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## Student artists find beauty in colours, mixed mediums

*A group of fine arts students from Stella Maris College has put up an exhibition where they have expressed narratives pertaining to the solitary, the serene and the positive*



### Participating artists and their works;

#### **Chennai:**

There is a lot of cheer and excitement at this beautifully decked up art gallery in Egmore. You can see a group of young girls posing in front of paintings and taking selfies, a few looking at their works heaving a sigh of relief and others welcoming the guests.

The girls are final-year fine arts (painting specialisation) students from Stella Maris College and the venue is Focus Art Gallery, Egmore. The students have organised an art exhibition titled Lost in Hues, where artists have tried to express their emotions through colours.

Some of them have projected social issues like environmental degradation, while others have expressed narratives pertaining to the solitary, the serene and the positive. Their canvases reflect their personal styles, and depict different subjects such as portraits, landscape and still-life compositions.

Krutika Raju, one of the artists, is excited about her first ever art exhibition in the city. She has painted landscapes and portraits with acrylics.

“We never ask the birds what they are singing, so why ask an artist what they have painted? My outlet for joy, grief, love, anger, coy, etc. is through my paintings I am most alive on my canvas. Each of us has our own styles, concepts and subjects that we wanted to bring out. Through this exhibition, we have

stayed true to the theme of the exhibition, colours. Colours are what binds the entire paintings together,” says Krutika.

Durga Devi, another student, loves to celebrate human and nature through her works.

“Colours have an elusive quality to transform a figure or a landscape into something magical and this inspires me as an artist,” Durga says and takes us around. Durga is quick to thank her faculty members as Maya and Krutika look on.

“Without the help of our faculties, especially, Dr Ann Samuel, we wouldn’t be able to pull this exhibition. She encouraged us and curated this show.”

Maya Umesh has always been told that art is a luxury, but she wanted to prove it otherwise. She has opted for unconventional mediums like fan blades, plywoods, exam pads and tawas.

“I wanted people to associate with my paintings; they should feel at home whenever they see it. Art shouldn’t intimidate anyone, but rather bring a sense of calm. I don’t want you to look at a painting and walk away because it is too exuberant. I want you to be able to own it,” shares Maya.

Other participating artists are Duhitaa Suncoo, Halima Safrin, Han Na Rae Yang, Masooma Kaizar, Sinica Mary and Shruti Vora.



*Painting on an exam pad*