

Pix: Rashbehari Das



DESIGNS ON YOU ▶ Falguni Bhatt Sanghvi's sculptures and installations are unique, vibrant and full of life, says Tania Bhattacharya



TRENDS

■ "What surprises me most about people decorating their homes is how much they depend on interior decorators," says Sanghvi. She points out that homes today look like boxes done up according to hackneyed trends doing the rounds. For example, an interior decorator may choose a painting for a particular wall in your home, keeping in mind the colour of the wall instead of the content of the painting.

"One rarely finds homes that are a reflection of personal tastes and desires," says the artist. In this regard, she prefers old homes that used to be exclusive spaces, reflecting the tastes of those who lived in them.

PRODUCTS

■ Currently, most of Sanghvi's works are based on the theme of space — be it buildings, open spaces such as the sky or the sea,

Creative medley

PROFILE

■ From clay, metal, cloth and paper, collages, murals and more, Falguni Bhatt Sanghvi dabbles in a vast variety of media and techniques. "I work with different media because I don't feel bound by any one form," she says.

A painter, sculptor, ceramist and installation artist, Sanghvi is all rolled into one. Her art is all about breaking stereotypes and it reflects her intense relationships with her surroundings, as well as her state of mind at a particular point in time.

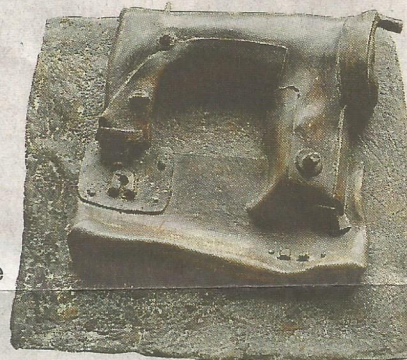
Sanghvi, 37, was born and brought up in Baroda, Gujarat. With her heart set on art, she enrolled herself at the Faculty of Fine Arts, Maharaja Sayajirao University, Baroda and completed her Bachelors and Masters degrees specialising in sculpture from there in 1999.

She decided to freelance as a visual artist instead of taking up a regular job. Along with creating customised products and installations for enthu-

After tying the knot, Sanghvi moved to Calcutta in 2008 and set up her studio, Aorang. And though her base is here, she maintains a second studio in Baroda where she retreats once in a while to concentrate on her work, or prepare for shows. "Baroda is currently India's hub for artists," says Sanghvi.

Over the last 11 years, she has zoomed past many milestones. Take for instance the four-month artists' residency scholarship in 2005 in Barcelona, Spain, and the national scholarship in art from the Indian Ministry of Culture in 1998. Sanghvi has also conducted workshops on Raku pottery (a method of ceramic firing using both fire and smoke to create patterns on clay) and terracotta sculptures.

"I seek to establish a rhythm between shadow and light, emptiness and fullness, light and dark and the rough and smooth," says Sanghvi. She believes that each of her art-



or even the inner space of her mind. However, her subjects range from figures and nature to everyday objects.

One of her 3D installations, titled *In Limbo*, made with clay, rice paper, acrylic mirrors and brass nails, is designed in the shape of a box open on one side. The acrylic mirrors on the inner walls of the box reflect the brightly painted interiors. There's also a standing open book (facing inwards) placed in the middle of the box, as well as a self-photograph that reflects against the mirror walls. A unique piece, it's priced at Rs 35,000.

Another eye-catcher is a 12-in tall sculpture named *Lost Ones*. Based on the theme of receipts in shops that are stacked together and then put away, this distinctive ceramic and steel piece, painted with acrylic colours, is tagged at Rs 15,000.

Also look out for the sculpture of a sewing machine, cast in bronze. An interesting take on the significance of textiles in a common man's life, this piece will come for Rs 25,000. Her ceramic pieces include vases, cups, saucers and wall hangings.

Sanghvi retails out of exhibitions and her studio. A recent project was creating a 250sq ft ceramic mural for Mio Amore. Pradipto Rozario's