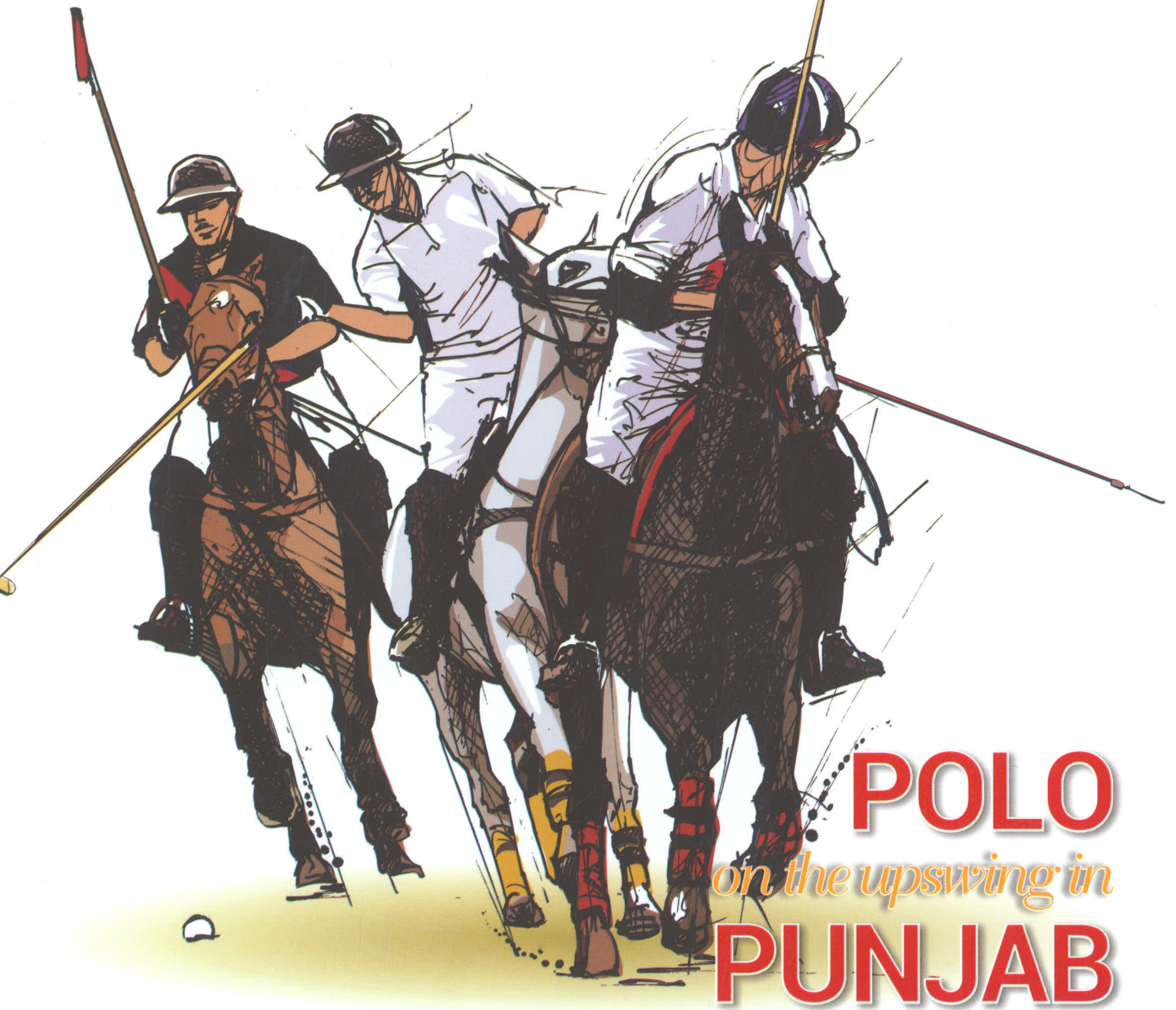


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POLO *on the upswing in* PUNJAB

CARRYING FORWARD
THE LEGACY OF POLO

BRAIN BEHIND BRAND
SBJ zoms to success

INTERVIEW
His point of view

ART
Art from the Heart

Art from the Heart

I HAVE NEVER PLANNED AN ARTWORK. I JUST WORK ON WHATEVER ENERGY MY SUPREME TEACHER SENDS ME



Serenity

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Known as the Divine Artist Nikki Anand's pictorial language is basically symbolic which has both spontaneity and purity. Be it figures, abstract or landscapes, impression of the creations of the universe, they seem to be magical, spiritual and yet powerful. She has developed a unique way of merging colors which even when diffused read as a mass of detail. The flow of lines is intuitive and rhythmic as she allows her brush with the universe to manifest on canvas.

When asked to write something on

my art, I did agree ...but then sat and stared at a blank sheet of paper for a while realizing it is easier to speak through a painted impression on canvas in the silent language of art! Nevertheless, I will try my best now to share it with you in words...

