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WHY I LOVE ART

'It's my instant yet abstract connect with divinity'

...says artist **Laila Khan Furniturewala**

When I say art has been given to me by someone else, it may sound quizzical. But I do feel that this skill isn't my own, it's given by God to me. When I paint, I disconnect from the rest of the world and my choice of colours, strokes and the image just start to flow on its own. To me divinity has been abstract, that's why I do not title and caption my paintings. I have been painting since 15 years now. But after a gap of three years, I am now making Ganesh paintings. This lord ushers in good beginnings and I feel we all need that at every stage of our lives. I am using acrylic and god leaf to give it a hint of shimmer. In my new studio, there's a lot of light which filters in and I can see the seaface from the windows. The entire set-up is so beautiful that I paint for hours and feel energised at the end of it. There was a time when I used to feel so strongly about my works getting sold, it felt as if a piece of me is going away. But now, once I am done with the entire canvas, I detach myself. I believe that only when the old is gone, can the new begin. I am planning to do my solo show next year and I'm preparing for that day, quite excited about it too. With Ganesh Chaturthi falling this Saturday, I feel He shall transcend all barriers of religion and bring peace and happiness to all of us.

As told to Nimisha Tiwari