

Vasant Valley TODAY

for the ART MARATHON 2017



ORIGINS OF THE ART MARATHON?

The Vasant Valley Art Marathon is a celebration of aesthetic expression. History has witnessed that humankind has an intrinsic need for communicating through art, and as a tribute to the arts, which knows no barriers of geography and language, the students of Vasant Valley School had conceptualized this Art Marathon.

This unique platform brought students of the performing and visual arts together, to showcase their artistic talents, express their creativity, and by doing so, celebrate the very purpose of art. The marathon not only gave the students an opportunity to express and display their creativity, but also helped them develop and build on this solid base with the help of experts in their respective fields.

The Art Marathon, in its 5th year, was started by Vasant Valley's Batch of 2014, who aimed to create a platform where various amalgamations of art could be given a platform and hence also be celebrated. With its humble beginnings, The Art Marathon has come a long way through the years, engaging students with new avenues of artistic expression, with staples such as choir performances, orchestras and also newcomers such as cyanotype photography and Electronic Dance Music. Truly, The Art Marathon has proven itself, year after year, to be an excellent interface between artistically inclined students and respected artistic professionals.

Jay Jaganath, 12

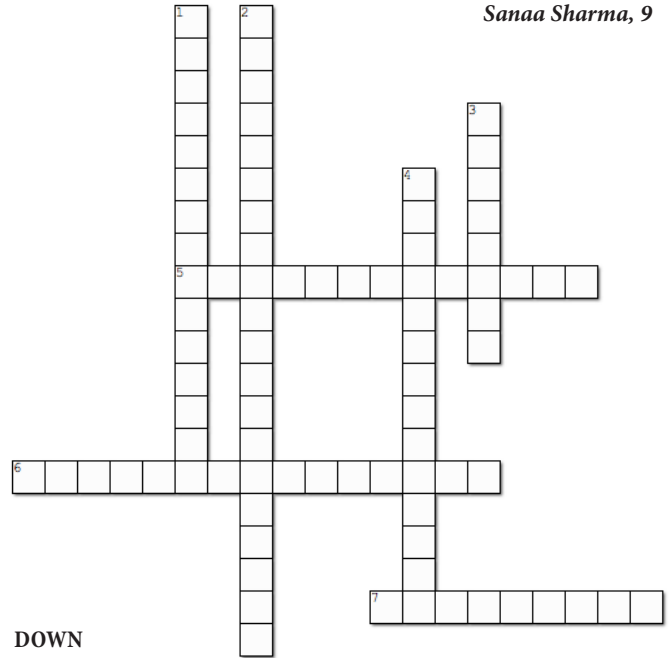


शिक्षा में कला की भूमिका

कला शिक्षा का एक अहम अंग है। दुनिया के कई क्षेत्रों में सफलता प्राप्त करने के लिए रचनात्मकता अनिवार्य है। समाज को सिर्फ वैज्ञानिक ही नहीं बल्कि कलाकार भी चाहिए जो रचनात्मक सोच का प्रयोग कर सकें। रचनात्मकता वो काबिलियत है जिससे हम नए विचारों को हकीकत में बदल सकते हैं। मानव के आविष्कारों ने हमें जीवन के हर क्षेत्र में हमें निपुण बना दिया है। नए विचार और रचनात्मकता हमारी जिंदगी के महत्वपूर्ण अंग बन गए हैं। हम इसी रचनात्मक सोच से जीवन में समस्याओं का समाधान निकाल सकते हैं। मनुष्य की प्रगति तभी संभव है जब रचनात्मकता हो। शिक्षा हमारी इन्द्रियों को खोलती है और कला इस लक्ष्य को प्राप्त करने का एक बढ़िया तरीका है, क्योंकि कला रचनात्मकता को जन्म देती है। हर कलाकार दुनिया को अलग नजर से देखता है और प्राकृतिक सुंदरता को समझ सकता है। शिक्षकों को बच्चों को कला की ओर प्रोत्साहित करना चाहिए। हम सब में एक कलाकार छिपा हुआ है। यह तभी उभरता है जब बचपन में हमें स्कूल तथा घर का सहारा मिलता है। इसलिए, वसंत वैली स्कूल में हम सब मिलकर हर वर्ष 'आर्ट मैराथन' का आयोजन करते हैं। यह बच्चों को अपने नए रचनात्मक व सृजनात्मक विचारों को प्रकट करने का सुअवसर देता है, और हम बेसव्री से इस कार्यक्रम के प्रारम्भ होने का प्रतीक्षा कर रहे हैं।

PAINTING PUZZLE

Sanaa Sharma, 9



DOWN

1. The plot revolved around this piece of work in the movie Bean.
2. Made by the Spanish painter Salvador Dali, this painting is well known for its 'melting clocks'.
3. What objects did Andy Warhol paint that blessed him with his fame?
4. Who painted 'Starry Night'?

