

Jignyasa Patel
Head, Department of Arts
GEMS Modern Academy, Dubai

Brief Introduction

- A goal-oriented professional with 8 years of experience in Teaching, Learning & Development, Education Management and School Administration and creative arts. I have been interested in art in its various forms ever since I can remember. I earned a Master's in Graphic Design from the UK and worked as a head of department, Visual Arts and Design in Mumbai and Dubai for various curricula such as the IB, IGCSE, A Levels, ISCE, and ISC.
- Attended various art workshops around the world to enhance my art experience and further my knowledge.
- Played a major role in creating awareness among the students on the essentials of the Arts Curriculum and also worked as an Examiner for Art paper 1 ICSE curriculum and IB Visual Arts Examiner (at present).
- Organized workshops & gallery visits to provide exposure of culture and contemporary arts to students while experiencing the benefits that the arts have to offer.

My Education

- MA Graphic Communication, UCA (University for the Creative Arts), Farnham, Surrey. UK, 2008
- BFA Fine, Rachana Sansad College of Applied Arts, Mumbai, India, 2007
- Initial Diploma in Art Therapy, Metafora, Barcelona, Spain, 2014
- Certified Zentangle Teacher, Germany, 2019

My Achievements

- Participated in various exhibitions like World Art Dubai, 2018 and Carrousel du Louvre Spring Salon in the Louvre, Paris, France on 25-27 May 2018 and 'La Tete d'Or', Belgium, 2018
- Speaker at GESS Dubai – Zentangle in Education in GESS, Dubai 2020
- Best Teacher Award 2020, GEMS Modern Academy
- Nominated for IPN Inspire Awards 2020

Carrousel du Louvre Spring Salon in the Louvre, May 2018



Carrousel du Louvre Spring Salon in the Louvre, May 2018



Title : Maa
Medium : Mixed Media on Canvas



Title : Found
Medium : Mixed Media on Canvas

Carrousel du Louvre Spring Salon in the Louvre, May 2018

About Art Work

- Over the course of my experiences, I have discovered that as much as I like and admire traditional art, (portraits, landscapes etc.) I find these restricting when trying to express myself and find that minimal and abstract art open up a whole new world for me to express myself, my feelings and emotions.
- My experience of working the students of determination led me to explore the field of Art Therapy. This has given me a broad perspective allowing me to let go of my fear or expectations to evolve based on my heart callings, visions, and play by mixing different art forms, eventually leaving to pursue my own ambitions in the field of art and creativity.
- Through this body of works I would like to showcase my skill and show how the process of art can have therapeutic benefits and display aesthetic qualities.
- I have pursued without interruption, feelings in all the complexities and moods. I was drawn to the medium of enamel for these series of paintings. Its gems like quality and transparent colors, which I built up layer by layer, revealed great depths.
- The “flow” series, is more meditative and revealing. While these paintings are very personal statements, they also reflect my state of mind leading me to positivity that helped me see more clearly now that this blend can be humorous, enlightening and revealing.

