

The World, A Canvas !

Friday, 19 September 2014

Duality, Love and Origami

"The studio used to be the artist's world, now the world is the artist's studio" - Barry Goldberg

--Read the invitation card--
And no ordinary card, but Origami.
In folds, to unfold and form my evening.

--1--

Duality
Indian Classical music with 'Knew' and 'New' essence.

An unusual blend of North and South Indian musical instruments, this performance was truly entrancing.

I am not a very big fan of classical music, but this one was something different. Carnatic raag played on a North Indian musical instrument, the Sarangi, while the Mridangam being a South Indian classical instrument, played a classical beat cycle. I do not quite understand the geographical division of the musical instruments, but the raag that was generated in the hall was almost bewitching.

When you are lost in the play of your thoughts engulfed by melody, those sudden striking notes actually shake you up. When the smoothness of the raaga is interrupted, when new notes are suddenly added, when the tone moves one level up or down, that's when I notice music. The taala and hand gestures reminded me of my childhood music classes and the atmosphere, of the many concerts I thought I would always attend, but didn't!

About the artists :

Suhail Yusuf Khan: Suhail, a devoted Sarangi player has been hailed as a child prodigy in the world of music. Suhail comes from a rich musical background and descends from the Moradabad Rampur and Senia Gharana of MIYAN TANSEN. He is the grandson of renowned Sarangi legend Padmabhusan and Padmashree awardee USTAD SABRI KHAN and the nephew of the young Sarangi genius Shri KAMAL SABRI. Suhail is the eighth generation Sarangi player carrying on with this rich family tradition.

Manoher Balachandran: Manoher began learning to play the South Indian percussion instrument Mridangam from his guru 'Wridanga Selvam' Kumbakonam Shri N.Padmanaban, in October 1999. Manoher has been awarded the CCRT Scholarship by the Government of India and a range of awards. He has traveled and performed across India including for Smt. Pratibha Patil and toured Dubai. He is currently pursuing his Bachelors in Financial and Investment Analysis at Shaheed Sukhdev College of Business, New Delhi.

Shariq Mustafa: Shariq, hails from the FARUKABAD Gharana (style of Tabla playing). He belongs to family of great musicians who have been pioneers in Hindustani Classical Music, especially in playing one of the most stylish and premier percussion instrument of India: The Tabla. This young talented Tabla player, who represents the fifth generation of his family, is vibrantly keeping his tradition alive by developing unique styles of Tabla playing, which includes the Gharanas of Delhi, Lucknow, Ajrada, and Farkhabad, Punjab, Benaras (styles of table playing), which is marked by uncanny intuition and improvisational dexterity founded in formidable knowledge and study. Shariq Mustafa has accompanied one of the most eminent Hindustani Classical Artists including his Father Ustad Rashid Mustafa Thirakwa, PANDIT HARI PRASAD CHALURASIA, Ustad Kamal Sabri, ghazal singer PANKAJ UGHAS, and has collaborated with other musicians like Patsy Ried from Scotland etc.

--2--

"When you see God in your man's eyes and Goddess in your woman's eyes"
"Selfless nature"
"aha,...can't be described"
"Sex, Plain Sex."
"Like a sandpaper,...keeps rubbing"
"Convenience"
"Comfort...When you feel beautiful in your pyjamas"
"When you give flowers, when you kiss..."
"It is a void. The more you try to fill the more deep it gets"
"Disgusting"
"That feeling when you wake up in the night and realize that that person isn't there!"
"When your morning suddenly seems beautiful"
"That thing that tingles your mind and heart"

What is Love?
A short film that explores what love means to people, across geographies and age groups.

Giggles. Innocence. A bit of pretense. Too much direct representation. Red paint. Water. Kisses. Joy.



--3--

The stage is decorated with white birds and pink flower trees made of origami. This Origami art is specially designed by Himanshu Koli.

She walks on stage in a white dress.

The auditorium is dark. She walks slowly and switches on the torches kept around the stage and dances to that white light.

The music is contemporary mixed with live Sarangi (played by Suhail Yusuf Khan).

Soon, a shadow of scissors cuts through her and she folds.

Dotted lines (those of suggesting creases and folds in the art of Origami) start dancing on and around her, and she folds and unfolds and dances in a grace never known to me.

Soon, the floor and the screen change into a grassland, she dances through the blades of grass as if moving by the wind.

Then the sea, the sand...

And she moves through those phases...

Then she walks over as if life has unfolded in stages and switches off the torches.

Yuko sings.

A song.

A Japanese song to the music of Sarangi.

Something about Saki (means Destination) in Japanese).

Fold to Unfold was about the reflection of, or homage to the explainable phenomenon and beauty of life itself. The choreographer and the origami artist view Life itself as a piece of paper. We all go on folding and bending our lives with specific goals in mind, yet we never know what exactly is going to happen when we unfold ourselves. In the end, it may not be what we were planning for but nevertheless, it is a form.

Life is always Transformed.'

About the artists:

Yuko Harada: Yuko started her dance education in Japan. In 1998, she moved to England to study dance at the "Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance". In 2000, she started her professional career in Germany, joining the "Stadtheater Bielefeld", and in 2005 continued on to the "Staatstheater Darmstadt". In September 2006, she joined the "Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company (KCDC)" in Israel. During her 6 years stay at KCDC, she became a principal dancer, a teacher in the International Dance Village in Kibbutz Gatton, as well as led KCDC workshops and auditions abroad. As a Choreographer, She has choreographed for Junge Choreographen at Theater Bielefeld Germany in 2005, Young Choreography (Nitzotzot) Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company in 2007, 2010, 2012, and more. She was chosen to perform her own choreography - Manichimal at 10th Stuttgart Solo Theater Festival Competition in 2006. Currently, Yuko lives in India as the program adviser for the lyrical and modern dance Division of The Danceworx. She travels internationally as a dancer, choreographer, director and teacher.

Himanshu Koli: Himanshu Koli has been folding paper since childhood, he came to discover that this art of fold is called Origami. He used the internet, books, etc. to learn this art of giving life to paper. For the last 14 years, Himanshu has been creating a different new world of origami. His complex work has been exhibited internationally, featured on the cover of Fortune magazine and displayed at Leela Palace and Jindal's. He is a member of the origami club of 'Orisial India', where he is also an exhibitor. He is currently working at Paper Dragon Studio as an Origami stop motion animator.