

MEDUSA

Excellence in every word





Yayoi Kusama

MEDUSA 02



Creating infinity

LOUIS VUITTON
MEDUSA 03

EDITOR'S LETTER



"Pen is mightier than a sword"

Everyone knows how this saying goes, or at least most of us. It's not always necessary to win a war with violence, sometimes words and knowledge can work wonders and lead us to victory.

Just like the women in history fought for their deserved rights with intellect and their strong voice. They have made a special mark in the literature field, books have always fascinated people and they used this as their weapon in their favour.

March is dedicated to celebrating women's achievements. Anchored on this year's theme "We Make Change Work for Women", the celebration aims to highlight the empowerment of women as active contributors to and claimholders of development. So publishing this magazine at this time holds a special meaning and we hope to make people aware about these exceptional personalities and their works in the field of literature.

My team has put their all efforts into this and honestly we enjoyed learning so much doing this and we hope you enjoy reading it.

A handwritten signature in black ink, slanted from bottom-left to top-right. The name appears to be "Tanisha".

Tanisha Kumari Editor -in-chief

CONTRIBUTORS

Ananya Mishra Chief Designer

The stigma around mental health has always prevailed in our society. In the past, the term 'mental health' was unheard of. I wanted to share a story about an incredible woman who fought with her mental health throughout her life. She expressed her pain onto paper and gave the world some of the best literature ever.



Aarzoo Sarin Editor

I always questioned one thing that how people got to know there is an inferior gender among us. Still I am trying to find the answer to this question, As the matter of fact because people assume roles and duties that men should work, or women belong to kitchen divided us and now women see that gap in their paycheck. So, this magazine is a voice to bridge the gap between us and a platform where we women can share their achievements and opinion which may rather been seen suppressed in the society.



Tabasum Qadir Digital Editor

Women's education and empowerment are closely linked, as education can be a powerful tool for promoting gender equality and enabling women to achieve greater control over their lives. It is important to recognize that women are just as capable and deserving of respect and opportunity as men. Women have made significant contributions in every field of human endeavor, from science and technology to art and literature.



Stories We Tell

Here we are celebrating phenomenal women on the women's month-March. Here is the most profound woman we can find in literature, Syvia Plath, Habba Khatoon and Jane Austen.

-Ananya Mishra/Tabasum Qadir/Tanisha Kumari

SYLVIA PLATH was one of the most dynamic and applauded poets, novelists and short stories writer of the 20th century. Born in Boston, Massachusetts on 27th October 1932, Plath went to Smith College and Newsham College, Cambridge for her education. Her best works include her poems 'Daddy' and 'Lady Lazarus' and the novel 'The Bell Jar'. She published her first poem at the ripe age of eight. She won multiple literary competitions while she was still in high school. She later went on to win the 'Glascock Prize'(1955) and 'Pulitzer Prize for Poetry'(1982).



The worst enemy
to creativity is
self-doubt.

Sylvia Plath, The
Unabridged
Journals of Sylvia
Plath

She married poet Ted Hughes in 1956 and had two children: Frieda and Nicholas. She had met him at a party in Cambridge, England.

Later they began to face marital issues. She revealed in a letter to her therapist that

following the birth of their first child, she miscarried their second child. She also revealed that Hughes had beaten her two days prior the miscarriage.

After the birth of their son Nicholas, Hughes cheated on his wife and later refused to end his affair. This lead to their separation in the July of 1962. The winter following the end of their marriage was quiet hard on Sylvia. She lived in isolation in a small apartment in London with her two children and financial problems. She overworked herself, sometimes even finishing a poem a day. She had a history of depression originating from the death of her father. She had attempted suicide before when she was still in high school. The gloomy winter of 1962, her failed marriage and hardships had made her depression worse

. On February 11, 1963 Plath attempted suicide again and unfortunately this time, she succeeded. She killed herself at the age of 30, by sticking her head in an oven, while her two children slept nearby. She left a note that simply said 'Please call Doctor Horder' along with the Doctor's phone number. This note seemed like a cry for help and a suicide note at the same time

"I can never read all the books I want; I can never be all the people I want and live all the lives I want."

