

Reminiscing : Inspired by the past

Anuj Kanojia, F.Y.B.A.

I've liked the midas touch of sunlight through glass windows; this is what I feel when I lay down before going to bed, and how I feel it deeply.

The human psychology blended with spiritually is something I've always portrayed through what I create - my designs, my poems, my art and the emotions behind them.

I love to see how people interpret my work and what it means to them - how their stream of consciousness would discover a nostalgic pill which they can swallow with every emotion they feel behind it. To me it's like telling a story, with aspects and parts unique to each.

"The most creative expression comes from the purest hearts" - I couldn't agree more. I remember a friend telling me this. I have a section in my notes app on my phone where I have quotes, one liners, or even words, my own poems that I wrote which help-

ed me pacify my turbulent emotions at that moment. Each with a date and time besides it. A while ago it hit me that I've journaled twice as much this year compared to last year and I realized how important it was for me to reflect. This process of writing was a cathartic healing to me and I can see it reflected through my doodles which I draw at the last pages in my books, out of where the lines and strokes would take me and if I would ever feel that is it a 'complete' drawing

My perceptive style has heavy inspiration from the Psyche of the mind and spiritualism but in a way which has stayed true to my experiences, some from my dreams or places of fantasies - my imagination bubble; cosplay or even etherealism where I like to escape temporarily - like an otherworldly Traveler asking a person the chicken and the egg story.

In the month of February I remember writing another quote when I was

taking a walk and listening to music. It really separated the whites and blacks making me look at life in a more greyscale view and justifying that which I've been feeling. The quote is -

'How could I listen to the world when your heartbeat was louder to me'. Here 'you' refers to me and all the parts of me throughout the years who felt the need to protect myself, provide me a safe space before anyone else and I knew that "to love myself" is somewhere in there. I'm glad to be filling parts of me which represent me, which I once thought were empty voids.

Although there are specific people in my life who inspire me, there's this common energy that a person can bring about themselves that I truly respect. The transparency, the rawness, the way they carry themselves reflects the beauty in their soul. An identity unique to their own expres-

sion and the steps they take which make their own path a road to walk on. I admire people out there who encourage and make one feel allowed to feel human, valid to feel their own emotions in their vulnerable skin.

I have deep compassion and gratitude towards authentic communication. I'm not looking for everything glittery and sparkly and bejeweled, but someone who's purely dedicated to their own gifts - to share it with the world and exhibit how much love they have for their creation. A heart which gives them their inner strength for their inner child to freely express it to the world.

Witnessing this fills me with happiness and positivity. This energy is very contagious to me- which flows effortlessly through one's heart. I see people wishing to view this world as a better place where one can feel free and I see mine to lay a lasting imprint before the energy has changed its directions.

Humans Inspired

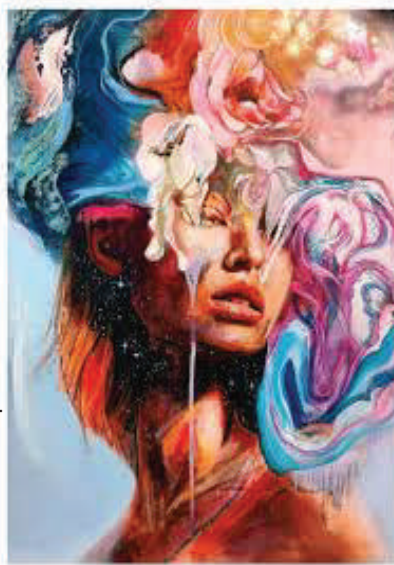
Aryan Yadav, S.Y.B.A.

The poet Frank O'Hara in his poem 'having a coke with you' lists having to do the mundane task with the person he loves. His inspiration is derived from the greatest emotion humans are capable of, love. Love has inspired countless poets in writing their poems. Poetry is often regarded as being shaped by love, whether it may be a poet's love for someone they are writing for or whether it be the love of writing the poem itself. It's no easy task to write a poem, thus a poet often requires that strong emotion to complete his work. After all it is the love for their profession that makes a writer, actor or anyone indeed great in those fields.

Speaking of mundane things Frank would love to do, even ordinary regular things have been a source of inspiration for many. The music producer Finneas is known for incorporating the regular everyday sounds into his music. One such example could be the use of a street sign countdown in Australia being used as a rhythmic beginning for the song 'Bury a Friend' which he produced. Another artist named Charlie Puth just recently released a song titled 'Light Switch' as the title suggests the inspiration for

the song came to him after the light switch, something that is pretty ordinary. An oil painting by Dutch Golden Age painter Johannes Vermeer, Girl with a Pearl Earring is often regarded as the art of mundane.

