

A small brush with art

MF Husain, Van Gogh and Picasso are some of the inspirations for the striking works created by children at this new show



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A horse with a flowing mane commands attention with its arresting stare. Flowing reddish-orangish flames (or are they petals?) rise up as if in rebellion. These are just some of 80 paintings by children between the age of three and 18, which will be displayed in the city this weekend. And these mini artists are not kidding.

Like 12-year-old Veda Bansal, who, inspired by Van Gogh, merged impressionism, aboriginal art from Africa, abstract and culturalism concepts and came up with the painting of a lady playing a guitar, in a Cubist style. "I worked this hard and created

something of my own," says Bansal.

Curated by Ruchika Kawlra Motwani, the founder of 3 peel, an organisation that prepares young guns for art, the show is a culmination of Berserk, a series of workshops organised by Uzma Irfan last year. "It's a beautiful, surrealistic experience to walk down that isle of the works the kids have done," says Motwani. There are realistic works, landscapes, figurative and more.

Motwani says she told the children to "Think Picasso or Van Gogh", and asked them to take inspiration from the paintings of the masters. She cites a "realistic" oil on canvas work made by 12-year-old Sejal Kaur. "Like a European master, it's a flawless work in oil," says Motwani. Another young



Top: A painting by Arpita that uses non-natural colours (like green for the face) and marries that with an Indian concept; Left: Sakshi's horse is a work created using charcoal

artist of 14, Nidhi Shetty, has been inspired by MF Husain. "I want to paint animals in a graphic manner like him," says Shetty. So she depicted a peacock next to a dancer, with a rainbow in the background.

Motwani says teaching the students has taught her a lot. "As artists, we tend to stylise and get stuck on one technique. But, kids have no inhib-

itions. I learnt that we need to forget about pre-conceptions and just have a go at it." Naturally, the kids are excited too. "This show is a great platform to show my paintings in front of so many people," says Shetty.

**Retrospective of Berserk,
Sublime Galleria, UB City, April 12 - May 11,
11 am onwards**