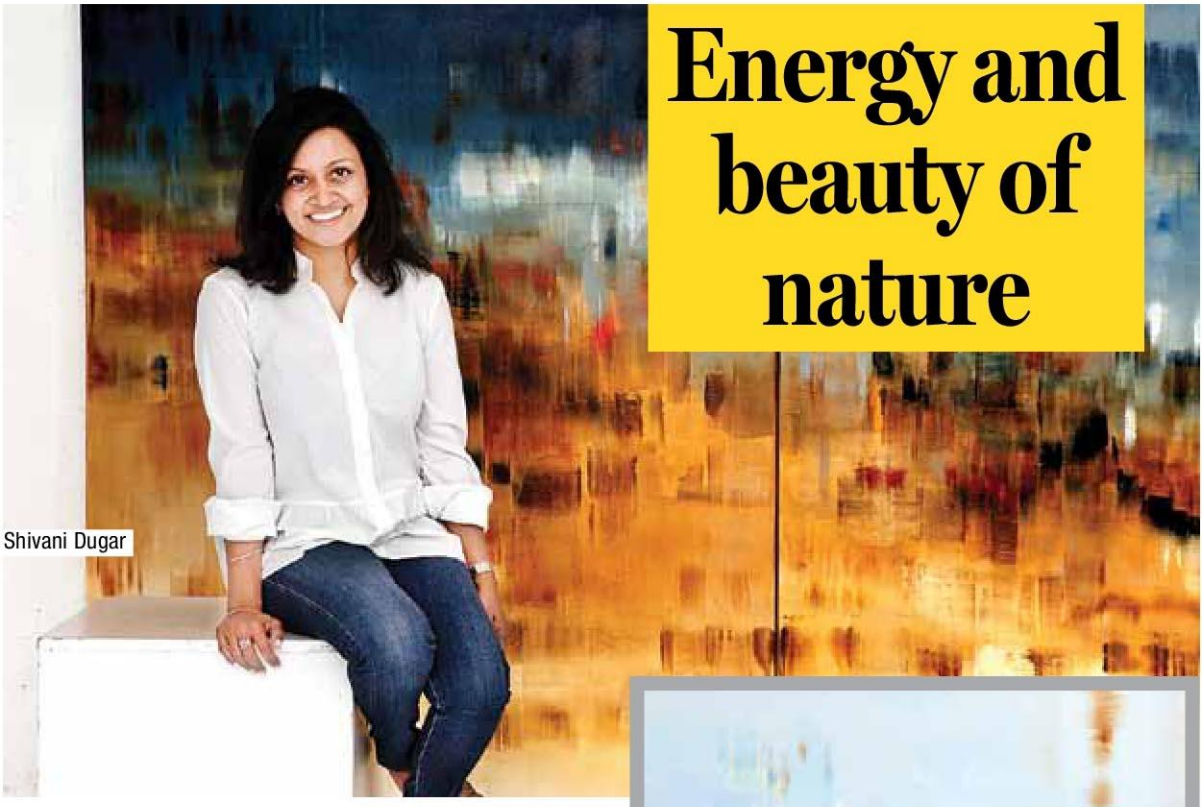
Energy and beauty of nature

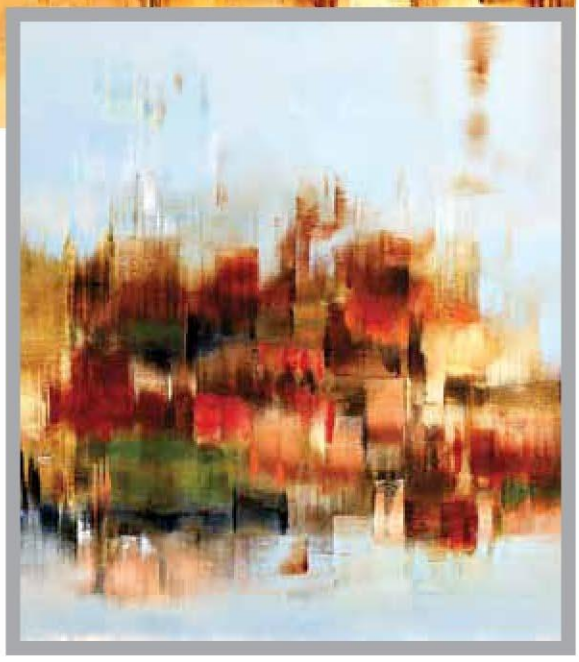


Shivani Dugar

The vastness and challenging beauty of nature find respresentation in Shivani Dugar's series, *Of Life & Landscape*. The paintings are her personal discourse with the natural world around her. Shivani uses the interplay of light, colour, time and emotion to bear witness to the dynamic and inspirational energy of nature. Viewers are invited on a visual journey to explore the spaces she has created — magical, elusive moments that foster reflection on memories past and futures envisioned.

The abstractions exhibit multiple textures found in nature. In the paintings, vivid reds, glowing yellow golds, arresting blues, emerald greens and luminous transparent layers of orange evoke a sense of optimism. Each work captures an ephemeral moment in nature and conveys the artist's imaginative interpretation of this distinct time.

Shivani, who holds a Masters in Fine Arts degree from Pratt Institute, New York says, "My paintings are abounding with vestiges of memory and experience and my search for the unseen is implanted in every layer."



Of life and landscape



Artist **Shivani Dugar**'s recent suite of works extends her abstract vocabulary, painting expansive vistas of life and its moments. Immersive landscapes play with light, colour and texture to form luminescent spatial realms that invite the viewer to engage and experience the visual narratives. Memories are encapsulated as sensory chronicles, snapshots of time and emotion, while the textural overlay with pigments creates a resonance of energy and space. From an early age, Dugar has been influenced by spiritual teachings that stress upon the five primary elements of nature - fire, earth, air, water and space, and her art making attempts to distill their