

'Art is an inspiration'

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Shibu Arakkal: We've seen Bangalore all our lives and I'm glad to see the city growing. However, the current rise of these scams, especially big political groups and industries getting involved is quite scary...

Anjum: Oh yes! When I flip through the newspapers, only such stories top the list. Almost every other big name has been involved and it's quite scary and shocking a news for our citizens. But, it's not just with our city... almost every other city has to face such problems.

Shibu Arakkal: That's quite true. Putting politics and scams aside, I've always known you to be very passionate about art...

Anjum: I've always been interested in art and support causes that I believe in. I'm not one of those who are a part of the bandwagon. I like to collect pieces that I can relate to, and not just because it is the best selling piece. Be it art, or photography, I've always liked owning and being a part of something I strongly connect with. Jasmeen Patheja of Blank Noise is one such person.

Shibu Arakkal: I completely agree with that. But, I had this discussion with my friends recently about art and culture, where one said that art is not a utilitarian, it's useless. I can't relate to that, instead I think art is inspiring... Life imitates art...

Anjum: Oh yes, it always tells you something and is definitely awe-inspiring! Your father is a renowned artist and his collections speak a million words, but why did you chose to become a photographer?

Shibu Arakkal: I think even my father didn't want me to become an artist (laughs). I'm not sure how it happened, but I've always loved this creative field. Deciding on my career path was quite easy, but it was difficult to prove it to people and have them accept my works.

Considering the fact that my father is successful, I need to put in triple the work to prove my worth, which was quite an uphill task.

Anjum: That problem is always there especially when you have successful parents. But, you've made it in the industry. I'm glad even photography, as a profession, is picking up.

