

COVER STORY

THE WHOLE SIX YARDS

In April this year, Christie's sale #5331 featured a curios lot — 593, an exquisite gara sari of Indo-Persian origin.

After heated bids on the floor and over telephones, the piece hammered at an astounding 1500 pounds sterling — over one and half times the initial estimate!

The ivory Chinese satin, embroidered with a border of flowers, the field scattered with birds and flowers, was what made the sari what it is — a living legend!

But, who is insane enough to spend such princely sums for a single sari, you may ask. The answer may baffle you; maybe take you off guard even.

As baffling as it may sound, saris have long been considered bona fide collectibles, and the pool of connoisseurs far outnumbers the supply of signature pieces. There has always been a demand, and what in Bangladesh gets handed down through generations, comes up at western auction houses.

The sari has captured the world's imagination, and one that grows more dynamic with each passing day. Its story can be traced back to the Indus Valley civilisation, and it has readily accepted and generously contributed to all cultures, so much so that the debate continues — did the Greeks influence the sari, or is it the other way round. And what about the Romans? Perhaps, all!

Model: Mysha

Photo: Sazzad Ibne Sayed

Wardrobe: Tangail Saree Kutir Ltd

Blouse: Jahin Khan

Make-up: Farzana Shakil's Makeover Salon

Styling: Sonia Yeasmin Isha

Jewellery: Araaz

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