

WOW! talks to **Ana Sneeringer**, an expat artist who held a recent show of her pop art

The art of being 'You'



ANA SNEERINGER



Her canvasses are vibrant; the common theme is women – from everywhere – difference in color, creed notwithstanding, bound by experiences, challenges, emotions and their strength. The Slovenian- American artist, currently residing in Hyderabad, Ana Sneeringer, showcased her art at F9 Test Kitchen under the title *Why Not Be You*. Women who constantly explore themselves, look within to understand themselves, have overcome their fears, became comfortable with their imperfections and those that perfectly balance various facets of their lives, and have found their real selves – they are Ana's muses.

A documentary journalist by profession, the self-taught artist uses her experiences from travelling to Jordan, Russia, USA, the Dominican Republic, Netherlands, and now India, where her encounters with women made her realize how the experiences resonated with her personal journey as a woman, and a mother to her two daughters.

Ana's latest series *Dream* is an exploration of conscious dreams. "In this series, I am coming back to the woman who is afraid to move from a point she is stuck in her life because of the fear of society that shames her to the point," she shares.

"I am a believer that when I get an idea, in the first five seconds the idea has to be caught and brought to life"

Can you share how your travels and all the women you met became your inspiration when you started painting? India is the tenth country I am living in. There was Jordan, France, Russia, the Dominican Republic, Netherlands, USA and now India plus my home country, Slovenia. I have travelled extensively too; USA (Virginia, Washington State, Alabama, New Mexico), South America (Peru, Chile, Argentina, Paraguay) and all

across Europe. If you see the countries, they are a great mixture of female independence and dependency. I've met several amazingly unique women through my life. None of them was a copy of the other.

Your stoles and t-shirts are quite popular. I am always working on some fun projects.. I started with T-shirts just because there was a lot of interest in my apparel. The project I am very proud of is called *Scarves for Life*. I developed this project purely to share the message of confidence and empowerment to women around the world..

Is Hyderabad finding space in your art? We moved to Hyderabad in 2018. Oh yes, there is so much inspiration I am getting from this beautiful city. Life here is so different from any of my previous lives, but at the same time so inspiring. I definitely developed the love for bold colors here. ■ RAJESHWARI