Sylvia suffered from severe depression. Her struggles are reflected in her writing. Her poetry explores womanhood and the problems that women have to go through in society. Each word written by her portrays powerful emotions of despair. Her poetry is considered brutally honest because of her ability to transform her poetic voice to avenge womanhood and innocence.

Because of the themes explored by her in her writing, she is considered as a controversial figure in the history of American literature. In her short life, Sylvia left a legacy of greatly impactful literature. Her struggles are tragically yet beautifully depicted in her writing. Her poetry explores womanhood and the hardships of being a woman in this society. Each word written by her depicts powerful emotions of despair. She is considered as a controversial figure in the history of American literature because of her brutally honest writings and events of her life. Her bravery and honesty that she portrayed in her writing is an inspiration for the aspiring writers all over the world as literature is supposed to be the mirror of society. She was an exceptionally unique and talented woman whose contribution to literature and society should never be forgotten.



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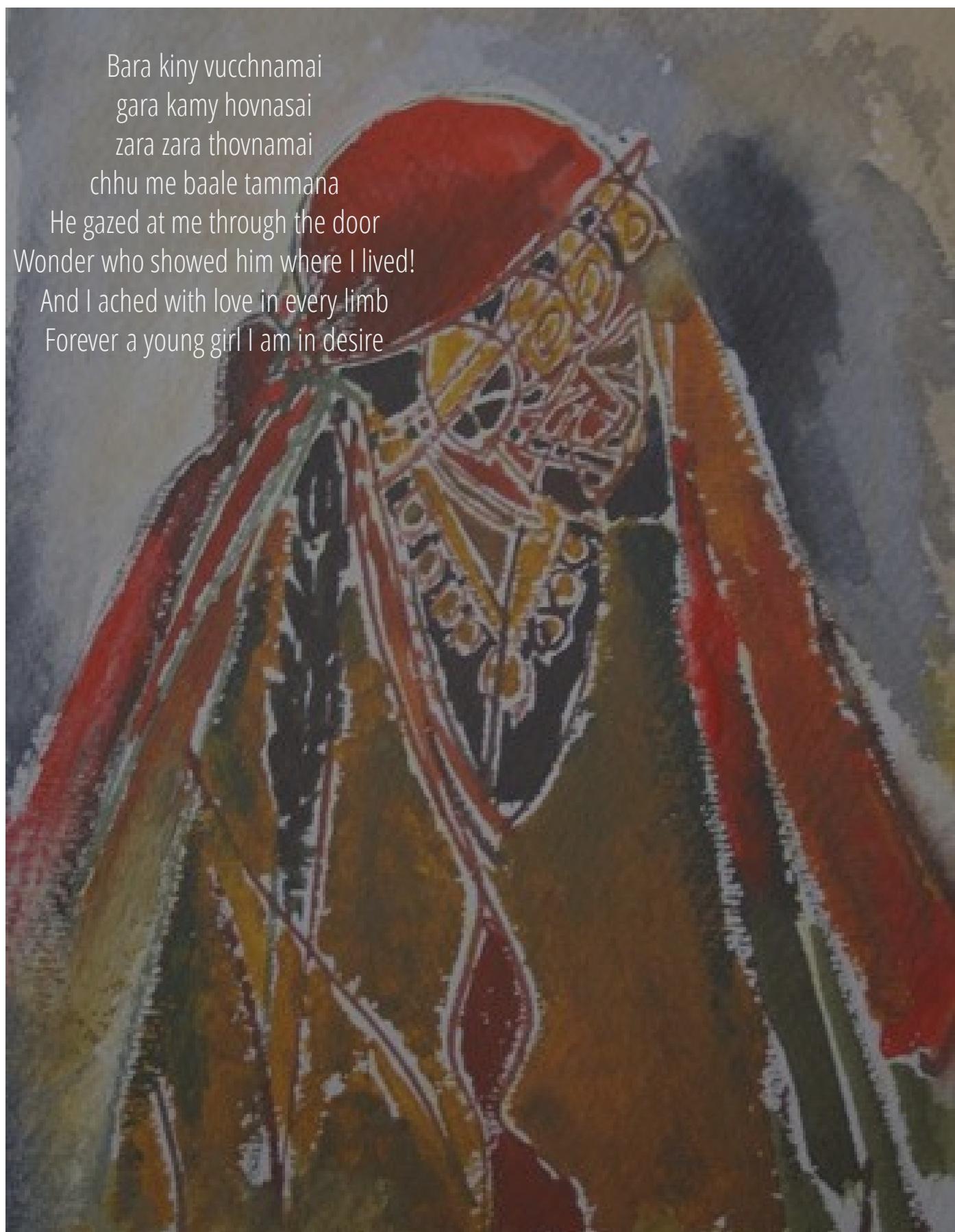
I'll seek you down the wandering brooks
Praying we must meet again
I'll look for you where the jasmines blow
Don't tell me we shan't meet again

