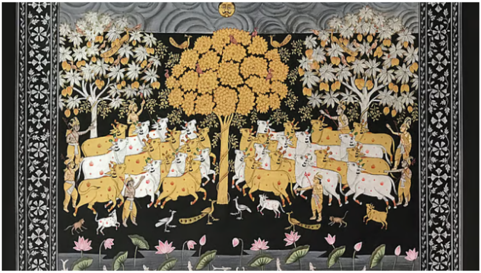
Art

# Traditional Indian Pichvai art makes London debut in July showcase

*From temple textile to global art form — this London exhibition unpacks the layered history and renewed relevance of Pichvai painting*



Artworks that will be displayed at the exhibition

Team Indulge

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In early July, a centuries-old art form rooted in ritual, mythology, and craftsmanship will find new meaning in a contemporary setting. From July 2 to July 6 July 2025, London's Mall Galleries will host *Feast, Melody and Adornment*, a major international showcase dedicated entirely to *Pichvai* — a detailed and devotional style of painting traditionally created as a textile backdrop for temple idols.

### A historic Indian art tradition finds a global stage

Presented by *Pichvai: Tradition & Beyond*, the exhibition brings together more than 400 hand-painted works created over the past hundred years. While staying true to the sacred motifs of Shrinathji, lotuses, and Nandi cows, the show also introduces modern interpretations of the *Pichvai*, including pared-back colour palettes and minimalist compositions.

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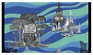

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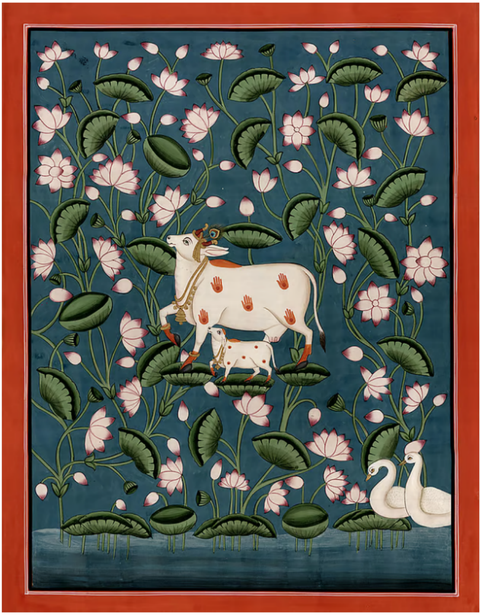

The exhibition highlights the unique ritualistic role of *Pichvai* — originally used in the Nathdwara temple near Udaipur — and its evolution into a collectible, standalone art form. Historically, the paintings served as seasonal temple adornments and sacred souvenirs for pilgrims. Today, they carry both artistic and cultural value, representing a living tradition that blends devotion with fine craftsmanship.

At the heart of the revival is Pooja Singhal, founder of the atelier *Pichvai: Tradition & Beyond* and a key figure in the movement to restore and reinterpret *Pichvai* art for a global audience. Raised in Udaipur, Singhal's approach is both heritage-driven and forward-looking. Since 2015, her atelier has served as a collaborative space for master artists to bridge historical practice with contemporary design. Her foundation, established in 2018, continues to champion India's traditional arts on the international stage.

**From Pichwai to Brass: Jenjum Gadi's 'Transcendent Memories' weaves tradition with spirituality**

Pichvai

Art

# Canvas of change: This art exhibition and auction in Bengaluru was a huge hit!

*Seventeen artists live-painted global dreams, turning purpose into colour, protest into poetry… brushstroke by brushstroke*

Artist Pragya Jain poses with her work of art at SDGs Through Arts: India Edition

Team Indulge

Published on: 29 Jun 2025, 12:35 pm

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At the *SDGs Through Arts: India Edition*, artists didn't just display their work, they created it live. On June 26 and 27, the halls of Conrad, Bengaluru came alive with artists from across the world and brushes moving across canvases painting poetic ideas of now.

## This Bengaluru art exhibition and auction featured global artists

The event concluded on the June 28 with a gala dinner and an auction, where each completed artwork was celebrated and sold — not just as a painting, but as a piece with purpose. Seventeen artists came together, each interpreting one of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) — not through charts or talks; but through emotion, colour and form.

