

Torn between memories

A Nostalgic Account Of Walking Between Two Cities - Delhi And Mumbai

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It was a beautiful evening. The air had a certain fragrance of joy and nostalgia, for I was with my friends. I hadn't seen them in a while now and it felt good to reunite and walk down the memory lane. As we continued to jostle around, one of them suddenly asked, "So, Delhi or Mumbai? Which one do you like better?" His question made me ponder, "which city did I prefer?" Delhi, the place of my childhood, or Mumbai, where I reaped the flowers of my youth?

Delhi is my childhood; it is where my story began. My first steps, my first words, my first day of school, my first friend, and so many other firsts. This city forged



me into the person I'm today. It stands today, firm and resolute, with historic sites like the India Gate, Red Fort, Humayun's Tomb, etc. Every street of this city narrates a tale of historical intrigue and individualistic pride. The city also has plethora of pop-

ular markets and cuisines, a diverse mix of tradition and modernity. Delhi is a hub of cultural bloom and diversity.

Mumbai, on the other hand, is similar in structure but different in essence. It is warm, and it welcomed a nervous teenager with

open arms. I had left my loved ones behind to study in a new city, and Mumbai made me feel like I belonged. Its beaches, autorickshaws, *vada pav*, and even *paani puri* brought out the best flavours the city had to offer. The idea of expression runs wild throughout

the city. Whether it is through painting, singing, acting etc., Mumbai is the artistic hub of the country. The iconic Prithvi Theatre, Jehangir Art Gallery, and the yearly Kala Ghoda festival are testimonies to this city's love for art and theatre. It is a city that never sleeps, a place of safety where women don't shy away from venturing out to steal a taste of nightlife. The serenity that I felt at Marine Drive was indeed profound and otherworldly.

My friend waited for an answer, but I couldn't possibly reach a verdict. They say home is where the heart is, but my heart has always been torn between these two cities - one I grew up calling home, and one I had grown to call home. In this tale of two cities, I felt like the victorious party.

Artist in the spotlight

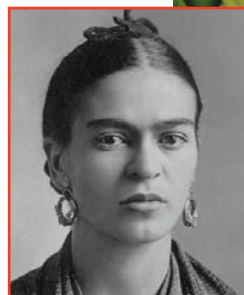
Step Into The World Of Art With Frida

Shereen Bhatia, AGS Noida, XI

The artist: Mexican artist Frida Kahlo (July 6, 1907 – July 13, 1954) was best known for painting a series of self-portraits that deal with themes of identity, human body, and even topics like death. Of her 143 paintings, 55 are self-portraits, including the masterpiece, 'Self-Portrait with Thorn Necklace and Hummingbird'. Even though she denied it in her time, Frida Kahlo is still often linked with the school of surrealism, a style that connects unrelated images and events in a strange or impossible way, like in a dream, to express what happens deep in a person's mind. Kahlo's attention to human form and its suffering can perhaps be linked to her getting injured in a bus accident at the age of 18, which caused her lifelong pain and various medical problems.

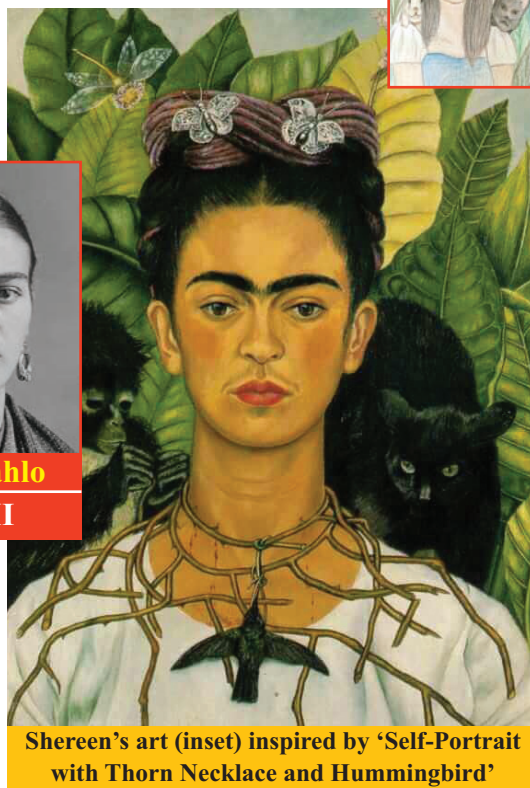
The legacy: Kahlo is remembered for being a woman who broke all social conventions. She never felt the need to fit in and her defiance against social norms will always be admirable. She achieved celebrityhood that extended far beyond Mexico's borders.

The painting: I was inspired by the above-mentioned painting because it reflects how Kahlo could use per-



Frida Kahlo

Part III



Shereen's art (inset) inspired by 'Self-Portrait with Thorn Necklace and Hummingbird'

sonal moments (in this case a bitter divorce from her artist husband Diego Rivera) to paint deeply symbolic imagery on canvas. [G](#) [I](#)

MOVIE REVIEW

Rake in that review

Movie: Arrival
Director: Denis Villeneuve
Released on: November 11, 2016
Starring: Amy Adams and Jeremy Renner
Genre: Science-fiction

Synopsis: The movie follows the landing of aliens named Heptapods on earth and the attempts by humans to study them. The story focuses on Louise Banks, a linguistics expert, who attempts to communicate with them while trying to explain her findings to other nations.

Why is it watch-worthy: Arrival explores the world of linguistics in a dynamic manner, and is carried by a stellar performance of all the actors. It is also confirmed to be accurate as several professors have stated that the depicted study of language is spot-on. Just like Louise Banks, the person watching the movie



also grows fascinated with what the aliens have to offer. The movie also features a twist ending that is bound to shock all, but simultaneously resolve doubts one might have had along the way. So, if you have an hour and 56 minutes to spare, Arrival is definitely a great watch!

Iconic dialogue: "The cornerstone of civilisation isn't language, it's science"

Rating: 3/5

Review by: Savyasachi Singh
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