

art

# Creative Impressions

■ BY MANALI SHAH

*Nawaz Modi Singhanian tells Society all about her latest series of paintings*



Considering the family she belongs to, Nawaz Modi Singhania could have led an easy, cushioned life. But, rather than bask in the glory of the Singhania last name, the lady of many talents has chosen to carve her own path.

An extraordinary artist, Nawaz's works revolve around the themes of dance, movement and spirituality. For her latest solo exhibition, Nawaz has chosen to portray iconic personalities from all walks of life. The portraits, which will be on display from April 6 for almost a month at the Raymond Flagship Store in Mumbai, are on canvas (charcoal, oils and acrylic) and are a tribute to the inspirational celebrities.

For the series, Nawaz wanted to take on high-achievers from different walks of life. In the collection, one will find featured Hollywood actors, geniuses, talk show hosts, singers, athletes, innovators, models and even a princess. Nawaz, who is married to industrialist Gautam Singhania, wanted to take subjects with faces that she considered interesting and challenging. "I wanted people of different nationalities. They also had to be people that I admired," she says. Additionally, faces have always inspired and drawn her in. "I find them fascinating and intriguing. Portraits also develop the skill of an artist. It isn't okay to get the similarity right to the extent of 99 per cent. Anything less than 100 per cent makes it worthless. That's high pressure and takes high skill."

Nawaz's journey as an artist has been fantastic so far and she's revelled in every bit of it. "My work has been appreciated and I've seen much success. I've taken on different styles and genres of work," she says. "When other artists are in high praise of my work, it is a huge milestone for me." Her very first show was inaugurated by renowned artist Laxman Shreshta. A month before the show, he went over to see Nawaz's work and "told me to keep a particular work aside for him as he wanted to buy it. That was the first work of mine that got picked and I was over the moon that it was by an eminent artist like him."

Though Nawaz appreciates many qualities of various artists, she doesn't think that has impacted her style. "For instance, I love Bikash Bhattacharya's play of shadows, Bose Krishnamachari's sense of colour and fluidity, much about Prosanto Roy, and so on. But, I'm fiercely independent and I can't say I've been influenced by any artist's work."

Speaking about the creative process behind her work, she says, "Sometimes, it's a struggle and one keeps drawing a blank. And, sometimes, you start on a work or even a series of works and decide to junk the whole lot as it didn't strike a chord within you or didn't come together as you wanted. Other times, it hits you like a lightning bolt from out of the blue and comes out beautifully on canvas." Nawaz is very private about her works and never shows them until she's through with the collection.

She has been inclined towards fitness and art since as far back as she can remember, but the inclination took different forms back then. It's been a constant process of evolution.

The creatively inclined Nawaz has many dimensions to her. The Founder of Body Art, the hands-on businesswoman says she is actively involved in the day to day running of the fitness studio. "I train and manage all our staff, hire and fire, teach, master-plan, choreograph, trouble-shoot, manage accounts, PR and marketing, and take all the major decisions," she claims.

Nawaz juggles many roles and dons many hats, but effectively strikes a balance between personal and professional life. "I love my life and wouldn't want it to be any different," she states.

So, what's next on the cards for Nawaz? "Let the future be in the future. If I reveal all, there won't be much to look forward to now, will there!" she says with a smile. <<