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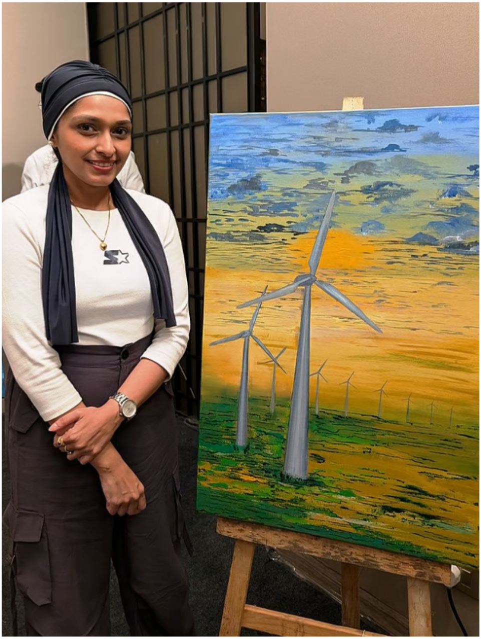
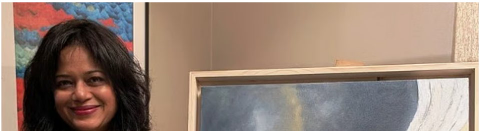
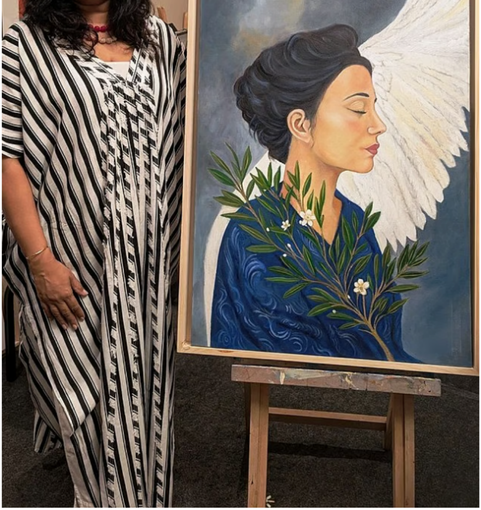


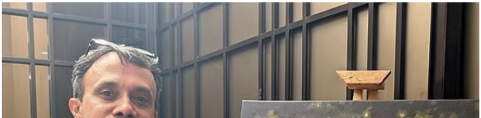
Curator and artist Humera Ali poses with her work of art at SDGs Through Arts: India Edition

Curated by Humera Ali, who didn't just organise it but also participated in it as an artist — her work, representing SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy, reflected intense and was rooted in environmental consciousness. She paved the road for what became a deeply moving artistic journey. "I want Bengaluru to be known for it's cultural value around the world," she told us as we gushed over her painting.




Artist Jyoti Gupta poses with her work of art at SDGs Through Arts: India Edition

Notable pieces included Pragya Jain's stunning take on Life Below Water (SDG 14) [main picture] that stole our eyes from across the room — shades of blue, flowing forms and subtle abstract ideas that made you pause; Nelisa Bazdar representing Climate Action (SDG 13) that created a beautiful piece that felt heavy yet quiet — a powerful, emotional interpretation of a warming world; and Jyoti Gupta's work on Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (SDG 16) which was equally striking — with a central female figure, angel wings unfolding gently behind her, wrapped in olive branches. It was a portrait of strength, dignity and hope rising from conflict. We also loved Benedicte Joland's tree, created for Life on Land (SDG 15) that told the story of time, seasons shifting, leaves changing and nature's patient resilience; and Venugopal VG's abstract vision for SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production that left a haunting impression — foggy silhouettes, a lone shopping cart and a tree whispering warnings we long ignored.



Artist Venugopal VG poses with his work of art at SDGs Through Arts: India Edition

These were just some of the incredible talents on display. Many other artists brought equally powerful visions to life, each adding a unique brushstroke to this global conversation. From live painting sessions to sculptural storytelling, the exhibition was an immersive experience in emotion, activism and hope. The event left one thing clear — art can educate, inspire and most importantly, change; because sometimes, a paintbrush does what a thousand words can't.

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# This brand new festival celebrates

# mirrors, not just as décor, but as design narratives

*A Festival of Mirrors by The Purple Turtles is a debut showcase of sculptural, handcrafted mirrors that celebrate heritage, form and function.*

From carved wood and antique brass to contemporary shapes, each piece from this exhibit is steeped in craft and cultural memory.

Srushti Kulkarni

Published on: 28 Jun 2025, 5:56 am

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This event begins with a desire to shift how we look at mirrors — not just as objects of utility but as pieces of art that reflect culture, craftsmanship and history. *A Festival of Mirrors* by The Purple Turtles is a debut showcase of sculptural, handcrafted mirrors that celebrate heritage, form and function. “The idea was to curate mirrors that tell stories of where they come from, how they’re made and how they shape the spaces they occupy. This is about mir rors that g round, expand and accent — mirrors that hold more than a reflection; they hold character,” Radeesh Shetty, curator, begins.

