

FILLING IN THE GAPS

A gallery in the city reopens a chapter on artist Prabhakar Barwe with an exhibition of his works and an English translation of his book, *Kora Canvas*

AMRUTA LAKHE

EVERY Friday, a group of budding artists — Dilip Ranade, Shakuntala Kulkarni, Bharati Kapadia and Prabhakar Barwe, among others — met at Milk Bar in Kala Ghoda for tea in the late '70s. They would speak passionately about art and discuss technical details such as composition, form, content and colour, and the art scene, both in India and abroad. Later, they would do a round of the galleries and end up at Vaibhav restaurant for a second round of talks. The group was called Astitva (Existence), and Barwe was at the heart of it.

Those long discussions fuelled two of Barwe's deepest interests — art and writing. He wrote meticulously and his notes form the basis of his book *Kora Canvas*, released in 1989 which was published in Marathi. Percept Art Gallery in Lower Parel will launch an English translation of the book titled *The Blank Canvas*, at the first exhibition of the artist's works since his demise in 1995.

Barwe's knowledge of art was extensive, and the task of translating the book was not easy. Shanta Gokhale, who has translated the book, says, "He did not use formal international terms such as prussian blue or burnt sienna. He used colloquial words



such as *tambda* and green chutney that had to be left untranslated." The book, *The Blank Canvas*, has 29 essays by Barwe that question form, space, inspiration, beauty, colours, experience and emotion.

Barwe was born in a family of artists in Nagaon. His grandfather, sculptor Vinayak Pandurang Karmarkar, encouraged him to enrol at JJ School of Art. In the early '60s, he joined the Mumbai branch of Weavers Design Service Centre, a government organisation that provided employment in the textile industry. He was later transferred to Varanasi. "Those phases had a distinct influence on his style," says Jesal Thacker, who has curated the show.



(From top left) Prabhakar Barwe; *Blue Aura* by Barwe is characterised by his love for empty spaces; his painting *Eight Five Safety Pins* explores the simple mechanics behind a safety pin; *The Box*

Barwe would pick up any object lying around the house — fruits, vegetables or old watches — and would spend hours studying its form and structure. He would often come back with a blade of grass or a dried leaf and would see a form within it. These objects would often materialise in his work. Barwe was also drawn towards the way science and art overlapped. For instance, in his work *Eight Five Safety Pins*, he talks of how a safety pin changes its form when it is locked

and unlocked.

He took long walks or hopped into a bus, observing his fellow passengers, their movements and the surrounding. Barwe shares the experiences of these small journeys in the book.

As Barwe's knowledge of art expanded, so did his love for writing. He was significantly influenced by artists Paul Klee and Jasper Johns, and the writings of Tukaram. "Just like a human needs space to breathe, form

needs space too," he wrote. He put this equation to practice in his works which were characterised by empty spaces. His stark and minimalist paintings reiterated his belief of creating an experience without distractions. Though Barwe was called a symbolist abstractionist, art critic Ranjit Hoskote wouldn't call him so. "Barwe was a remarkable man who didn't fit into any labels," he says. "The surrealism in his work is understated," Hoskote says.

In one of the testimonials, MF Husain said there were only two genius painters in India, Gaitonde and Barwe. But Barwe, unlike his contemporaries such as Ambadas, Gaitonde and Samant, did not receive the recognition he deserved because of his untimely death in 1995 at the age of 59.

Though Barwe was not forgotten, says Hoskote, his work deserves a comeback. Thacker believes that the artist's paintings that previously sold from anywhere between Rs 1.5 lakh to Rs 18 lakh are worth much more today.

amruta.lakhe@expressindia.com



Dana Gillespie

Time to Boogie

Simply The Blues festival returns with boogie-woogie singer Dana Gillespie and pianist Joachim Palden

LEGENDARY blues and boogie-woogie singer, Dana Gillespie will be performing at Simply The Blues, a two-city blues music festival this December. The festival, which debuted last year, will return to St Andrews Auditorium, Bandra, on December 8 following a show in Bangalore on December 7.

With over 60 albums to her credit, Gillespie has played alongside music legends such as Bob Dylan, Mick Jagger, and Jimmy Page. Gillespie has been nominated as the 'Top Female Blues Vocalist' in the UK for three years in a row by a blues magazine and is an inductee into the British Blues Hall of Fame. She will be joined by her long-time collaborator, Joachim Palden, a popular boogie-woogie pianist in the European circuit. Luke Kenny, festival director says, "Boogie-woogie as a blues

style has not had exposure to Indian blues fans, and in Joachim Palden, we have a world-class artist."