essence and portray it in her paintings. Her landscapes essentially capture a transient instance, a mood or an experienced feeling, evocative of a tactile memory. The encounters are translated on canvas adopting a non-specific and non-representational approach, allowing the viewer to experience the painting, unfettered by objects or frameworks. The paintings offer a sanctuary for the viewer, to find sensorial interpretations in its colours, textures and luminosity. The physicality of the works and their depths encourage an exploratory journey that opens up vistas, liberating the mind and spirit. Her exhibition opens on 4 October 2019.

Voice of earth



Celebrating its 30 years partnership with Indian farmers, **PepsiCo India** has launched an *#AwaazMittiKi_* programme which includes a series of videos that pays special tribute to Indian farmers. The programme highlights PepsiCo's relationship with farmers, built over the last 30 years through its wide-ranging agricultural initiatives. "Agriculture is at the heart of PepsiCo India. We have partnered with approx 24,000 farmers across 13 states in India and supported their journey by providing new crop varieties, new technologies and introducing sustainable farming practices. The *#AwaazMittiKi* programme pays tribute to and is aimed to celebrate the spirit, enthusiasm and contribution of Indian farmers," says **Rinkesh Satija**, director – agricultural operations, PepsiCo India. Shot and developed by the Publicis Groupe, Dubai, *#AwaazMittiKi* that translates to 'Voice of Earth', is an integrated farmer-centric programme. It acknowledges the contribution and the relentless efforts of farmers in feeding the country. *#AwaazMittiKi* also highlights PepsiCo India's partnership in providing new crop varieties, new technologies and introducing sustainable farming practices. •

