

A NOTE FROM
THE EDITOR

SHALINI UMACHANDRAN

It takes a village
to create art

COURTESY DAG

Detail from 'Foot Bridge' (1951) by K.C.S Paniker, who abandoned elements of Impressionism in favour of indigenous modernism—which formed the basis of the Madras Art Movement.

Artists are often considered isolated iconoclasts but contrary to popular belief, they're quite a sociable bunch. Artists V. Viswanathan and S.G. Vasudev, as well as the late sculptor S. Nandagopal, have hilarious and moving stories about the founding of Cholamandal Artists' Village—the home of the Madras Art Movement of the 1960s; stories that are testament to the support they provided one another. In Mumbai, members of the Progressive Artists' Group (PAG), formed a few decades earlier in 1947, may not have lived in each other's houses but they had a similar camaraderie and shared sentiments about the direction of art in a newly independent country. In Paris, about a hundred years before PAG, another group of artists banded together, played with light and colour, and brought spontaneity to art by painting outdoors, picking everyday subjects, and infusing art with a sense of movement and brightness.

Without this kind of community, artists wouldn't thrive, and without inspiration from the past, there is little new or original they could create, as our story marking the 150th anniversary of Impressionism shows. We examine the impact of Impressionism on Indian artists, who created a South Asian tradition that combined the best elements of Impressionism with indigenous ideas and modernism to create a unique style that runs through art practice to this day.

The idea of camaraderie and inspiration from things past is common to our stories. Rohit Brijnath meets Abhinav Bindra again and the two contemplate what it means to retire. Actors Richa Chadha and Manisha Koirala tell *Lounge* about the making of their new series *Heeramandi*, while the founder of Kinara Capital, Hardika Shah, discusses the ins and outs of microfinance in India and the need to support small business owners. We also have a review of Dev Patel's *Monkey Man* and many other suggestions for what to do this weekend.

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NEW ON SCREENS

A tantalising tennis drama starring Zendaya, a horror comedy with a vampire ballerina, and other titles to watch



CHALLENGERS

In this sexy drama, three tennis players, Tashi (Zendaya), her husband Art (Mike Faist), and Patrick, her ex and also his old friend (Josh O'Connor), find themselves in a complicated triangle. Directed by Luca Guadagnino (*A Bigger Splash*, *Call Me By Your Name*), whose films often give voice to forbidden desires, and written by Justin Kuritzkes. (In theatres)

DIL DOSTI DILEMMA

When Asmara's mother finds that her daughter is embarrassed by her grandmother, the pampered teenager's summer holiday in Canada is cancelled as punishment. Instead, she's sent to stay for the summer with her grandparents in the old family house in a less fancy part of Bengaluru. This coming-of-age Amazon original series stars Anushka Sen as Asmara, and also features an ensemble cast including Kush Jotwani, Tanvi Azmi, Shishir Sharma and Suhasini Mulay. Directed by Debbie Rao, who was responsible for the excellent comic series *Pushpavalli* and *Better Life Foundation*, also based in Bengaluru. (Amazon Prime)



Compiled by Uday Bhatia

FIASCO

First-time director Raphaël (Pierre Niney) encounters a host of problems as production begins on his debut film. The comedy series *Fiasco* will hope to tap into the devoted following for *Call My Agent*, a series about the workings of the French film industry. Created by Niney and Igor Gotesman. (Netflix)



ABIGAIL

Six criminals capture the daughter of a New York mafia boss and hold her for ransom. What they don't know is ballet dancer Abigail (Alisha Weir) is actually a vampire. This horror comedy also features Melissa Barrera, Dan Stevens and Giancarlo Esposito. (In theatres)

PLAN THE WEEK
AHEAD

SUMMER BOUNTY

The Bombay Canteen is paying homage to the vibrant seasonal produce with its new menu. One of the highlights includes a small plate of summer gourd *chokha*, made with roasted ridge and ash gourds, white beans mixed with mustard oil, and blended into a smooth dip. This is then topped with a fresh *kachumber* of pears and radish pods, and a swirl of roasted tomato oil. Some of the other dishes on the menu include *ragda pattice*, green tomato korma, *lasaniya batata*, and Syrian marrow masala. There is also the "Not Your Aam Experience", which features mango varieties from across the country. Available at *The Bombay Canteen, Lower Parel, Mumbai, 12 noon to 1am (Monday-Friday), and 11am to 1am (weekends)*



MAPPING TIME AND SPACE

Experimenter is presenting *(Un)Settled*, a two-person exhibition by Kanishka Raja and Rathin Barman, at its space in Kolkata. The show explores the many similarities between the practices of both artists. Past influences, ideas of migration and immediate concerns came together in both their vocabularies. "While Raja's paintings offer single point views of the interiors, of mostly domestic spaces, Rathin Barman's works look at built structures from the outside, in an ever-expanding field of vision," states the exhibition note. On view at *Experimenter, Ballygunge Place, Kolkata, till 15 June, Monday-Saturday, 10.30am to 6.30pm.*