This however isn't Gillespie's first India visit. A devotee of spiritual leader Sathya Sai Baba, Gillespie has not only performed several times at his ashram in Puttaparthi in Andhra Pradesh, but has also recorded multiple bhajan-based albums in Sanskrit — under the pseudonym Third Man. The upcoming event, that will mark Gillespie's first blues performance in the country, will also provide stage to Indian blues musicians such as Samantha Edwards, who was recently featured on MTV's *Coke Studio*, bassist Karl Peters and Benny Soans, who has been on the Mumbai music scene for over three decades.

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mumbai.newsline@
expressindia.com

Man-made Wonder

Jason Lewis, the first person to circumnavigate the globe without using motor or sail, shares anecdotes from his journey

VIDYA PRABHU

IT'S not often that a person suspected of espionage ends up getting a gift from the intelligence official in charge of the interrogation. But then again, there's a lot about Jason Lewis that falls outside the realm of convention. Back in 2007, he was apprehended by the Egyptian military intelligence for crossing into Egyptian waters from Sudan on his kayak. Upon finding a GPS system and scores of photographs in his rucksack, the Egyptian military official grilled him for two days straight, not letting him sleep even for a minute. "Fortunately for me, my Egyptian visa papers came in after two days, confirming that I was an explorer and not a spy. The officer and I then exchanged tokens with each other: I gave him a *khukhri* (a traditional Nepali knife) while he gifted me a camel whip," recalls Lewis.

This incident is one of many for the 46-year-old explorer who is the first man to circumnavigate the globe without using motor or sail. On October 6, 2007, Lewis went on to complete his 13-year-expedition travelling 74,842 km. "I set out in 1994 from Greenwich, London, and covered distances through walking, cycling, inline skating, kayaking, swimming, rowing, and pedalling a boat across rivers, seas, and oceans," says the British adventurer, who was recently in Mumbai as an ambassador for Johnnie Walker Blue Label.

This is not his first visit to the country. In 2006, he biked from Kathmandu to Gorakhpur and then



Jason Lewis biked his way from Kathmandu in Nepal (as seen here) to Gorakhpur in India

to Nagpur and Mumbai as part of his feat. "The India leg of the trip was an eye-opener. On one hand, I had to brandish a knife to protect my belongings from getting stolen in Gorakhpur and at the same time, I was overwhelmed by the hospitality offered by the town's gurudwara. I visited St Thomas Cathedral in Mumbai where my grandparents got married," he says.

He also plans to talk about sustainability. "Flying in an aeroplane is an unnatural act to me. Travelling should be about adapting to the changing temperature and terrain as opposed to shunting through time and space," he says.

For a person who often thought

he would not make the world record — once a drunk driver ran over his legs and later when the counter-current in the Pacific Ocean kept pushing his pedal-powered boat Moksha back to where he'd started — Lewis is happy with the way his life has turned out.

"I may have missed out on a normal life during my 13-year-expedition, but the journey has made me who I am today," he says. He's planning another trip soon. "This one is going to cover North and South America. I might also set out on an India trip in the future — there's still so much I haven't seen here," he says.

vidya.prabhu@expressindia.com

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF 'PAAN SINGH TOMAR' & 'SAHEB BIWI AUR GANGSTER'

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SOUTH MUMBAI

INOX Nariman Point, 10:00 a.m., 4:10, 7:20, 10:30 p.m. | METRO BIG CINEMAS Marine Lines, 9:45, 10:45 a.m., 12:45, 3:45, 6:45, 9:30, 10:30 p.m. | STERLING CST, 1:15, 4:15, 10:15 p.m. | NEW EMPIRE CST, 3:45, 6:45, 9:45 p.m. | NEW EXCELSIOR CST, 1:00 p.m. | ROXY Opera House, 1:30 p.m. | MARATHA MANDIR Mumbai Central, 6:15, 9:15 p.m. | DREAMLAND E SQUARE Grant Road, 12:30, 6:30, 10:00 p.m. | ALANKAR Gol Deval, 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00 p.m. | STAR CINEMA Mazgaon, 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00 p.m. | PREMIERE GOLD Sandhurst Road, 12:00, 10:00 p.m. | PVR PHOENIX HILLS Lower Parel, 9:45 a.m., 12:55, 4:05, 7:15, 10:30 p.m. | JAI HIND MUKTA AZ CINEMA Lalbaug, 10:15 a.m., 4:15, 10:15 p.m.