While reading the works of Charles Dickens, one can always imagine themselves with those characters, that's the ode to Dickens' skill of writing but also to the environment he creates with those ink. Even while reading works of James Joyce you get engulfed into the environment, the town, village whatever he depicted. In his Ulysses he has extensively portrayed the city of Dublin. He has been quoted as saying that if anything ever happens to Dublin the one can rebuild the city with his works alone. That city where he grew up in thus had inspired one of the greatest novels ever written. Places have long been a source of artistic inspirations, the city of Paris is known to be land of artistry, where many move to get



inspired. It won't be difficult for any reader to find a poem that alludes to the natural world around us. Nature has been the inspirational zest in many poets' works, from Robert Frost to Rabindranath Tagore. I distinctly remember a poem by Tagore where he sat down upon the garden grass while a storm was underway in the evening sky as he wrote about all this in his poem. The weather inspired him to pen down his words and so did he, inspired by the nature that surrounded him. Artists from the classical to contemporaries have often found their muse in nature. Countless paintings of landscapes depicting the natural world are to be found in art galleries all across this world. Nature has its way to inspire the art and the artist. One such prime example could be Vincent van Gogh's 'The Starry Night', which portrays the night sky.

When Vincent painted the starry night he was under treatment for depres-

sion and had recently mutilated his ear. It has sometimes been said that art comes from pain and suffering. As both are the common company of man. Vincent while suffering still chooses to depict the beauty of the world, like 'Starry Night Over the Rhône'. Sylvia Plath, who also struggled with depression in her own life, would go on to write poems that became major works in the literary world. So we are humans inspired by the beauty of nature, love, pain and even regular everyday life.

Franz Kafka who himself suffered from depressive thoughts and an imperfect childhood uses those factors as influence in his works. His feelings of powerlessness in front of his father, with whom he has a troubled relationship, has been a motivator to many of his character traits. His works are a guide to some very dark feelings most of us know well, concerned with powerlessness, self-disgust and anxiety. This literary genius turned the stuff of nightmares into redemptive consoling art.

So we are humans inspired by the beauty of nature, love, pain and even regular everyday life.

Van Gogh and His Muse

Gaurav Rawat, F.Y.B.A.

At the mention of Vincent van Gogh (Dutch, 1853–1890) one of the first things likely to come to many people’s minds is the fact that he cut off his own ear. This stark act, committed in 1888, marked the beginning of the depression that would plague him. But to know van Gogh is to get past the caricature of the tortured, misunderstood artist and to become acquainted instead with the hard-working, deeply religious, and difficult man. Van Gogh found his place in art and produced emotional, visually arresting paintings over the course of a career that lasted only a decade.

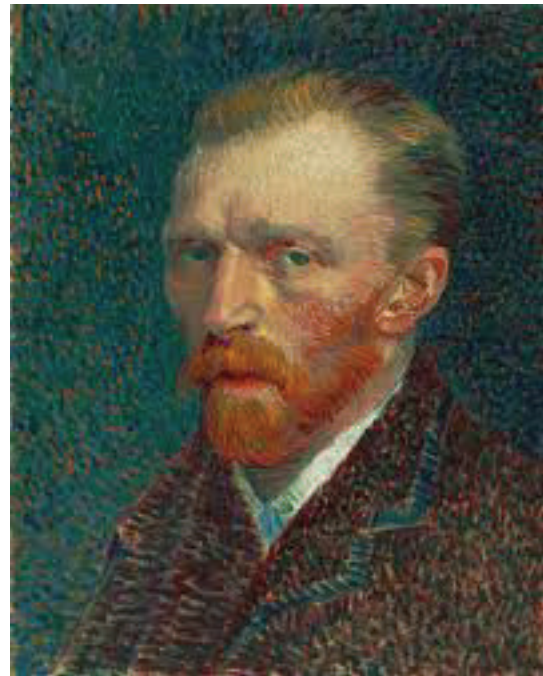
In the aftermath, Van Gogh voluntarily admitted himself to the Saint-Paul-de-Mausole lunatic asylum on 8 May 1889. Housed in a former monastery, Saint-Paul-de-Mausole catered to the wealthy and was less than half full when Van Gogh arrived, allowing him to occupy not only a second-story bedroom but also a ground

-floor room for use as a painting studio. During the year Van Gogh stayed at the asylum in Saint-Rémy-de-Provence, the prolific output of paintings he had begun in Arles continued. During this period, he produced some of the best-known works of his career, including the *Irises* from May 1889, now in the J. Paul Getty Museum, and the blue self-portrait from September, 1889, in the Musée d'Orsay.

