

# GOING BEYOND ALL BORDERS

Sheyna Baig's barrel art was the only one chosen from India for a global initiative that had artists turning boring barrels into splendid works of art

Sheyna's creation now on display at the Mumbai International Airport; (left) Sheyna Baig



IPSITAA PANIGRAHI

THE ASIAN AGE

She doesn't believe in borders and boundaries, instead she feels the need to go beyond them. Artist Sheyna Baig believes in the concept of *Anantya* wants to showcase a healthy relationship between man and nature.

Her latest creation, that involved turning a barrel into an artpiece, is now on display at the Mumbai International Airport till September 30. Baig's artpiece was chosen among the works of many international artists, who participated in this initiative organised by Jack Daniel's. The artist met Brown Forman of Jack Daniel's during one of her exhibitions in Delhi. That was when she was invited to submit her work, following which she became the sole artist to represent India in this global competition.

As Baig has always felt closely related to nature, she wanted to create the essence of metamorphosis. While recalling a morning in Coimbatore she says, "We were on our way back from a morning walk and suddenly this little girl goes near a rock which has butterflies on it. The image of her going amidst the butterflies left me awestruck and that's



when the idea of metamorphosis struck me." Baig, then related the process of transformation of a cocoon to a butterfly to the charcoal mellowing and maturing process of Jack Daniel's whiskey.

"It was interesting to have the barrel as a canvas. The entire concept was very fresh in my mind and it was great fun working on it," says Baig for whom the idea of change in nature and evolving seemed thrilling.

However, she hasn't seen the other barrels that are currently placed at the Auckland, Singapore, Abu Dhabi, Los Angeles, JFK in New York and San Francisco airports. "I am dying to see the other splendid creations," says Baig, who also conducts workshops for children at the Isha Yoga Foundation centre in Coimbatore.

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"Painting is a process of interacting with oneself and at times you want to share your creativity with kids. I love holding workshops for them as I too learn different things from them," says Baig. She studied art in England and considers herself to be fortunate enough to pursue a career in it. "My parents have been extremely supportive and encouraging. I've been very lucky to have their support," she says,

adding, "I paint what I've experienced and believed in." She defines her style to be a healthy mix of classic and contemporary art. "I feel we should focus on the good things of life," says Baig, who is now wants to be inspired by her trips to Kailash Mansarovar, Cambodia and the exotic Bali.