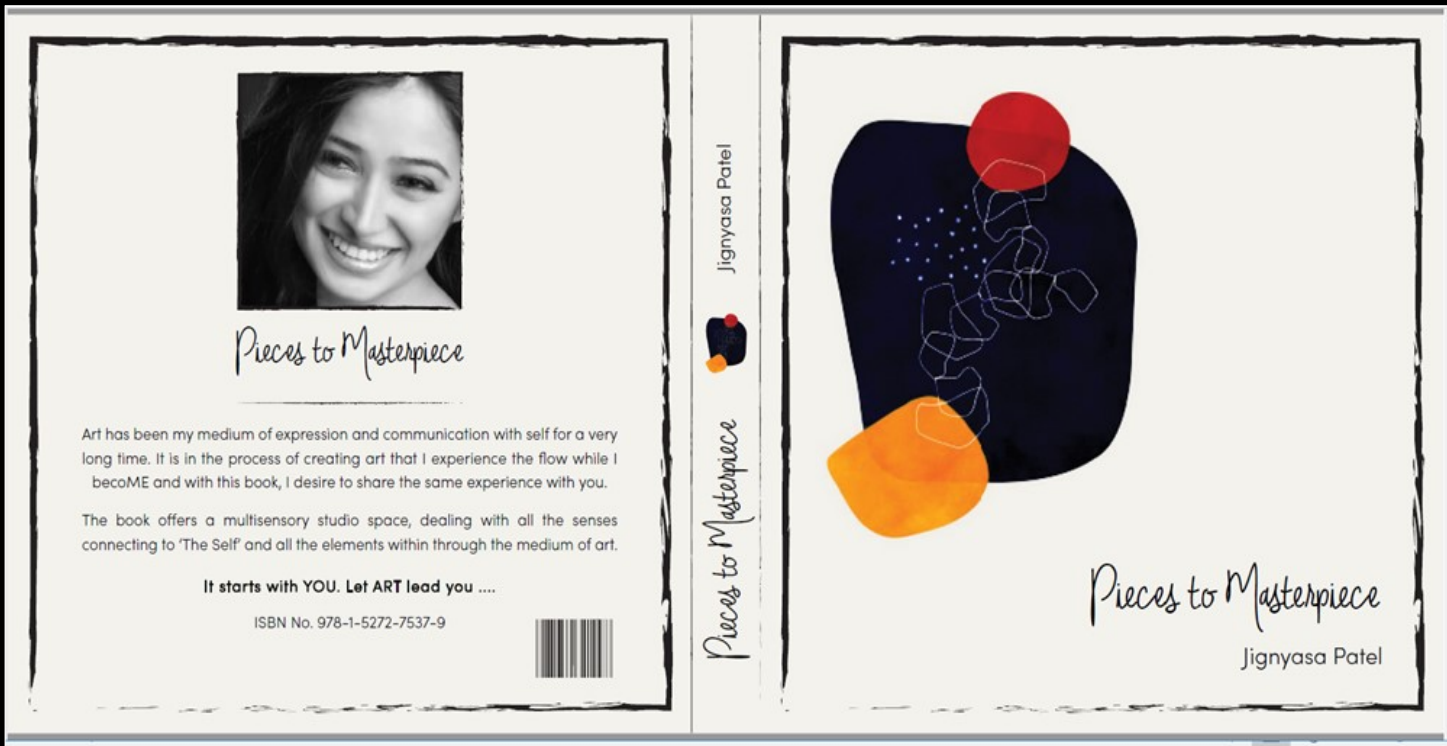
Feedback

- The exhibition in Paris was great, with lot of visitors appreciating art work.
- More than 200 prints were sold.
- The painting “Found” was really popular.

Exhibition "La Tête d'or" in Brussels, May June 2018



My Book : Pieces to Masterpiece



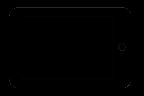
About the Author

I would like to share my experience here of a journey in Art, which would not have happened perhaps without collaborating with some of my very motivated dear friends who have contributed their insights and knowledge in this process of making together this Book. My Book is a composition if you please, which offers a therapy, helping us to explore ourselves through self-reflection, and the way we may respond to the internal, as well as external challenges and, are able to overcome them, in the process.

This process of self-reflexivity through the life experiences has allowed me to let go off some of my inhibitions which I reckon had been stemming from deep-seated fears and societal expectations. This process of communicating and expressing through art has, therefore needed me to be authentic and opened the doors of my heart's callings and visions. It allowed me to indulge in a child-like naivety or playfulness, through which I did not lose the sense of my artistic purpose but consistently experimented by combining art forms which steadily broadened my creative perspective and gave rise to possibilities of envisioning and working with them. Over the course of these experiences, I have discovered that as much as I appreciate the traditional art form, nonetheless, given the ongoing complexities of our personal and public environments I would need an alternative art-form as my medium of expression which would be minimal and abstract, and could articulate the multiple layers and their connectivity with our private and social spaces. The visuals which may appear simple and child-like, but stark in their underlying codes,