HABBA KHATOON (born c. 1554) was a Kashmiri poetess and the queen consort of the 16th-century Kashmir king, Yusuf Shah Chak. She is known for her contributions to Kashmiri literature, especially her poetry which explores themes of love, beauty, and the natural world.

Habba Khatoon was born into a peasant family and grew up in the village of Chandrahar in present-day Ganderbal district of Jammu and Kashmir. She was known for her beauty and her talent for singing and poetry. In 1575, she met Yusuf Shah Chak, who was then the ruler of Kashmir, and the two fell in love. They were married soon after. However, their happiness was short-lived. In 1579, Yusuf Shah Chak was imprisoned and exiled by the Mughal emperor Akbar. Habba Khatoon was devastated by his absence and wrote many poems expressing her love for him and her sorrow at his absence. She continued to write poetry even after his death in 1592. She did not fit into the existing lineage of women poets before and immediately after her, many of whom wrote of spirituality and mysticism. She, on the other hand, brought in a romantic lyricism to Kashmiri. The clichéd line, Nightingale of Kashmir, has often been used to describe her. She is the sound and song of many gatherings even today.

Dil nyith ratyham goshe
vwolo myaani poshe madano
You stole my heart and stole away
Come back, my lover of flowers

Bara kiny vucchnamai
gara kamy hovnasai
zara zara thovnamai
chhu me baale tammana
He gazed at me through the door
Wonder who showed him where I lived!
And I ached with love in every limb
Forever a young girl I am in desire



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"One half of the world cannot understand the pleasures of the other."

-Jane Austen

The legendary English author Jane Austen only produced six books in her lifetime, yet she still has a huge following around the world. Her timeless tales have been adapted for numerous films, television programs, and contemporary works in addition to being translated into numerous languages to transcend cultural barriers. She is still as well-liked and highly regarded now as any other literary icon in English language history.

A bitter winter welcomed Jane Austen into the world on December 16, 1775, at Steventon, Hampshire. The seventh of eight children, Jane Austen was. Her older sister Cassandra was by far her closest friend throughout her life. Their mother was a witty woman known for her spontaneous poetry and stories, and their father was a scholar who instilled a love of learning in his children. Acting provided the best family entertainment. Jane Austen's vibrant and loving familial circle served as an inspiring backdrop for her writing. Her experience also spread far beyond Steventon Rectory because to a vast network of family and friend connections. She was to use this world—of the minor landed gentry and the country clergy, in the village, the neighbourhood, and the country town—in the settings, protagonists, and themes of her novels, with sporadic trips to Bath and London.



Jane Austen is known for six novels: Sense and Sensibility (1811), Pride and Prejudice (1813), Mansfield Park (1814), Emma (1815), and Persuasion and Northanger Abbey (both 1817). In these, she built vibrant fictitious universes, borrowing much of her material from the restricted world of English country gentlefolk that she knew.

Her fable, which she repeatedly tells about a young woman's journey to self-discovery as she moves from love to marriage, focuses on universally recognisable elements of life. Her novels are more closely related to the modern world than to the customs of the 18th century because of this focus on character and personality as well as the conflicts between her heroines and their society.