I am Nikki Anand, an artist by profession. I work purely with the cosmic energies and vibrations of the universe which surround each one of us.

A topic which most people know of but have little time or inclination to understand!

For example, in this modern world of technology, no one thinks twice before answering a phone call...do we really care to understand how the waves of energy are bringing the

sounds of our loved ones to us?

Similarly, millions are spent on research on magnetic energy and forces which surround us, yet not many of us feel the powerful magnetism of our own souls and connect with the cosmic energies.

One of the questions most people ask me is what kind of art I do. I simply reply "the unseen." Usually, this gets me a lot of raised eyebrows!!! But it is true...

Emotions, exuberance, love, joy, happiness, elation, solitude, serenity, tranquility are some of the feelings which come forward on a visual, vibrating with cosmic energy for uplifting the soul.

You must have noticed the words 'which come forward' instead of the 'I make'...That is because I don't! There is an interesting story behind this which I would like to share...

The turning point

Several years back I was part of a group exhibition at a fancy hotel in Delhi. I was excited with this opportunity as my work was being appreciated. My paintings were sceneries/landscapes and Rajasthani folk culture depictions, which had won applause and were sought after. Feeling good about this, I decided to invite a well-known art critic to view my work. This man whom I would prefer to call an "angel in disguise" changed my life.

He came, saw my works and commented that my paintings were very well done, quite similar to the paintings of many other artists who were also there! I was left devastated. After years of labor in perfecting my skills, where was my work? Nowhere and everywhere!

Utterly depressed late that night I decided to have a 'one to one' with "The One"

"I seek not the footsteps of the masters. I seek what they sought - a connec-



Phenomena



Euphoria

tion with the divine source. A cosmic connection!"

I prayed hoping that someone was listening and understood my feeling of hopelessness. I even made a deal with "The One" and prayed that if I worked even harder, would He teach me what I needed to learn and be able to paint with the celestial magic through my brush...But no lightning struck and no bells rang! Finally, I decided to give up. As I was retiring for the night I saw the solitary blank canvas lying in a corner of my studio. So I thought... OK one last one.

The divine journey

I just just picked up a brush and started painting...My brain was numb but the soul was alive.

I had no idea what I was painting and around 4 am totally exhausted I fell asleep on the couch in my studio. When I woke up I saw my husband standing in front of the canvas looking awestruck.

That my friends, was the beginning of my "Divine Journey..."

I must confess that from then on, I have never planned an artwork. I just work on whatever energy my supreme teacher sends me. After all it is true that there is only one true artist _ The Creator of the Universe.

With each artwork I try and understand what message is coming through.



Rhythm

“

In fact there are scientific researches which prove how art in it's purity and colors can effect healing not just of our minds but also help in curing diseases.

”



Inception



Bodhi



Awakening

ART IS A LANGUAGE OF THE HEART AND SOUL WHICH CAN BRIDGE BOUNDARIES. WHEN I TRAVEL TO DIFFERENT COUNTRIES TO SHOWCASE MY WORK I SEE SIMILAR REACTIONS BY THE ONLOOKERS. IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE WHETHER THEY SPEAK GERMAN, FRENCH, HINDI OR ENGLISH.

This is what I have understood till now...

Souls are born pure, meant to co-exist in harmony and love. We in our human form have created so much diversity based on caste, culture, creed, religion, politics, countries and languages. Isn't the color of our blood the same world over? Do all of us not have the same basic needs like food to sustain our bodies, need of oxygen and water to live? Do we not all over this beautiful planet have the same emotions? We all yearn for love, acceptance, happiness. Who does not enjoy the beauty of a beautiful sunrise? The song of a bird. A beautiful blooming flower or the innocent smile of a child.

Why then are we so adamant and forget the essence of our beings? Just because the sun is stronger or weaker in different places and may determine the color of our skin, we divide our human race and categorize them as white, black, yellow or brown!

It is time we emphasize and realize our similarities and create peace and harmony as was intended at the time of inception of human life, instead of dwelling on our manmade differences which lead to hatred and wars.

Positivity in art

Art is a language of the heart and soul which can bridge boundaries. When I travel to different countries to showcase my work I see similar reactions by the onlookers. It makes no difference whether they speak German, French, Hindi or English.

I feel immense joy to see a light glow in the eyes of a viewer when they stand in front of an artwork for moments in meditative silence just absorbing its energy. It could be the security guard of an exhibition hall or an important celebrity guest.

This just goes to show how each one of us needs and responds to positivity.

In fact there are scientific researches which prove how art in its purity and colors can effect healing not just of our minds but also help in curing diseases.

It is no wonder that art therapy is now practiced in hospitals, educational institutes, prisons, rehabilitation facilities, wellness centres, senior communities and other settings. Besides, a large number of non-governmental organizations have come up in different corners of the world that are employing this technique to help abused women, traumatized children, homeless, military servicemen and others. Art is known to stimulate the brain, lessen aggressive behavior, stir memories, overcome grief and provide an enjoyable satisfying experience.

I do hope my art can make a difference and spread happiness. ■