Of life and landscape



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Stitched together



Last week, Mustard at Atria, Mumbai, played host to the unveiling of the definitive guide to ***100 Iconic Bollywood Costumes***. "I always wanted to work on a coffee table book that celebrated the evolution of Indian fashion," says author **Sujata Assomull** *(left)*. A thought she had shared with Priya Kapoor of Roli Books. So when she received a call from Kapoor, who had discovered the work of London-based illustrator **Aparna Ram** – who had done a lot of wonderful drawings from key moments in Indian cinema – "Priya asked me if I would the text". Industry experts ranging from *Vogue India*'s Priya Tanna, and Anaita Adajania to *Harper's Bazaar*'s Nonita Kalra to film-makers such as Ramesh Sippy and also film critics Rajeev Masand and Udita Jhunjhunwala and costume designer Neeta Lulla were asked what they felt about the relationship between film and fashion. "Manish Malhotra's insights were so sharp and sensitive that I decided that he should write the foreword of the book." The book was about two years in the making, "but being a journalist I sat on it for six months. I work best closer to a deadline," says Assomull. The biggest challenge she faced she says was that costume designers really have not been given their place of pride by the film industry. Some films from the 1960s do not even give them proper credit and it was not till 1995 that the Filmfare Awards even instituted a costume award! "We do not archive our work in India, so this was the hard part. I was lucky that Bhanu Athaiya one of the most important costume designers of that era had documented a book with her work." •

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Embark on an artistic journey


Shivani Dugar

There is a sense of atmosphere, there is an approximation of music and, what is most important, there is a throbbing mystery about the very process of viewing and responding as if one is sucked into some still centre of hitherto unknown experience," said RL Bartholomew on VS Gaitonde's abstract paintings; the master artist, who has inspired Shivani Dugar greatly.

Nature, in its incredible vastness and challenging beauty, mystifies the greatest of minds. In her series, *Of Life & Landscape*, Shivani reveals her personal discourse with the natural world that surrounds her. Through the interplay of light, colour, time and emotion, her paintings bear witness to the dynamic, inspirational energy of nature. The artist invites viewers on a visual journey to explore the spaces she has created; magical, elusive moments that foster reflection on memories past and futures envisioned. In this series, Shivani has experimented with large-scale formats in her pursuit of capturing the relationship between the earth, sky and oneself. She has also embraced a new palette of colours — brilliant reds, glowing yellow golds, arresting blues, emerald greens and luminous transparent layers of orange, which evoke a sense of optimism.

Shivani was born in Kolkata in 1979 and grew up in Bengaluru. After completing her degree in finance at Georgetown University, Washington DC, she decided to pursue her lifelong passion and enrolled at Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, New York for a Masters in Fine Art Degree. She has had successful solo shows in New York, Washington DC, Baltimore, Philadelphia, China and Belgium and participated in group shows around the world.

Where: Gallery Art and Soul, Worli
When: Till November 4



22 Aug 2019

'Of Light and Landscape' will be presented by Gallery Art & Soul at Worli, Mumbai

The landscapes are derivatives from nature, as well as expanses of emotional and psychological terrains, expressed through colour contrasts, translucent zones and vivid textures. Scale plays a pivotal role in Dugar's works, an expression of the extent of the stream of consciousness and the immensity of the cosmic universe. The vertical format emphasises the distance between the earth and sky, while multi-panels build the narrative employing time as a motif – its fluency, inevitability, and the range of emotions and events it encapsulates with its passage.

Dugar employs printmaking techniques such as intricate lines and crosshatching of etching, engraving and the soft lines of lithography into her paintings. Using 'gestural' lines, demarcating space and summarising the elemental feeling of the subject, and allowing the painting to evolve organically, lie at the core of her art practice. Fluidity of space and tonal gradations, along with abundant use of 'light' as a predominant motif, play a vital role in creating the mood and atmosphere.

Thus the transience of seasons, the vagaries of nature, and ephemeral responses are represented through colours and the transparency of light. Gentle rain, iciness, desert sand, and a cornucopia of emotions come together in a primal celebration. Yet, amidst the colours and sensory narratives on her canvas, stillness predominates and a sense of meditativeness and solitude emerges. Dugar's abstract expressionist discourse relies on amorphous shapes and contours, while a gentle, subtle energy permeates her works. The unhurried calm reflected on her canvas, emanates from her working style - applying paint in layers, reducing the excess and reapplying– deconstructing and reconstructing the essence. In her creative practice, the process occupies central posit – the end result often accidental.