ACROSS

5. What is the name of the chapel that Michael Angelo painted the ceiling of?
6. The man who painted 'The Mona Lisa'.
7. This painting is an incredibly famous work of art made by Norwegian painter Edward Munch.

WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR!

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COOKING WITH A CULINARY CELEBRITY

Chef Ritu Dalmia conducted the Art Marathon’s culinary workshop. She began the workshop by discussing the relevance of food as an art form and explained how food is an important part of sensuality in our lives. Furthermore, the participants discussed the various aspects of food as an art form and how it enhances all the senses.

To understand this topic better, the participants saw video clips from movies and read extracts from books relating to food as a symbol of emotion and happiness. After this, they were divided into three groups which worked at the pasta counters, panini grills and plating counters.

“Food is a sensual part of our life.”

This was followed by plating of chocolate desserts. After this, the food, prepared by the budding chefs, was served to teachers and students.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the workshop and learning more about the art of preparing and plating food.



SNAPPING WITH A SHUTTERBUG

“One of the oldest and most important processes in photography”. This is how Mr. Arya described cyanotype photographs in the computer lab which had been re-done as a dark room. Generally defined, Cyanotype is a photographic printing process that produces a cyan-blue print.

“In their first attempt at creating cyanotypes, the students did a fantastic job.”

The students were informed about the processes and chemicals (ferric citrate & potassium ferric-cyanide) required to make a cyanotype- a beautiful blue tinged photograph. This was followed by a demonstration by Mr Arya in which the only active lights were the overhanging red fairy lights, since the pictures were sensitive to bright light. The students then proceeded to make their own cyanotypes on negatives brought in by Mr. Arya. Later, the students took detailed photographs on their own which they would convert to cyanotypes the very next day.

On Day 2, the students converted their photographs into negatives, and coated them with the chemicals required to make a cyanotype.



WHAT DO THESE COMMON EVERYDAY TATTOOS MEAN?

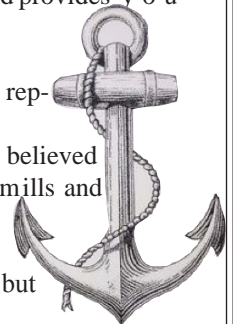
ANCHOR TATTOO: Symbolizing strength & stability, something (or someone) who holds you in place, and provides you the strength to hold on no matter how rough things get.

THE ZEN CIRCLE: The swish of the circle looks crisp, graceful, and elegant. The incomplete circle represents the universe. It also stands for inner strength and enlightenment.

THE EYE OF HORUS: This Egyptian symbol, also known as the “Eye of Ra” or “The All seeing Eye,” is believed to bring its wearer good luck and prosperity, bless them with wisdom and keep them safe, protected from ills and people who wish them bad.



THE BUTTERFLY: The butterfly is a symbol of transformation, renewal, and resurrection, but has also been associated with the soul in many cultures.



KEYS: Keys are a symbol of the desire to protect what is valuable to us and those that we are close to. Often, in art as well as in tattooing, a lock is shown alongside a key – often as a metaphor for love and the key to one’s heart.

KUCHIPUDI WITH MS. KAUSHALYA REDDY

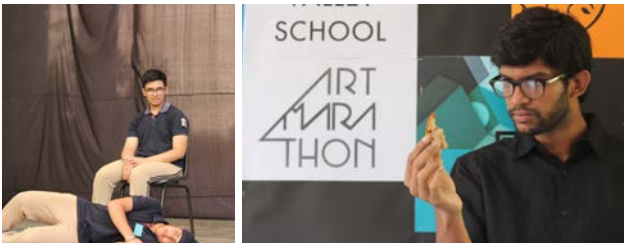
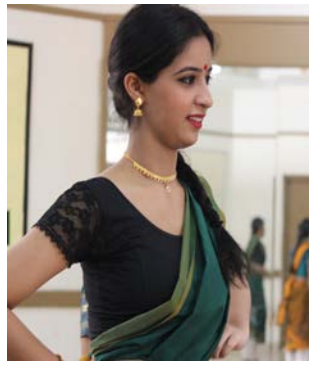
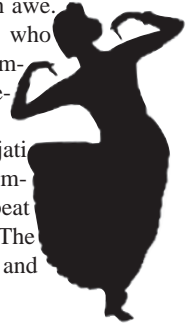
The Indian dance workshop conducted by Kaushalya Reddy involved the understanding behind movements of Kuchipudi, the connection between a dancer's soul and 'Prithvi', and the beauty in every expression and beat.

