

slice of life



Sheyna Baig

She has immersed herself in art from childhood - her debut was drawing a picture from the popular Enid Blyton series, Noddy. Her career has not looked back and she has remained in the limelight since then. Madhulika Suri meets Sheyna Baig, the young and vibrant artist



First loves: Noddy and Big Ears



Stairway gallery



Good vibes



Child's play

Sheyna Baig loves to work out of her terrace studio at her New Delhi residence. Her parents, Veenu and Abbas Ali Baig (the legendary cricketer), encouraged her to accept a scholarship which took her to England at the age of 13. She went on to graduate from the St Martin's School of Art and Design with a double major in fine art and literature. Since then, the 33 year old has held numerous exhibitions in New York, London, Mumbai and New Delhi. Her most high-profile work though, has been illustrating the children's book, *There's A Mouse In The Roosevelt House*, written by the then American ambassador's wife, Jacqueline Lundquist.

What does the lotus in your paintings symbolise?
A lotus is vulnerable, yet strong. To me it is about sensitivity, purity, joy, new beginnings....

What does colour mean to you?
Everything! Expressions, moods, feelings...from exuberance to feeling calm. A colour has colours in it.

How has Buddhism influenced you?
I value Buddhism as it is about love, living and being loved. About living life, striving for a balance and harmony, forgiving, staying positive and being



Circles of colour

at peace within. In my work, it has given me the confidence to paint what comes naturally, without worrying too much.

Who are the artists that have inspired you?
Van Gogh for his passion, Michelangelo for making stone breathe, Amrita Sher-Gil for Indian, yet universal expressions and Matisse for his simplicity and rhythm.

What are you working on these days?
A portrait of two naughty kids sitting on a Champa tree.

What fires the passion in Sheyna the painter?
Spontaneous connection...a moment that is so moving that tears come to your eyes

Your other passions in life?
Swimming, tennis, golf, reading, dancing and travelling!

Your favourite time of the day?
Dawn...and dusk.
When you think of a holiday, it is...
Outdoors. Sea and palms. Or up in the mountains. With my favourite people.

How do you get rid of your painter's block?
I pick up the paintbrush and make the first mark.
Your most sinful indulgence?

Home-made chocolate brownies and hot chocolate fudge sundae from Nirula's!
Your favourite designer?
Gudda (Rohit Bal). Clean lines, exquisite workmanship. A wonderful and generous person.

Where can you shop till you drop?
Jeh Bajaj's candle shop, Limelight.
Your most extravagant buy?
A last-minute airplane ticket from Delhi to Vienna for four days, followed closely by another last-minute airplane ticket from Delhi to Goa for two days.

What's music to your ears?
Breeze through palm trees, wind chimes, 1960s rock, 1980s pop, some techno, Mozart, Chopin, Ravi Shankar, Zakir Hussain, jazz, Louis Armstrong's 'Let There Be Love' and *Fly Me To The Moon*.
Which poems reflect your moods and thoughts?
'Palm Tree' by Rabindranath Tagore, 'Daffodils' by William Wordsworth and the words of Khalil Gibran.

What quenches your thirst?
Coconut water and strawberry margaritas (separately!).

Any instant cheer-ups?
A hug and chocolate.
The book that you're currently reading?
Bird Song by Sebastian Faulks and *Harry Potter*.

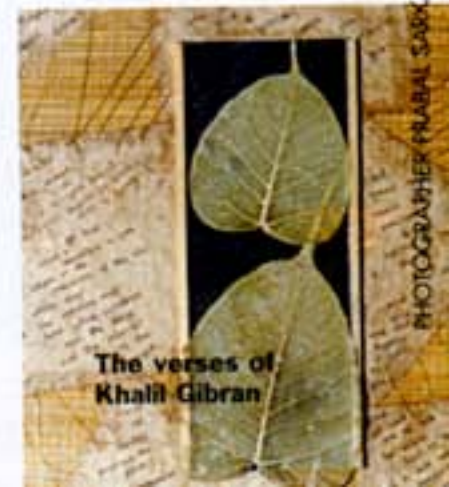
Your favourite cartoon character?
Bambi ☐



A work in progress



Sinful pleasures



The verses of Khalil Gibran

PHOTOGRAPHER: NABAL SARKAR; STYLIST: SONIA DUTT