**_Festival of Mirrors_ by The Purple Turtles debuts in Bengaluru this week**

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Many of the mirrors in this collection are crafted using traditional techniques

From carved wood and antique brass to contemporary shapes, each piece from this exhibit is steeped in craft and cultural memory. “The curation was led by a deep exploration of materiality and form, with heritage and symbolism woven throughout. We selected pieces with distressed textures, oxidised and shadowed silhouettes — all of which echo an India-modern aesthetics,” he shares.

Many of the mirrors in this collection are crafted using traditional techniques, for ms or motifs that evoke specific cultural references — like jharokha-style frames or arched profiles reminiscent of an Indian architecture. “From handcarving in mango or teak wood to metal overlay and patina work in brass — they’ve been made by artisans whose skills have been passed down through generations,” he reveals.

The spatial design was treated like a gallery — each mirror was given its own moment

**Mirror moment!**

The spatial design was treated like a gallery — each mirror was given its own moment while also contributing to an overall visual harmony. "The variation in scale, silhouette and proportion was deliberate. We wanted to show that mirrors can be bold, quiet, playful or architectural — depending on their shape and setting. An oversized round mirror might create a sculptural statement in a hallway, while a smaller, intricately carved piece may serve as a meditative element in a reading corner," he emphasises.

Mirrors were paired with complementary textures, wood consoles, metal vases and planters, crystal chandeliers and artefacts — to build context and invite interaction. "The idea was to let each mirror breathe, yet belong," he concludes.

*Entry free. June 25 to July 9, 10.30 am - 8 pm. At The Purple Turtles, Indiranagar.*

**The Real Van Gogh Immersive Experience, a digital art exhibition, returns to Bengaluru this June!**

The Purple Turtles

A Festival of Mirrors

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# Here's what you can expect from The Real Van Gogh Immersive Experience set to debut in Bengaluru tomorrow!

*Presented by The Silly Fellows in collaboration with music entrepreneurs and co-curators Nikhil Chinapa and Jay Punjabi*

The Real Van Gogh Immersive Experience raises the bar technically, aesthetically and emotionally SHANTANU KRISHNAN

Srushti Kulkarni

Published on: 28 Jun 2025, 5:49 am

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Having already garnered 13 accolades since its launch in 2024, *The Real Van Gogh Immersive Experience* makes its debut at the Bhartiya Mall of Bengaluru, this weekend. Presented by The Silly Fellows in collaboration with music entrepreneurs and co-curators Nikhil Chinapa and Jay Punjabi, we speak to Nikhil to learn more about this multi-sensory spectacle. “The earlier Van Gogh exhibitions in India were limited by lower-resolution projectors and lacked emotional or narrative depth. The Real Van Gogh Immersive Experience raises the bar technically, aesthetically and emotionally. We’ve used cutting-edge projection technology, original animation, a powerful soundtrack and a thoughtfully curated prelude to create an experience that doesn’t just show Van Gogh’s art — it brings you into his world,” he begins.

## Award-winning exhibition with a café?

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The first-of-its-kind in the country, a 22,000-lumen projection will envelop visitors in a selection of 70 of Vincent Van Gogh's most iconic works SHANTANU KRISHNAN

The first-of-its-kind in the country, a 22,000-lumen projection will envelop visitors in a selection of 70 of Vincent Van Gogh's most iconic works. The exhibition includes iconic works such as *The Starry Night*, *Sunflowers*, *Café Terrace at Night* and some lesser-known works too.

"We began by asking: how can we not just show Van Gogh's art, but make people feel what he felt? We introduced the Quick Study Room to offer visitors context — about Van Gogh's personal life, struggles with mental illness and his deeply moving bond with his brother. We also curated lesser-shown works, including pieces from his Japanese Phase such as the Portrait of Pere Tanguy and La Mousmé. The Dutch artist was deeply influenced by Japanese woodblock prints, particularly ukiyo-e. These prints inspired a shift in his artistic style. He began using bold black outlines, flattened perspectives, vibrant, unmodulated colours and a more decorative, expressive visual language," he reveals

Think subtle movements, flowing skies and immersive transitions that guide viewers through Van Gogh's evolving states of mind SHANTANU KRISHNAN

## Technology touch

Motionvan Studios (Hemali Vadalia and Naveen Boktapa) and Jay Punjabi envisioned each frame and animation to echo the emotional