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A fine blend

The ***OM AND ALLAH*** art show has elements from personal experiences of Pandit Jasraj, finds

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Pandit Jasraj

This one is a show that spells out the marriage between two mediums of creativity — music and art. A host of artists get together for a calligraphy show in the city, which is a dedication in their way, to promote a sense of unity among different religious communities.

Interestingly, the art show stemmed from an incident that took place almost 10 years ago that concerned music maestro Pandit Jasraj. While Panditji confirms that memories of the incident are still fresh in his mind, gallerist Bina Aziz explains, "In this case, the law of attraction has prevailed between music and art. Pandit Jasraj has had a great influence on the entire concept we have used for our collection." Incidentally, almost 10 years ago in Toronto, while giving a concert and singing a *bandish* dedicated to the unity of different religions, the ace musician fainted on stage and describes the experience akin to a trance.

.event of the day


Unity in Diversity: (Clockwise) Art works by Achyut Palav, Laila Khan, Manisha Nayak and Jyotsna Pawale









Laila Khan who has been in the art fraternity for almost a deca-de says that while she has always been working on calligraphy, it's the first time that one of her works is also dedicated to Om — often interpreted as the sound that was created when the universe was formed. Laila says, "I have personally always been fascinated by calligraphy — it's a way of reverence. While it has always had a religious significance for me, it is the first time that I have experimented with working on Om."

Laila points out the interesting aspects of using lines, the unit of calligraphy, to create something as powerful as Allah and Om concepts that often come with religious connotations. She says, "For an artist, it is a journey of constant evolution. This period has marked intensive growth in me. My earlier shows were all about commissioned art works, but this one has come from within."

You can catch *Om and Allah* at Tradition Art Gallery, Juhu till August 21.