Dugar's paintings offer a sanctuary for the viewer, to find sensorial interpretations in its colours, textures and luminosity. The physicality of the works and its depths encourage an exploratory journey that opens up vistas, liberating the mind and spirit.

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Artist Shivani Dugar with a painting from her new collection, Of Light and Landscape

22 Aug 2019

'Of Light and Landscape' will be presented by Gallery Art & Soul at Worli, Mumbai



Shivani Dugar

A life in landscapes

As she readies for her exhibition in Mumbai this week, NYC-based artist Shivani Dugar on switching from studying finance to art, abstraction, and its healing power

DALREEN RAMOS
dalreen.ramos@mid-day.com



You got a Bachelors degree in Finance with a minor in Fine Art before enrolling in a Masters in Fine Arts. What piqued your interest in art and what's the intersection with finance?

Early on in life, I watched my mother paint and get creative. It's what piqued my interest. When I was five, my mom realised my keen interest in the arts and enrolled me for art classes in Chitrakala Parishath; and since then I have been doing art projects in my free time.

But having seen my father, who was my role model as a businessman, I wanted to try my hand at that too. Hence, I followed his advice and went to Georgetown University, where I earned a finance degree and at the same time, collected enough credits for a Bachelor of Fine Arts. After Georgetown, my father guided me to join Pratt Institute to pursue my lifelong dream of obtaining an MFA. Having both degrees has served me well in the arts and in business, as I co-founded Taffard Fabrics, a high-end textile company.

How have you changed as an artist since your first exhibition?

My fascination with the elements of nature expressed itself early in my works. In the past, I was still including illustrative elements to create a quasi-narrative. My colours were monochromatic, and my works were an abstract representation of nature featuring leaf patterns, sunlight, the bark of trees, etc. Today my work is more colourful, dynamic and experiential and less representational. It is more than just about the elements found in nature; it is about the inspirational energy of nature.

What was the genesis of your upcoming show?

This collection of work is a joyous exploration of life's amazing glory — capturing the moments and feelings elicited by the dynamic brilliance of light. Through intense hues and multiple layers of texture and light, a variety of conditions and moods are depicted — an eager anticipation, a fervent sense of hope, the nostalgia of a memorable past and the excitement of adventure. My work is a slow process of building a surface of multiple layers until it is charged with vibrant visual energy, symbolic of time, events, stories and emotions.

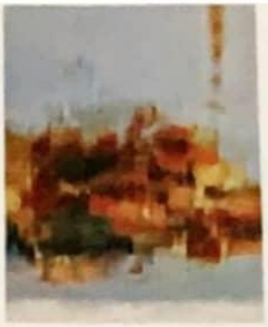
Of Life and Landscape was conceptualised last October — I had been in a car accident and was suffering from a concussion. The time I spent healing got me thinking a lot about life and the world around us. This body of work has taken me almost an entire year to complete.

EXHIBITION

FREE ON October 4 to November 3, 6 pm to 9 pm (opening night); 10 am to 7.30 pm
AT Gallery Art & Soul, Shiv Sagar Estate, Worli.
CALL 24965798

better interiors

FYI



Of Light and Landscape

4th October to 3rd November
11, Madhuli, Shivsagar Estate, Worli,
Mumbai 400 018
Tel: (022) 2496 5798

Shivani Dugar's recent suite of works extends her abstract vocabulary, painting expansive vistas of life and its moments. The landscapes are derivatives from nature, as well as expanses of emotional and psychological terrains, expressed through colour contrasts, translucent zones and vivid textures. Scale plays a pivotal role in Shivani's work, an expression of the extent of the stream of consciousness and the immensity of the cosmic universe.

MumbaiMirror

02 Attend an art show

In this show, by artist Shivani Dugar, light, colour and texture interact with landscapes to form "luminescent spatial realms". Much like her previous works, *Of Light and Landscape,* is a continuation of her exploration of the five primary elements of nature — fire, earth, air, water and space.

