

6 POWER OF TRINITY

SR

THE SUNDAY STANDARD
NEW DELHI • SUNDAY 13-19 APRIL 2014

ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL
CREATIVE CUSTODIANS

STRINGS ATTACHED

A Godin and Co, CP

RAM CHOUHARY



The shop is as grand as the pianos it deals in and known for. Celiano Godin, a half-Portuguese musician and piano seller from Quetta (now in Pakistan) established his first showroom in Kashmiri Gate, Delhi, in 1940. Lord Mountbatten was its most well-known patron. In the early 1960s, the showroom shifted to CP. Celiano's son Austin Godin continued the family tradition of dealing in pianos and found the greatest of musicians from John Lennon, Elton John and Pandit Ravi Shankar visiting him for musical instruments. With high-profile politicians to diplomats among his customers, A Godin has diversified to other musical instruments, like saxophones.

"Delhi is as vibrant as its music scene. Though it's tough to keep up with the changes, the city continues to be interesting owing to its people" Steve Godin

Bina, CHANDINI CHOWK

RAM CHOUHARY



Her Dot on the Map

HEMANT CHAWLA



For British-born artist Bharti Kher, the ubiquitous *bindi* of Indian women is more than just a dot. It is a celebration of feminism, of pride in gender. Her work with the *bindi*, her understanding of its symbolism and the colourful ornamentation's absence from her person are only just a few facets of feminism that the artist is associated with. She is also a befitting representation of Delhi, which she has called home for more than two decades. And she is both global and she is Indian. She reveals in her roots. Bharti creates records with her art at auctions, the feminine aspect of a power couple with best-selling artist Subodh Gupta. She hugs. She loves. She listens.

Delhi as an art hub, "is small but sharp when it wants to be and pedestrian when it's bad". Born and raised in London, she studied painting at Middlesex Polytechnic and Newcastle Polytechnic. In 1993 she came to India on her second visit for a holiday. She met Subodh at a party, fell in love and Delhi became home. She adds, "Art fairs are about business and honestly, the artist's careers don't move only because of fairs and their work."

Kher is busy getting busier. "I will go to the Kochi Biennale this December. It will be followed by a few projects in Zurich and Delhi and then Asia Society in New York," she signs off. But Delhi is the canvas of her heart. Always will be.

WHAT EXCITES YOU

YOUR IDEA OF A

FREE TIME MEANS



Set up 60 years ago, Bina became a popular hub for the lovers of the harmonium. Rudraveena stalwart late Ustad Asad Ali Khan, the Dagar Brothers and Ustad Ghulam Ali, the world renowned ghazal singer, would spend a lot of time discussing the intricacies of tuning for their harmoniums here. Originally a Western instrument, the harmonium has been widely used as an accompanying instrument in Hindustani classical, semi classical, folk and light music. Stars like Ustad Mehmood Dhaulpuri and many renowned vocalists popularised its use and Bina has provided them the best.

"Change is the only constant in Delhi. We have shared a golden era of music with the best of musicians and those times will never come back."

J P Singh, owner

Rikhi Ram and Sons, GOL MARKET



RAVI CHOUDHARY

It's the edifice of melody and the sound of Indian music for three generations of India's best-known musicians. The Beatles thronged this store and Pandit Ravi Shankar got specially designed sitars in the late 2000s. Apart from providing sitars for him and his daughter Anoushka Shankar during the different musical phases of their careers, master craftsman and musician Sanjay Rikhi Ram, son of Pandit Bishan Dass Sharma, the well-known musician and a stellar instrument-maker, has given Ustad Shahid Parvez his sitars, Saskia Rao De Haas her cello, Amaan Ali Khan the E-rose and Pandit Bhajan Sopori a very unique santoor.

"Delhi continues to be the powerhouse of talent. The best of artists want to learn and perform here. Kids lead a fast life, but are connected to the roots" Sanjay Rikhi Ram



WHAT EXCITES YOU ABOUT WORKING WITH ROPES?

They are poetic and dark

YOUR IDEA OF A HOLIDAY

Switching my bloody phone off

FREE TIME MEANS

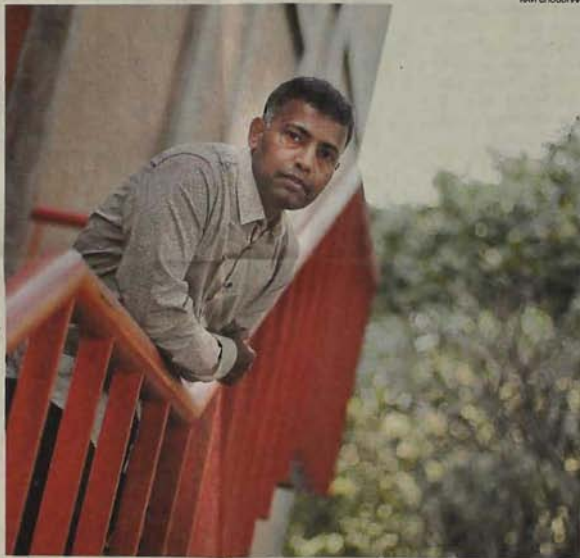
Cooking and eating. Walking and talking with the kids and hugs; lots of them

ber. It will be followed by a few projects in Zurich and Delhi and then Asia Society in New York," she signs off. But Delhi is the canvas of her heart. Always will be.

Jagannath Panda, SCULPTOR

The Stone Man From Odisha

RAVI CHOUDHARY



CURIOUS DELHI FACT:

People offering to share food, "Aaa jao khana khaalo" but never meaning it

IDEAL LUXURY:

Gadgets to store my images and work

TURNING POINT OF YOUR CAREER:

Japan Foundation Scholarship earned soon after settling in Delhi

The first time Jagannath Panda, a young sculptor from Odisha, visited Delhi in 1989, the city felt foreign. He remembers, "It was very different from the places I had seen. After finishing Baroda Art School, I had wanted to either go to Mumbai or live in Ahmedabad. Instead, my teacher Raghuvar Kaneria asked me to move to Delhi. So did my other teacher, Dina Nath Padhi, who was then the secretary of the Lalit Kala Akademi." And in this city of immigrants, another Delhiite was born. The scholarship from the Akademi helped Panda sustain himself and his art in a small Lakshmi Nagar house. For him, big is real, and he thought his search for studio space large enough to accommodate his huge stone sculptures had ended. He had only ₹2,000 in his pocket, most of which he spent on buying colours and stationery. "I am suddenly talking about my past. It seems like an era gone by," he says, voice choking in his throat. But he found he needed more space.

Back then the city offered unknown artists very few opportunities. Gallery spaces were the domain of veterans such as KG Subramaniam, Anjolie Ela Menon and Ranjendra Tikku. "Exhibitions were not an everyday event. I could barely speak Hindi." Using his chisel on stone blocks in the confines of his house was becoming increasingly difficult. "Eventually Padhi offered to share his place with me, and I got enough space to start work. But it wasn't easy going. Many galleries rejected my work."

Panda feels good about the vibrant and growing art scene in Delhi. But he sees devil in the details. "One thing that hasn't changed in 20 years is the availability of a platform for artists to sell their work. Survival is still difficult." He has become one of the fittest.