—Compiled by Avantika Bhuyan

LOUNGE
ONLINE

YOUR
FAVOURITE
WEEKEND READ
NOW THROUGH
THE WEEK

The best of **Mintlounge.in** from the week gone by and what to look forward to in the one ahead



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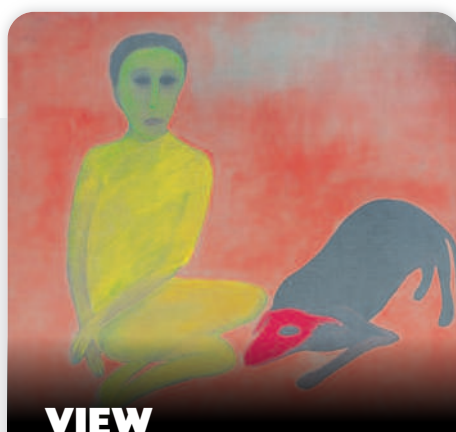
DRINK

A cocktail like fiery 'chaat' in a glass

If there's one cocktail gaining a following across the country, it's the picante—a tequila-based drink with spicy-sour flavours that appeal to the Indian palate. Crafted with chilli and coriander, muddled with tequila, lime juice and agave syrup, this drink is like boozy, fiery *chaat* in a glass. In 2017, gin had taken over bars, but today, people have shifted to agave spirits like tequila and mezcal—much of this shift is fuelled by liquor companies that can't advertise directly and so promote particular cocktails, writes Priyanko Sarcar. The drink comes in different versions when paired with fruits such as pomegranate, and aromatics like celery.



In Food >> Drink



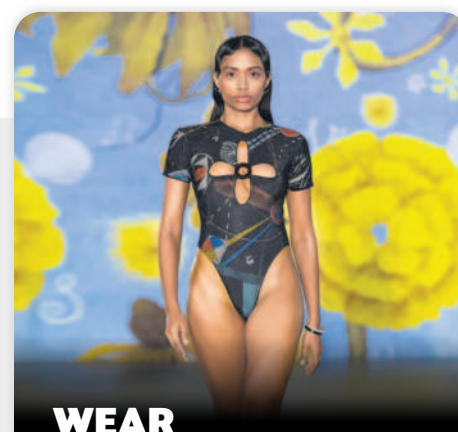
VIEW

The feisty spirit of Gogi Saroj Pal

Outspoken in her opinions, Gogi Saroj Pal, who died in January at the age of 79, created art that reflected her humanitarian and feminist concerns with a distinctive character and language. A retrospective in Delhi, *Gogi Saroj Pal: Mythic Femininities*, which will run at DAG till 25 May, is celebrating her six-decade-long career, writes Abhilasha Ojha. The retrospective, showing 50-plus works from her career, is divided into nine categories and feature her early still-life works, and works from famous series such as *Relationships* and *Young Monks*, which navigated the connect between people and animals.



In How To Lounge >> Art & Culture



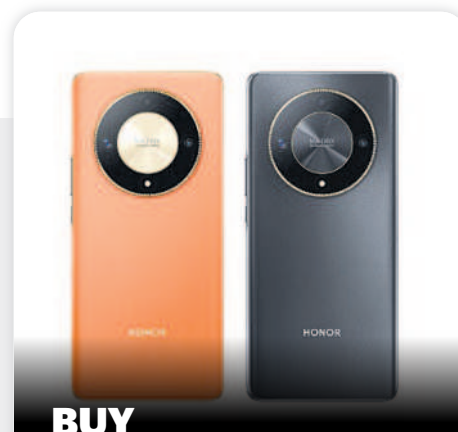
WEAR

Giving the maillot a makeover

When it comes to women's swimwear, the humble maillot, or one-piece, attracts the most attention. It is sexy, flattering as well as practical, so it's no wonder that designer brands are constantly experimenting with its shape and style. The understated maillot is a versatile and eternal summer piece that transitions easily from beach to bar to city when paired with skirts, shorts, trousers or any resortwear, writes Manish Mishra, who speaks to designers about how they are playing with swimwear this season to bring new energy to evergreen styles. From Shivan & Narresh to Osé Studios, designers are giving it a makeover.



In Fashion >> Trends



BUY

A fair-price phone with durable design

After a tumultuous time on the sidelines, Honor, or rather HTEch, came back roaring in India with the Honor 90. A few months on, it has launched the Honor X9b, priced at ₹25,999. It is priced fairly for what it offers—a durable design and strong battery life, but has a long way to go to match its rivals, writes Sahil Bhalla. It offers a lightweight build with a good in-hand feel with curved edges that enhance the grip. It comes with an official IP53 rating for water and dust resistance, adding to the reliability and durability of the smartphone. It may be similar to the Realme 12 Series, but it's a lot more subtle and eye-catching.



In Smart Living >> Innovation