WESTERN SUBURBS

PLAZA Dadar, 10:00 p.m. | MOVIE TIME STARGITY Matunga, 10:00 p.m. | CITYLIGHT Matunga, 1:45 p.m. | PARADISE SQUARE Mahim, 9:30 p.m. | CINEMAX KALANAGAR Bandra, 1:00 p.m. | GEM Bandra, 6:30, 9:30 p.m. | GALAXY Bandra, 12:15, 3:15, 6:15 p.m. | GEM Bandra, 11:45 a.m., 2:30, 5:15, 8:00, 10:30 p.m. | MOVIE TIME SUBURBIA Bandra | SUN CITY Vile Parle, 2:15, 7:45 p.m. | PVR Juhu, 9:35 a.m., 12:05, 5:35, 8:05 p.m. | CHANDAN Juhu, 10:00 a.m., 3:45 p.m. | SANGAM BIG CINEMAS Andheri, 10:15 a.m., 3:45, 6:45, 9:45 p.m. | CINEMAX Andheri-E, 1:00 p.m. | CINEMAX INFINITI MALL Versova, 9:00 a.m., 1:00, 4:15, 7:30, 10:40 p.m. | PVR CITI MALL Andheri, 10:15 a.m., 12:5, 7:45, 11:00 p.m. | FUN CINEMAS Andheri, 10:10 a.m., 4:30, 7:40, 10:50 p.m. | 24 KARAT Jogheshwari, 11:55 a.m., 4:15, 7:15, 10:15 p.m. | CINEMAX Goregaon, 9:30 a.m., 3:45 p.m. | PVR Goregaon East, 9:45 a.m., 12:55, 7:20, 10:30 p.m. | MOVIE TIME HUB Goregaon, 10:30 a.m., 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30 p.m. | INOX INORBIT MALL Malad, 9:40 a.m., 12:50, 4:00, 7:10, 10:20 p.m. | CINEMAX Malad, 12:30 a.m., 1:30, 4:40, 7:30, 10:40 p.m. | MOVIE TIME Malad, 1:00, 4:00, 10:00 p.m. | KASTURBA Malad, 12:30 p.m. | CINEMAX GROWEL Kandivali-E, 9:45 a.m., 12:45, 4:00, 10:45 p.m. | INOX Kandivali, 9:00 a.m., 1:05, 7:10, 10:10 p.m. | THAKUR MY CINEMA Kandivali, 1:30 p.m. | KULRAJ BROADWAY Borivali, 9:00, 11:15 a.m., 2:25, 5:15, 8:10, 10:45 p.m. | SONA GOLD Borivali, 1:00 p.m. | DIAMOND Borivali | MOVIE TIME Dahisar, 10:00 a.m., 7:00 p.m. | INOX THAKUR MALL Dahisar, 10:20 a.m., 1:40, 7:25, 10:30 p.m. | CINEMAX Mira Road, 11:20 a.m., 2:30, 5:30, 10:00 p.m. | RAASAZ Mira Road, 9:00 a.m., 2:30, 5:15, 8:15, 10:45 p.m. | MAXUS Bhayandar, 10:00 a.m., 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00 p.m. | KULRAJ BROADWAY Vasai, 9:00 a.m., 2:35, 5:15, 8:10, 10:45 p.m. | K.T VISION Vasai, 10:00 a.m., 12:45, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30 p.m. | K-MOVIESTAR MULTIPLEX Vasai, 10:15 a.m., 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15 p.m. | DATTANI DIGIPLEX Vasai, 10:15 a.m., 1:00, 4:30, 9:00, 10:30 p.m. | PARVATI Vasai, 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30 p.m. | FUN FIESTA Nalasopara, 9:30 a.m., 3:30, 6:30, 9:30 p.m. | WOODLAND Virar, 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30 p.m. | K.T VISION Boisar, 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30 p.m. | CHITRALAYA Boisar, 12:15, 3:15, 6:15, 9:15 p.m. | PRAKASH Palghar | GOLD CINEMA Palghar, 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30 p.m. | CHANDRA Daharu Rd, 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30 p.m. | ABHISHEK KUDUS | GANESH MOVIE MAX Daharu