"One may be continually abusive without saying anything just; but one cannot be always laughing at a man without now and then stumbling on something witty."

Pride and Prejudice, 1813

Modern critics are still enthralled by the novels' commanding organisation and structure as well as the technical triumphs that allow the author to expose the tragicomedy of life in narratives where the settings and events seem so banal and limited.

Many film and television adaptations of Austen's writings attest to the books' ongoing appeal.



WOMEN THROUGHOUT HISTORY

“A woman is like a tea bag – you never know how strong she is until she gets in hot water.” - Eleanor Roosevelt

Throughout history, women have made significant contributions to society, even in times when they faced societal and cultural limitations. Some notable women from different periods of history include:

-Aarzoo Sarin



Cleopatra the last active pharaoh of ancient Egypt who was known for her intelligence and political prowess

69BC

Agnodice was one of the first female gynecologists, Agnodice is said to have courageously practiced medicine in Greece when women faced the death penalty for doing so

400BC

Joan of arc a young French peasant girl who led the French army to victory against the English during the Hundred Years War and was later canonized as a saint.

1337

Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz of Mexico memorably defended women's rights to education in 1691 by proclaiming "one can perfectly well philosophize while cooking supper."

1691

1792

Mary Wollstonecraft - an English writer, philosopher, and advocate for women's rights who wrote the seminal work "A Vindication of the Rights of Woman."



1860

Anna Filosofova believed it was better to educate and train the poor rather than provide cash benefits. In 1860, she co-founded a society to provide support to the poor, including not only affordable housing but also decent work for women.

1893

Kate Sheppard along with fellow campaigners presented a "monster" petition to Parliament demanding women's suffrage with nearly 32,000 signatures — an instrumental move that led to New Zealand becoming the first self-governing country to grant national voting rights to women in 1893.



1911

A pioneering Japanese editor, writer and political activist, Raichō Hiratsuka co-founded her country's first all-women run literary journal *Seitō* in 1911 through which she challenged women's traditional roles at home. In the magazine's inaugural issue, she emboldens women to "reveal the genius hidden within us!"

Doria Shafik catalyzed a women's rights movement in Egypt when in 1951 she, alongside 1,500 women, stormed parliament demanding full political rights, pay equality and reforms to personal status laws.



British chemist Rosalind Franklin paved the way for the discovery of DNA's double-helix structure through the revolutionary use of X-ray diffraction. Franklin captured the critical photo evidence through 100 hours of extremely fine beam X-ray exposure from a machine she had refined.

1951

The first indigenous person to win the Nobel Peace Prize, Rigoberta Menchú campaigned for social justice, ethno-cultural reconciliation and indigenous peoples' rights during and after Guatemala's Civil War (1960–1996). In 2006, she co-founded the Nobel Women's Initiative to magnify women's work on peace, justice and equality.

1960



A pioneering American tennis champion and social change activist, Billie Jean King famously threatened to boycott the U.S. Open in 1973 unless women were given equal prize money — a demand that was met, making the U.S. Open the first major tournament of its kind to offer pay equality.

1973

1992

Unity Dow won a historic case in 1992 enabling women married to non-citizens the right to confer nationality to their children. Later, as Botswana's first female High Court judge, she gained international acclaim on a case that allowed Botswana's San people to return to their ancestral homelands.

1900S

Vandana Shiva formed Navdanya in India during the early 1990s to conserve unique strains of seed crops and to educate farmers on eco-diversity. Under Navdanya, she also created a programme on biodiversity, food and water, which empowers women in protecting the livelihoods of their communities.

2016

Loveness Mudzuru and Ruvimbo Tsopodzi made history in 2016 when Zimbabwe's Constitutional Court ruled in their favour stating that nobody in the country may enter into marriage, including customary law unions, before the age of 18.

2021

Kamala Harris, the first female Vice President of the United States who also broke barriers as the first African-American and South Asian-American Vice President.



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