The grace in dance surely doesn't come overnight; its many aspects are perfected with practice, dedication and perseverance.

"Dance is the rhythm of our life".

This interaction with the disciple of the powerful dancing duo, Raja and Radha Reddy truly left the students in awe. There were eight students present at the workshop, who have embarked on the journey of art and are fully committed to it; excited to portray their new learning before equally charmed students.

Ms. Reddy chose to teach the students a 'jati swaram' - which is swaras or melodic notations combined with jathis or abstract movements in an 8 beat rhythmic cycle to make this a beautiful dance item. The atmosphere of the room was exhilarating and cheery and learning was made fun and different.



THEATRE WITH A THESPIAN

Dramatists certainly have a unique way of introducing themselves. Sitting, standing, and lying down in a synchronised manner, narrating stories turn by turn in groups, and throwing tennis balls at each other, were the things that made them get to know each other better and improved their teamwork. "Helping hands" - enacting what the other was speaking, this helped improve their skills as actors as they learnt to put themselves into others shoes. Acting out a person's conscience on the spot gave them a short glimpse of ad libs and the difficulties that come with them.

"If you want to be rich - quit doing theatre."

Over all, the entire activity taught them not just how to coordinate with fellow actors by thinking before acting, but also how to be patient on stage, think up of creative ad libs to unexpected scenarios, and even cook up and enact stories on the spot in the presence of several constrictions.

FEATURING WITH A FILM-MAKER

Has the opening title of any film ever lured you from the very start? The 'film before the film', the introduction, is an evocative space which is often unappreciated in film making. It is one of the most potent and symbolic fields to let your creativity flourish.

Mr. Anirudh Verma, an illustrious filmmaker, believes in the idea of a 'clutter free' approach. He expressed the significance and importance of the opening of a film by showing the participants the openings of various films. The participants watched the openings of 'A Series of Unfortunate Events', 'The Grand Budapest Hotel', 'Catch Me If You Can' - all of which were intricately designed and caught one's attention.

"Passion and love for listening stories and watching films is the first stage of film making."

The participants, in groups, then recreated the title openings of famous films that had fascinated them. With the guidance of Mr. Verma, the participants gained an understanding of the essential aspects of film making.

The participants compiled the videos that they had shot yesterday.



MIXING WITH A MAESTRO

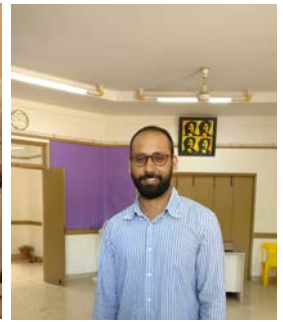
Song formation, basics of production and introduction to composition software kicked off the EDM session, and it quickly picked up the pace with the students mashing up two songs of their choice to make a wonderful mix.

They put their heads together and created a thirty second long song. They also learned that any song can be sung on four chords. The participants of the workshop did not confine their music only to the digital arts, and even did vocal mashups and mixes.

"I had close to 200 rejected emails before I got my first track approved." - Kerano

"Whether it's music, sports or study it's all about finding your flow and being in the moment." - Ketan Sharma

The students worked in groups and used a variety of instruments to produce music which they previously thought could only be created electronically. Karanveer Singh, commonly known as Kerano, and Ketan Sharma conducted the session together. They are both alumni of Vasant Valley School, and work together producing music as well.



SINGING WITH A STAR

With music as their common companion, the different faces, unknown to one another, broke the ice and became a group, a family, a choir. From vocal exercises to singing verses from their favorite songs, the choir with their diverse group of alluring voices merged difference of pitch and texture to form a captivating acapella.

