

WHEN ART WALKS AMONG US

A collaboration between Manas and Bipasha Hayat

It is not often that fashion designers collaborate with artists to create wearable art, but when Faiza Ahmed, of Manas fame, worked with Bipasha Hayat, something magical came into being. She has woven conceptual art form into the folds of high fashion, creating a series of sarees that speak a new language and move our thoughts. In her latest work, "Cast My Vote for Socrates' Acquittal", the two have made a successful collaboration, and it seems that in very simple terms, Ahmed dares to ask, "What if art didn't just hang on walls, but walked among us?"

Inspired by reflection

For over 15 years, Manas, as a brand, has been building bridges between fashion and fine arts. She has brought artworks by giants of the Bangladeshi art world like Zainul Abedin and Quamrul Hassan, and reimagined iconic imageries onto wearable forms.

The inspiration for the latest series comes from the celebrated conceptual artwork by Bipasha Hayat, which was done for the project FUTURE OF HOPE, during the upheaval of the COVID-19 pandemic, with the support of Durjoy Bangladesh Foundation.

At that time, the death of George Floyd in the USA made headline news, and Hayat saw the mass agitation take form in front



of her through the window of her Brooklyn apartment. She researched and found that both Floyd and Socrates shared the same fate — a remarkable similarity, as both their deaths were caused by human rage. It raised questions about equality and freedom in the artist's mind.

Based on that feeling, Hayat felt an urge to represent that connection in her multidimensional artwork, and the recent collaboration is, in reality, an extrapolation of that very thought.

Faiza Ahmed shared, "Art is not always a visual piece, or a matter of aesthetics. It often speaks the inner thoughts of the artists. And Manas always strives to find that

link between artists and their creations.

"I have worked with images from Bipasha Hayat's paintings and presented them on sarees. Along with lines from Bipasha Hayat herself with her signature, there is a quote in Italian by a celebrated art historian and educator, Giovanna Brambilla, who found out about Hayat's work and included it in her recent book, where she talked about this particular work."

Ahmed added, "People can wear it as an extensive stonework and also a saree with calligraphy."

Rooted in mutual respect

Bipasha Hayat expressed her deep

admiration for Faiza Ahmed's work, which is a result of research and keen observation.

She said, "Working with Faiza has been a wonderful journey. For years, Faiza Ahmed has painstakingly brought art and artists onto her subject, which is designing clothes, and I thank her for this endeavour and the attempt to bring fine art in wearable form. However, what is more important is that bringing fine art aesthetics to the common man in the best possible way, and Faiza Ahmed deserves kudos for all the research, knowledge and passion for doing that and most of all for the acknowledgement of my work".

A soulful launch

On the evening of 21 July 2025, the collaborative effort of Manas and Bipasha Hayat was inaugurated through a private launch, where Durjoy Rahman, founder of DBF, was also present. It was a soulful evening wrapped in meaning, creativity, and respect for art and artists.

In a world increasingly driven by mass replication, this collaboration stands apart for its depth and deliberateness. It reminds us that fashion can be more than beautiful — it can be soulful. And perhaps that is the quiet triumph of the Faiza Ahmed and Bipasha Hayat collection.

By Mannan Mashhur Zarif

Photo: Manas

#LIFEHACKS

Things to consider before getting a pet



Back when you were children and used to plead with your parents for a pet, the desire rose merely out of affection and the necessity for a companion. In reality, such a life-changing decision should be considered with much more attention and time. After all, you do not want to rehouse your pet after one month or abandon it on the streets.

Managing time for pets

Time, the most valuable asset of our lives, is limited, and most people nowadays can barely afford some time for themselves, let alone a puppy. For people who work a 9-to-5 job and have a side hustle afterwards, having a pet might not be the best option. Low-maintenance pet animals like fish need less time for care, but the more common ones like cats and dogs need you to accompany them.

Alternative caregiver

Let's be honest, it is not always practically possible to take pets everywhere, be it on vacation or going to a relative's house who is not a fan of furry creatures. If you are someone who travels a lot, you need someone, preferably someone well-experienced, who can look after your pet in your absence.

Pet hotels and day care centres seem to be good options, but before you make up your mind on those, do check the quality and environment of such places.

Health and hygiene issues

As most diseases can be prevented by vaccinating your pets, you are not at risk if you maintain good hygiene. If you are unfortunate to be allergic to your pets, have the mental preparation to take medications and follow proper guidelines to make sure that neither you nor your pet's health is compromised.

Pet expenses

It's like setting up a whole new budget on its own that starts from buying food to

clinical visits and grooming all down the list, which also includes some adorable accessories your heart begs you to buy for your cute companions. If you yourself have not attained financial stability, you should wait a few more years and reconsider the decision. We know how much you love cats, but sometimes you just have to show your affection by choosing what would be best for the pet's life.

Your patience level

A pet cat might not be the right one for you if you cannot tolerate the occasional scratch from them, and as for dogs, you

need to choose the proper breed if you are likely to get frustrated with cleaning their drool. Everyone adores puppies rolling in mud, having the best time of their lives, but not everyone is ready to clean up the pup afterwards.

Acceptance by family and neighbours

If you have quite a lot of pet haters in your building, owning a pet might not be the right fit for you. Trust me, if your neighbours are not nice enough, they will point out every minor inconvenience and target that at your pet. Not to mention your relatives, whose only concern would be why you give more attention to your furry companion than to your life.

Safe environment

Our homes contain many chemicals and food items that can be toxic to animals. Hence, you always need to keep an eye on your feline friend so that it does not consume that piece of chocolate you saved for yourself.

Nowadays, with the growing number of instances of animal brutality happening, a secure environment must be ensured for your pet. A pet animal cannot speak for their, unlike humans, and as a pet owner, you must make sure it feels safe and sound 24/7.

Now that you have the full checklist for pet ownership, go ahead and tick every box before welcoming your furry friend!

By Labiba Tasnim

Photo: Collected