WHERE: Gallery Art & Soul, Worli **WHEN:** Till Nov 3, 10 am to 7.30 pm
ENTRY: Free
CALL: 24965798



The Indian EXPRESS

Earthly Art

ARTIST SHIVANI DUGAR'S exhibition called 'Of Light and Landscape' consists of immersive landscapes that play with light, colour and texture to form luminescent spatial realms. Dugar, who has been influenced by the five elements of nature — fire, earth, air, water and space — brings out the same in her art. At Gallery Art and Soul, Worli, from October 4 to November 3, from 10 am to 7.30pm.









The spiritual artist



At her ongoing Mumbai exhibition, abstract artist Shivani Dugar tells MAITHILI CHAKRAVARTHY that dumping finance to be an artist was one of the best things that has ever happened to her

Mingling with the buoyant blues and greens nature provides, is a nostalgic memory of the ocean and the hills by the sea," says artist Shivani Dugar of one of her works. Hence Dugar makes a reference to the processes which inform her works. Memory, imagination and a reproduction of the places encountered and visited. The names of her artworks are also representative of a moment in time. Names like "A sun & wind story", "Meet again", "A forever sky" and "rainfall remembered" tell us that Dugar is continually trying to reproduce from imagination and memory. One can say her works are how a traveller creates a blur in his head about what he sees, and how he would paint it. Like a blur. Says Bangalore-based art critic Nalini Malaviya about the role of memory in Dugar's works, "Memories are encapsulated as sensory chronicles, snapshots of time and emotion, while the textural overlay with pigments creates a resonance of energy and space," while also pointing to other aspects which inform Dugar's art – time, emotion, energy and space. The paintings look like there are thumbprints all over them, or that they are "scraped and scratched."

"The natural beauty of landscape, human spirituality, the time of day and experience and hope are some of my inspirations," says Dugar. She shares unequivocally that spirituality is a big inspiration for her. Malaviya says in a description of Dugar's art exhibition at Worli's Art & Soul gallery that her works don't have distractions like objects and things shown in them. The show, called "Of Life & Landscape," will be on at the gallery till Sunday, November 3rd. In Dugar's paintings, there is no grotesque display of people, animals and things. About her journey into the art world, Dugar, who studied Finance at Georgetown University, says that art was something she always felt inclined towards. However, like every confused student, she did finance first to make sure art was ultimately what she wanted to do. Hence she went through the grind of studying a subject she wasn't very interested in, in order to find her true calling. Art.

She says her art is very "therapeutic" for her. "To be able to capture the time of day", is like lifting life and putting it on the drawing board for her. She enjoys painting in the mornings, and that time of day often underlines her mood, and gets converted into painting, for her. "I like to celebrate the magnificent glory of nature," says Dugar as she once again stresses on the fact that it is indeed our world's natural beauty which filters itself into her work. Dugar says she enjoys symbolism too, because her art appeals to onlookers in a symbolic way, and never an obvious way.

The Kolkata-born artist also tells us that despite being based in NYC, India is her forever home, and that she will always think of herself as Indian.

Shares Tarana Khubchandani, the show's curator, that some of the sales proceeds will go to charity. In aid of cancer patients. Treatment for cancer is expensive and part of the proceeds will go to help cancer patients pay for chemotherapy, radiation and to buy drugs like tamoxifen.

At the exhibition, buyer Sushma Jain, an artist herself, says that she has always felt very warmed by Dugar's work. Jain says that she bought a painting because the work she thought had "a softness and a vibrancy in it." Not just a visual treat, Jain tell us that Dugar's work has a powerful psychological effect on patrons. The technique of art Dugar has employed in the works is called printmaking – "intricate lines, crosshatching of etching, engraving, and the soft lines of lithography." The paintings also include the important artistic element called Value – where each work has light and dark areas.

When: On till November 3 (Monday to Saturday – 10 am to 7:30 pm; Sunday – 11 am to 4 pm)

Where: Art & Soul, 11, Madhuli, Shivsagar Estate, Worli, Mumbai