In 1886, van Gogh moved to Paris, where he encountered the works of the Impressionists and Neo-Impressionists, and the Pointillist compositions of Georges Seurat. Inspired by these artists’ harmonious matching of colors, shorter brushstrokes, and liberal use of paint, he brightened his own palette and loosened his brushwork, emphasizing the physical application of paint on the canvas. The style he developed in Paris and carried through to the end of his life became known as Post-Impressionism,

a term encompassing works made by artists unified by their interest in expressing their emotional and psychological responses to the world through bold colors and expressive.

Largely self-taught, van Gogh produced more than 2,000 oil paintings, watercolors, drawings, and sketches, which became in demand only after his death. He also wrote scores of letters, especially to his brother Theo in which he worked out his thoughts about art. “This morning I saw the countryside from my



window a long time before sunrise, with nothing but the morning star, which looked very big,” wrote van Gogh to his brother Theo, describing his inspiration for one of his best-known paintings. In his letters he wrote “Always continue walking a lot and loving

nature, for that’s art better and better,” and “Painters understand nature and love it, and teach us to see.” He found his inspiration in nature and everyday normal life. He made keen observations and portrayed them in his art on his canvas.

Art and It’s Need for Muse

Oorja Pawaskar, F.Y.B.A.

Art inspires & in turn it has been inspired by something or someone. A muse is a source of inspiration for an artist, be it an artist of music, an artist of cooking or an artist of sculpting. To create art, inspiration & ideas are the foundation. The word dates back to when Zeus’s daughters formed the nine muses of science & art.

Artists & muse is a relationship that has flourished & romanticized over the centuries mainly by the art world. In the beginning, a muse mostly meant a beautiful woman posing for hours while a man tried to capture her essence via his art. This idea is still maintained partly because the

concept was delivered to us through the male gaze from the beginning. Being a muse on the other hand was never an easy feat & was much sacrifice. Many muses lacked the space to create, sacrificed time tending to the needs of the artist & were vastly underestimated as creative beings.

We don’t tend to hear of many contemporary artists talking about muses these days, so is the concept of the past now? But rightfully so, the traditional meaning has changed. Centuries of imbalanced storytelling romanticized the notion of an artist and his muse. When at first it was the ho-

arding of power, now it should be about the collaboration & exchange of power between an artist and their muse.

Painters don’t claim muses until painting begins to take itself as seriously as poetry. It is quite common for artists to seek ingenuity, creativity, and inspiration outside of themselves. It was apparent that whenever a woman created something lasting and creatively important, society put too much effort into dismissing her talents and lowering her status to an enduring classic – Muse. With the likes of Elisabeth Siddal and Victorien Meurent as examples, classifying women as just mu-

se while men as artists had hindered the art world greatly.

A muse should be taken seriously and in its simplest form, as inspiration. As something that inspires and breeds art in its purest form. Regardless of gender roles and traditional notions, the world now has realised the importance and the need for a muse in our daily lives. Everyone tends to have a muse regardless of what they plan on doing with that inspiration. The beauty is that almost every living and non living object inspires and molds our ideas which gives birth to art that is fresh and breathtaking.

The Birth of All Instincts

Sneha More, F.Y.B.A.

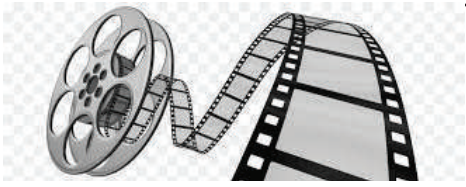
I am my own muse,
I am the subject I know best
The subject I want to know better”
— Frida Kahlo

Today when every one of us wants to chase our dreams and wants success it is important to have a clear perception and a powerful muse. Muse or inspiration plays a major part in building our future and one should always find the right personality who inspires them. Your dream is the home that you’re constructing and the inspiration is the foundation that needs to be powerful enough to hold your dreams together. As Edwin Tan says “it is not where you start but where you finish that matters”. Your inspiration is alw-

ays a fresh start and the right inspiration can be a divine force forging wonders whereas the wrong insight can cause the downfall. Over history, it is seen that one single inspiration can either create great minds that have helped this human civilization grow or can cause destruction and wars. Inspiration can be manipulative and so one should always be very careful when choosing. Adolf Hitler was a powerful influence on the Germans; many were inspired by him and followed him blindly. This was because of his manipulative inspirational skills that led to the world wars distributing many homes and a nation as a whole. The word muse comes from the Latin word meaning to breathe. So when a dedicated per-

son finds their muse (inspiration) they breathe through it. They make the inspiration their sole goal and try to be like the person who has inspired them. Inspiration can give you a new life only if one is ready to do the hard work and dedicate the efforts and time to achieve it. It acts as the main source of creativity. Studies show that inspired people think more effectively and their level of creativity is higher. They can perform way more than their potential and come up with many new ideas. Being in a state of inspiration also predicts the creativity of writing samples like poetry, and fiction. Inspired writers are more productive and are likely to write more and take fewer breaks. Inspiration and creativity go hand in hand.