My Book : Pieces to Masterpiece

Paperback

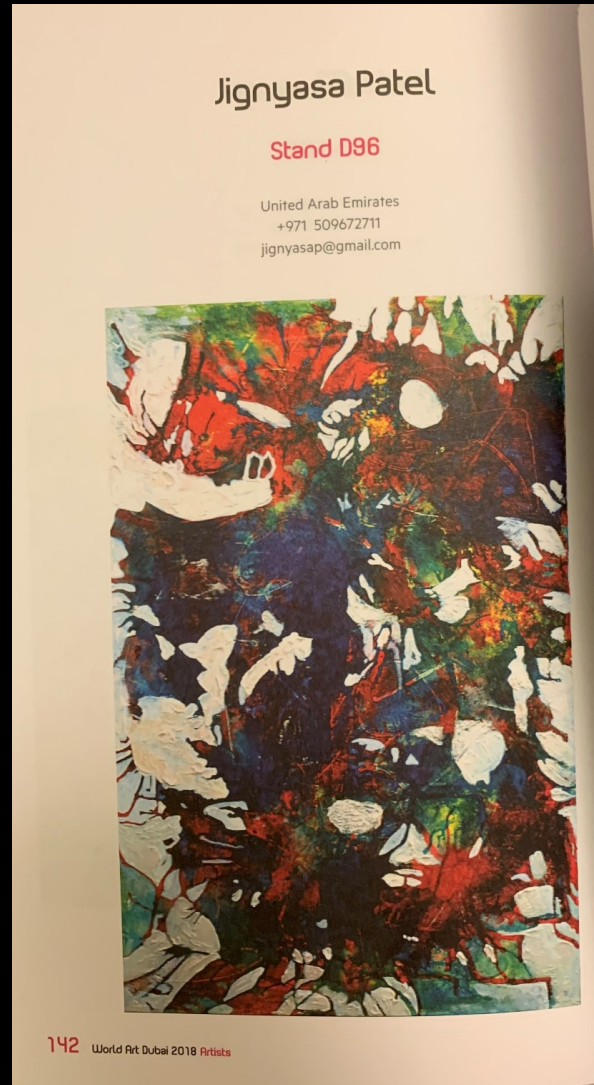


Kindle

About Book : Pieces to Masterpiece

- Art has been my medium of expression and communication with self for a very long time. It is in the process of creating art that I experience the flow while I becoME and with this book, I desire to share the same experience with you.
- The book offers a multi sensory studio space, dealing with all the senses connecting to 'The Self' and all the elements within through the medium of art. It starts with YOU. Let ART lead you.
- The book is available on www.amazon.com (as kindle is not available on amazon.ae) and will be soon available on www.lulu.com

World Art Dubai – April 2018



GESS Talks, Dubai 2020



GESS Talks @ GESS Dubai - Jignyasa Patel, Head of Art - GEMS Modern Academy

GESS Talks, Dubai 2020



About Zentangle

- Zentangle is a medium for encouraging a creative, reflective activity for our students' development. Focus, creativity, relaxation, ceremony, empowerment, abstraction, fun and discovery are just a few of the many benefits of this elegant activity.
- It has been observed and reflected that students struggling in various subjects and areas of life, after tangling are more productive than those not. Seeing patterns in the world around us helps us not only to understand but create something new by combining patterns pleasing to the brain, thus confidence in being a creative person is restored and transfers to other forms and ways to success.
- The strategies, tools and techniques that are learnt when tangling are those you need to empower and motivate when attempting new things.
- Like all other elements of the child's development; Zentangle will work best if it is supported and understood by parents, teachers, families and the entire world community.



Feedback

- Zentangle Workshop at GESS 202 was well received.
- Links to GESS interview and details:
 - <https://www.gessdubai.com/jignyasa-patel>
 - <https://youtu.be/4loOwG3p1WA>

Zentangle Teacher Training, Frankfurt, 2019



Rick and Maria, Founders of Zentangle

Article in TEACH UAE Magazine, 2015



INITIATIVES PROMOTING WELL BEING AT GEMS MODERN ACADEMY



L-R: Student, Sharanya Iyer and Ms. J. Patel, Head of Art Department at GEMS Modern Academy at their table at What Works.



The Flow painting.

On September 28, 2015, the KHDA held the first of several 'What Works' Conferences. Throughout the halls of the conference, the theme of happiness and well being was heavily promoted by students and exhibitors. Teach UAE Magazine had a quick conversation with the Head of Art at the GEMS Modern Academy (GMA) and one of her capable students, who shared a few of the initiatives that their school has in place to promote well being on the campus.

Senior student, Sharanya Iyer was first to explain the display items that reflect social outreach programmes at GMA.

The first programme I would like to speak about is our Child For Child Programme (CFC). CFC caters to children with special needs such as autism and other disabilities. Each Saturday or alternate Saturday, senior students come to school to assist special needs students with the aim of ensuring that they have a happy day. This is done via a number of activities such as dancing, singing and sports activities among others.

The second initiative is CSL, which is a peer-mentoring programme. Again this involves students from the senior school who use their value education period (40-45 minutes each week)

to mentor students of junior classes, usually kindergarten or primary level. These students are also children with special needs. The senior students consult with the teacher to find out the areas in which the student being mentored needs help. The senior student then uses the time to engage with the student. This is done to help the student to progress to the same level as other members of the class.

The third initiative is PALS, a programme designed to equip the school's support staff with basic skills. Courses include computer studies, Mathematics and English. The PALS programme is also conducted by senior students, who are keen at getting the support staff to a level at which they can function optimally without being disadvantaged.

Head of Art Department, Ms. Jignyasa Patel

Art can be a great way to relax. Art making is healing in itself, and the creative process is an extension of the individuality. Contacting with colours is therapeutic. Getting your body involved and moving around can help release emotion, as you are painting/doodling.

The Flow Painting

Inspired by the works of Wassily

Kandinsky and Andy Warhol as the starting point, the art making process involved painting/doodling usually under the effect of many unconscious parameters including an individual's personality, current mood and other variables.

Expressive art is spontaneous art and it employs the principle of synchronicity. Creation without pre-planning clears out unconscious psychological patterns we are unaware of. Spontaneous imagery is often "wider" than words.

With educators, the school day has many challenges. This can impact the way the teacher functions and interacts with the students. Art provides us with an outlet of release. The process is transformative for everyone.

Our teachers selected the colours they wanted to use and painted and in some instances doodled. It was a huge collaborative process among over 100 to 150 teachers, which took place within two hours.

The Flow painting demonstrates and helps explore personality dynamics, feelings and emotions by spontaneous strokes using different colours.

Thank You