

1947

The Radcliffe Line, the border between Union of India and Dominion of Pakistan is revealed

1945

Korea is divided into North and South Korea along the 38th parallel

1945

Sukarno and Mohammad Hatta declare Indonesia (Dutch East Indies) independent from the Netherlands



1903

Joseph Pulitzer donates \$1 million to Columbia University & begins the Pulitzer Prizes in America

EXPRESSING PERCEPTION

# Discrimination through art



Prakash's painting Titled 'Energy Manifestation'

issue of form and background, space and lines a new level of concentrated minimalism. I work in a very limited palette of colours and change the palette dependently in a series of work."

of seamless cubic patterns with underlying various perspectives of women within transparent layers to capture their distinctive personality."

"My current abstract series in oil called 'A Change - Transformation', I chal-



**My journey with art has been really special as at the age of 20 my first painting was sold**

ELLA PRAKASH

lenged myself to unlearn the pattern of control where I seek in representation; thus, reinventing the language of anatomy, chiaroscuro, and storytelling. Where these paintings are distinctive for their bold brush strokes, where I express my work through palette knife using vibrant colours, the end result is a direct and spontaneous gesture on canvas that, in turn, is based on insight gained in previous work and which gives these paintings their inescapable explosiveness."

### Achievements

"My journey with art has been really special as at the age of 20 my first painting was sold. It was a group exhibition at Bahrain art society and where my painting was singled out and sold the first day. Further, I have been awarded the 10th International the American Juried Art Salon Awards in 2010. In 2009 was awarded the Top Ten International Art Competition, Women in the Arts, Artrom Gallery Rome, Italy and In 2009 2nd Art Contest, Abstract, Honourable Mention by Art vita.com

### Ella Art Gallery

"Similarly, Ella art gallery is a brainchild which was established as an artistic venture in 2004. It is my art gallery in Adliya.

The whole idea behind Ella art gallery was "where art meets emotion" and where the artist's paintings and artwork resonate just that. Every piece is a unique form of expression and strikes the hearts chords like a symphony."

### Ella Impressions

Further, 'Ella Impressions' is a fresh take on fashion through the eyes of an artist and will bring a delightful and elite sophistication to the world of fashion with its spunky colour palette and clean and minimalistic forms and shapes. It is a high-end brand which is going to take an emotional twist to the generic high-end labels and give you a Renaissance of art."

"The main objective of the brand is to create a luxury line of affordable art through fashion for its buyers. It will launch with an introductory collection for both genders and encompass an entire range of bespoke merchandise for its niche clientele and will be available internationally. It is all set to become a trendsetter in both retail and online shopping sectors."

"Painting has always been my companion in the journey of life. To me, my art is symbolic of my journey not only as an artist but as a person in entirety. My art is a reflection of who I am and, 'Ella Impressions' fashion line is just a more beautiful portrayal of the journey of my life through my paintbrush."



Ella Prakash

OPPORTUNITIES



in Jordan



Jokhadar's paintings before the war always depicted happiness, a reflection of his life in Syria

ter, Jokhadar's wife gave birth to a son in the camp. "Living in a refugee camp would be hard," he said. "You reach a point where you need to choose between a hard life or, God forbid, losing a member of your family."

style

Jokhadar had worked in the family construction business, but his passion was always art. In fifth

grade, his art teacher had encouraged him to embrace his creative side. "She told me I was destined to become a painter," he says.

Jokhadar began painting at his home in Homs for hours every day; sometimes from dusk until dawn. His paintings were filled with rich colours, and his speciality was portraits of beautiful, hopeful faces.

Now as a refugee, Jokhadar has sought self-expression and solace through his art -- although he says the war has affected his style and his color palette.

"I began wanting to say something through my art, to send a message," he says. "I was living a hard life and I wanted to illustrate it through my paintings."

In the camp, Jokhadar began volunteering as an art teacher at one of the schools. However, to make a living, he bought a barber shop the day after he entered the Zaatari Camp. He works there every afternoon, but is always happiest with a paintbrush in his hand.

While Jokhadar's staff look after customers, he paints in a corner of the shop. Customers are often

intrigued by his activity, and many have asked if they can join him in his art corner.

Now, when he's not trimming someone's beard, he is teaching another refugee the basics of art.

### Against all odds

Jokhadar is not the only refugee bringing creativity into the Zaatari Camp. Safwan Harb, for example, is a 28-year-old refugee from Daraa, south-west Syria, who entered the Zaatari Camp in 2013.

As a child, he was diagnosed with polio and lost control of his lower limbs, but that hasn't stopped him from seizing opportunities in the camp.

In 2014, Harb and his brother founded the Syrian Art Group, which currently consists of 30 members, who organize plays and train others how to act, produce and write scripts. The group has performed on several occasions around the camp.

"The Syrian Art Group is like a family to me," Harb says. "It allowed us all to discover our passions and build a long-lasting support network."

Paul Fean is the Norwegian Refugee Council's (NRC) acting youth specialist in Jordan, who works to help young refugees gain skills and build relationships.

He says Harb and Jokhadar are representative of the entrepreneurial, creative spirit found in refugee camps.

"In my experience working with refugees," Fean says, "I've found a strong motivation, interest and desire to make a better future for themselves, their families and their communities."

He says one camp he's worked in gained electricity because of refugees who taught themselves how to weld. Communities within another camp were able to become mobile, because refugees rehabilitated old bicycles and distributed them around the camp.

"Refugees have a lot of skill and potential that they can draw on," Fean says. "They just need opportunities and our support."