They combined different sounds and wrote their own lyrics and in a short period of time, they created a harmonious medley of notes. Kavya Trehan, the conductor of the session, is a singer-songwriter as well as an alumna from Mirambika school. Her band Mosko has completed three all India tours. She is multi talented, and does many things apart from music; such as theatre and painting, and she even creates her own jewelry.

"All the first drafts of my songs were recorded in the bathroom."

The participants combined different sounds and wrote their own lyrics and in a short period of time, they created a harmonious medley of notes. They learned how to sing confidently, and use their voice to its full potential. She taught them different singing techniques which helped them use their voices in ways they previously were unaware of. They also were exposed to new genres of music and artists they had not known about.

On day 2 the participants, though nervous, were excited to be presenting and performing the vocal skills they learnt.



VVJOKES - ART EDITION

Did you hear about the artist who died?
Too many strokes

Why was the artist afraid he might go to jail?
Because he'd been framed!

I think I may be a talented photographer. I took just one photo with ***my camera phone and it asked me if I wanted to open a gallery.***

What do you get if you cross a painter with a boxer?
Mohammed Dali

Did you hear about the artist who paints in jail?
He had a brush with the law.

What do you call a painting by a cat?
A paw-trait.

Aditi Singh, & Aryan Sadh, 10



DANK MEMEOLOGY

An upcoming art form

Take modern art, take any form of expression from this century. It's not dank, if it's not memes. It is the art form of the century, there is no debate. So much so that Northwestern offers a major in Meme Studies.

So what makes a dank meme, dank?

Well it's a mixture of sarcasm, social awareness and an eye for humor. Unlike most other art forms, the art of memes is easily appreciated by the masses.

Like all art forms must, memes serve to educate the masses and simultaneously capture their attention by getting them to laugh. Of course it's mostly at the expense of a third party. But in the grand scheme of things, who cares if it gets laughs?

Aditya Chopra, 12



PRODUCING A PICTURE WITH A PAINTER

Ms. Vibha Galhotra showed the participants aspects of hypocrisy and disgrace in our nation. Her film, 'Manthan' (the name mocks the old mythological story), about the amount of contamination in our rivers, will soon be showcased in eight countries. Participants were required to build their own perception of the future, through a collage. The participants then proceeded with the collage on "High-Breed Future", using magazine pictures. Many participants' ideas included Artificial Intelligence, Women Empowerment, Advanced Body Technology and De-Evolution due to waste.

"I think it's a great eye-opener to be working with such young minds."



They all learned about the possibilities of our future Earth.

The next day, participants started preparing to showcase their work, using their innovative and artistic minds to make use of each and every picture. They made collages to either display a utopian or dystopian future.

ROAD ART WITH MR. RUCHIN SONI

For this year's Art Marathon, Mr. Ruchin Soni came in to teach students from different schools about street art and conduct a workshop with them. He started off by giving a presentation on his work to the students. He talked about how he travels to different places and showcases his street art on different walls.

His art goes from abstract to paintings of animals, to pieces that show the struggle and problems of the common man. He took the students out near the brick wall in the 'bus area' and told them that this was their space to create a masterpiece. We asked students what they understand by 'street art' and what it means to them. One told us that she feels that street art is simply art on the street that conveys a message to the people and spreads awareness. After around fifteen minutes all the students, who were divided into groups, presented their ideas which ranged from pieces that depicted images of rage and calmness to 'sushi monster' walls because "everyone loves sushi and sushi deserves a wall." Mr. Soni encouraged the students to give their opinions on each others ideas and give constructive criticism on their work.

"For me street art is something that is for all classes - for everyone, which is very liberating for me. That's why I do it."

In the end everyone decided to create a piece based on video games. They painted a piece that included characters and backgrounds from games. The students said that they were excited to work on the piece and were learning a lot from Mr. Soni.

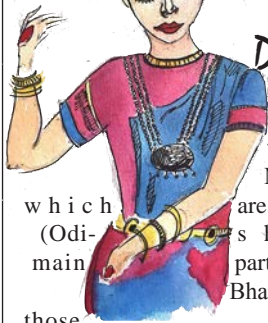


Art Through The Ages

a comprehensive view of dance and sculpture in India

Since time immemorial, India has been regarded as a cultural hub of the world- a home to the creation, development and preservation of art. In celebration of this, Vasant Valley School presents Art Marathon, an event to enjoy the arts and learn more about the artistic pursuit.