CENTRAL SUBURBS

PREMIERE Dadar, 6:30, 9:30 p.m. | SHARDA Dadar, 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00 p.m. | IMAX BIG CINEMAS Wadala, 12:30, 3:30, 7:30, 10:30 p.m. | CINEMAX Sion, 10:30 a.m., 1:30, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15 p.m. | PVR PHOENIX MARKETCITY Kurla, 9:45 a.m., 12:55, 4:05, 7:15, 10:30 p.m. | K-SERVA SERVA MULTIPLEX Kurla, 11:00 a.m., 1:30, 5:00, 8:00 p.m. | KALPANA Kurla, 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30 p.m. | MAXUS NAKA Andheri, 10:00 a.m., 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00 p.m. | INOX NEELYOG Ghatkopar, 9:45 a.m., 4:00, 7:05, 10:10 p.m. | BIG CINEMAS R-CITY MALL Ghatkopar, 10:30 a.m., 12:45, 1:30, 3:45, 4:30, 6:45, 7:30, 9:30, 10:30 p.m. | CINEMAX Ghatkopar, 10:45 a.m., 1:15, 4:45, 10:30 p.m. | MAX MOVIES Vikhroli, 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30 p.m. | HUMA BIG CINEMA Kanjurmarg, 10:45 a.m., 1:45, 7:15, 10:15 p.m. | KULRAJ BROADWAY Bhandup, 9:00, 11:45 a.m., 2:30, 5:15, 8:00, 10:45 p.m. | CINEPOLIS NEPTUNE MAGNET MALL Bhandup, 10:00, 11:00 a.m., 12:05, 3:55, 6:00, 9:50 p.m. | R-BIG CINEMAS Mulund, 11:00 a.m., 3:30, 7:30, 10:30 p.m. | PVR Mulund, 9:45 a.m., 12:55, 4:05, 7:15, 10:30 p.m. | MEHUL Mulund, 12:30, 9:30 p.m. | FUN CINEMAS Chembur, 10:15 a.m., 1:10, 4:15, 7:20, 10:30 p.m. | SAHAKAR PLAZA Chembur, 12:00, 9:15 p.m. | AMAR CINEMA Thane, 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30 p.m. | ASHISH Chembur, 12:15, 9:15 p.m. | CINEMAX ETERNITY MALL Thane, 11:00 a.m., 2:00, 5:15, 10:45 p.m. | CINEMAX WONDERMALL Thane, 10:20 a.m., 1:15, 7:00, 10:00 p.m. | INOX KORUM MALL Thane, 9:45 a.m., 4:10, 7:20, 10:30 p.m. | CINEMAX STAR Thane, 9:10, 10:30 a.m., 12:00, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30 p.m. | GOLD CINEMA Thane, 4:00 p.m. | JINAND Thane, 12:15, 3:15, 6:15, 9:15 p.m. | VANDANA Thane, 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30 p.m. | AALISHAN Mumbra, 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30 p.m. | TILAK CINEPLEX Dombivli, 9:45 a.m., 12:30, 3:30, 9:30 p.m. | SMS SARVODAYA MALL Kalyan, 9:30 a.m., 12:30, 3:30, 6:45, 9:45 p.m. | INOX METRO JUNCTION MALL Kalyan, 10:45 a.m., 1:50, 3:30, 7:35, 9:40, 10:40 p.m. | CINEMAX Kalyan, 7:45 a.m. | BHARU GOLD Kalyan, 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30 p.m. | BIG CINEMAS FUN CITY Ulhasnagar, 10:30 a.m., 1:15, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00 p.m. | ASHOK-ANIL MULTIPLEX Ulhasnagar, 10:00 a.m., 12:45, 2:30, 3:30, 5:15, 6:30, 7:55, 10:15, 10:30 p.m. | SAPNA Ulhasnagar, 12:30, 3:30 p.m. | STAR BIG CINEMAS Ambarnath, 10:00 a.m., 12:30, 2:00, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30, 10:30 p.m. | HASEEN BHIWANI | RATAN BHIWANI, 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30 p.m. | JHANKAR Bhiwandi | BROADWAY PURNA Bhiwandi, 12:45, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00 p.m. | KRANTI Murbad, 12:00, 3:00, 9:00 p.m.

NAVI MUMBAI

INOX RAGHULEELA Vashi, 9:00, 10:30 a.m., 1:10, 4:15, 7:20, 10:35 p.m. | CINEMAX Vashi, 10:15 a.m., 4:30, 10:00 p.m. | BIG CINEMAS Vashi, 10:45 a.m., 4:15, 7:15, 10:15 p.m. | MEGHRAJ Vashi, 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30 p.m. | APNA CINEMA Khandeshwar, 12:30, 3:00, 9:00 p.m. | BIG CINEMAS Kharghar, 10:15 a.m., 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15 p.m. | MAX CINEMAS Kharghar, 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30 p.m. | INOX GLOMAX MALL Kharghar, 9:25 a.m., 3:15, 7:00, 10:10 p.m. | VAISHALI Badliapur, 11:45 a.m., 3:00, 6:00, 9:15 p.m. | RUPALI MAGIC Panvel, 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00 p.m. | FUN SQUARE Sarpada, 12:30, 3:30, 9:15 p.m. | MAHESH Nerul, 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00 p.m. | BALAJI CINEPLEX Koperkhairane, 12:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30 p.m. | CINEMAX Nerul, 12:15, 3:15, 6:15, 9:15 p.m. | MOHESHWAR BIG CINEMAS Pen, 6:15, 9:30 p.m. | SAI CINEMA Nagthane, 12:00, 3:00, 9:00 p.m. | DREAM Talasari, 12:45, 3:45, 6:45, 9:45 p.m. | GANDHI Mahad | OM BRAHMA AILBAUG | CINEBUS NEELKAMAL Lonavala, 10:15 a.m., 3:45, 6:45, 9:45 p.m. | TRIOS CINEMAS Lonavala, 3:00, 6:30, 9:15 p.m.