At the same time, art presents us with a deep sense of history, as it developed and transformed into what it is today. While celebrating the various art forms around us, it is imperative to discuss the history of this art as well. To learn more on this infinitely large history, we present to you, Art Through The Ages.



Dance in India

In India, dance has always been an intrinsic part of one's cultural identity. It began as an expression of spirituality and praise to the gods and has been described in great length in ancient Indian texts, especially the *Natyashastra*, which lays down the main principles of Indian dance forms.

Most Indian dance forms can be categorized into classical and folk. Classical forms are composed of eight dances, which are Bharatanatyam (Tamil Nadu), Kathak (Uttar Pradesh), Kathakali (Kerala), Kuchipudi (Andhra Pradesh), Odissi (Odisha), Manipuri (Manipur), Mohiniyattam (Kerala), and Satriya (Assam). These dance forms are composed of two main parts: *rasa* (emotion) and *bhava* (gesture or facial expression).

Bharatanatyam, for instance, dates back to 1000 BCE, and expresses mainly Hindu religious beliefs, especially those of Shaivism, Vaishnavism and Shaktism. One can find historical references of Bharatanatyam in Tamil texts – *Silappatikaram* dating back to 2nd c. CE. Carvings found in Kanchipuram temple dating back to 6th and 9th century depict Bharatanatyam as a well developed art form. Illustrative sculptures of the dance form can be found at Chidambaram depicting Shiva. Ancient legend claims that Bharatanatyam is an art form descended from the *Devadasis* (the serving girls of a temple) this suggests history dating back to around 300 BCE.

Another one of these dance forms that has a vast history is that of Kuchipudi. It is suspected that the art form of Kuchipudi dates back to the 3rd century BCE. It is mainly the performance of a dance drama usually related to aspects of Shaivism these can be evidenced by copper inscriptions from the 10th century. The medieval dance form was one where the Brahmins were the artists probably inspired by the Bhakti traditions of Vaishnavism. Modern version of Kuchipudi is usually attributed to Tirtha Narayanayati a Telegu sanyasi of the 17th century.

All these classical forms have one thing in common: they are based on the art of story telling without words. These dance forms, through gestures and expressions are able to narrate instances, especially from the lives of Gods. They have been closely associated with Hindu culture, and adhere strictly to their rules of the *Natyashastra*. These dance forms flourished through most of Indian history until the British Raj, where their spread across the nation began to shrink. In today's day and age, they have once again been revived to their past glory and have once again gained their title at the center of India's cultural ethos.

Sculpture in India

Sculpture in India, traces its roots back to the Indus Valley Civilization, where sculptures were made of bronze and clay, most famously the 'Dancing Girl of Mohenjo Daro.' After the Indus Valley Civilization collapsed, sculpture, like dance, became an art form representative of spirituality and religious beliefs. During the time of the Ashokan Empire (270-232 BCE), sculpture was used as a method of spreading the belief of Buddhism. The famous Ashokan pillar also carried sculptures of lions, which has been adopted as the national emblem of India.

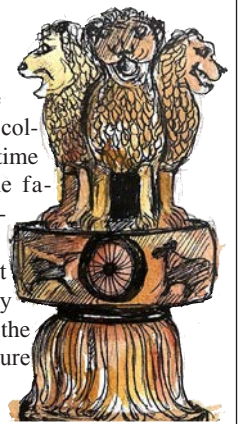
Similarly, sculpture was used in Hindu, Jain and Buddhist art forms. From 2nd century BCE to 1st century CE, sculpture was also influenced by Greco-Roman styles, which were then used widely in Indian sculpture across the northern part of the subcontinent from modern day Afghanistan to the eastern sides of India. Buddhist sculptures influenced by Greek styles formed a new style of sculpture known as Greco-Buddhist art, which is primarily present in Kandahar and Gandhara.

The Gupta Empire of the 4th and 5th century CE heralded the 'Golden Era' of Indian sculpture. This

includes the world famous Ellora and Elephanta caves. A few hundred years later, the Chola dynasty in South India also helped in developing the art of sculpture, which shows in the architecture of temple towns such as Mahabalipuram and the bronze statue of Nataraja, the God of dance.

There are many beautiful aspects of art. It is a creative outlet that takes a multitude of forms, each multifaceted and beautiful. Their history is immersive and vast and yet so undiscovered. We took this chance to help you delve deeper into these art forms that are usually not viewed as a significant part of history

Aditya Kapur, 12
Sketches by Ananya Jain, 12



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