One may not be creative if they don’t find a source of inspiration. For some people, inspiration matters a lot. They are always under pressure to be exactly like them. By the end they burn out their energy and all their efforts. As much as inspiration is an intrinsic value but some small gestures can even inspire others. Inspirational people believe in themselves and have self-confidence, handle difficult situations smoothly and are responsible. It should be kept in mind that your inspiration is just insight and a push for you to create something for yourself, something that you are proud of. Inspiration cannot be forced; it comes from the inside, from within.



THE VEHEMENT VOICE

Sneha More, F.Y.B.A.

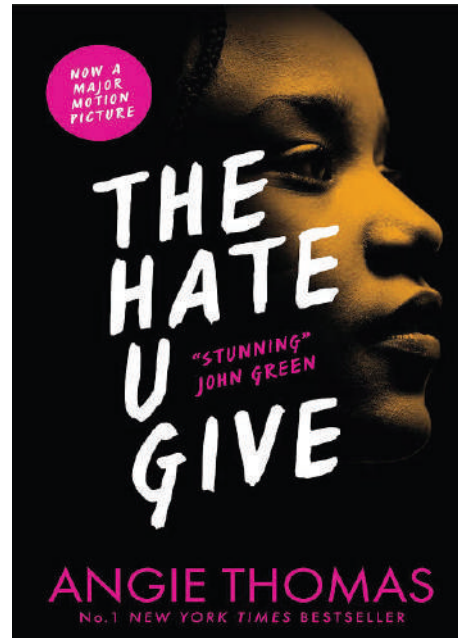
“What’s the point of having a voice if you’re gonna be silent in those moments you shouldn’t be?”

Star Carter, a sixteen-year old African American girl finds herself stuck between two different worlds that are very distinct from one another. Garden Heights is a small neighborhood for all the black people of the city. For others it is a dark world where all the illegal business takes place very frequently. But for Star, it is her home. She attends the Williamson Prep private school which is predominantly white and wealthy. Star feels like she is in the intersectional space trying to switch and fit between these two worlds.

The story begins with Star going to a spring party where she reconnects with her childhood best friend Khalil. Khalil insists on giving her a ride home and on their way they are pulled over by a white police officer. Khalil gets into an argument with the cop. In a fit of rage the officer shoots Khalil and Star watches her best friend die in front of her eyes. This incident turns her life upside down and the scenario changes. The book shows a sudden transformation in her. She is no m-

ore a quiet girl who is afraid to raise her voice against the wrong. Khalil’s death becomes major national news and the media portrays him as a drug dealer in order to favor the white policeman. Stars is a witness but this is kept a secret for a long time and this secret and the balance between the two worlds keeps weighing on her. Later she agrees to be interviewed by two detectives. Soon Garden Heights erupts with riots demanding justice for Khalil and many others. This forces Star to come out in the light; she even gets distant from her school friends and all of this causes a lot of mix up in her life.

In my opinion, the protests and riots never brought Khalil back but it changed many lives and most importantly it ended King V’s rule in Garden Heights completely. For me this book is remarkable because it’s a response to the Black Lives Matter movement. While reading this book I felt I was drowning in an ocean of emotions; there was frustration, anger, hurt and it was overwhelming. In my opinion, Khalil wasn’t a perfect kid but he didn’t deserve to die. Many people may say that it was wrong to argue with the cop or justify it by saying



that he was a drug dealer but the problem wasn’t this. Khalil, like many others, was an unarmed black man. Even if it was some other person in his place the situation wouldn’t have made a huge difference. It wasn’t the white cop who pulled the trigger but it was the hate against the black community which the latter have been facing for a long time now. What I liked most about the book is that the author has provided a vivid perspective of family dynamics. The father who had a hard past tries becoming a better man for the family, siblings who may fight but stick together in difficult ti-

mes and the couple trying to protect their kids from the cruel attitude of society. Angie Thomas also touches on the effect of some “harmless comments” that can have a huge impact on oneself. The book is a perfect example of society and the media that portrays the victim as a villain. The book brings so much life in the emotions and the story line makes you feel the reality. It also covers the political criticism, favoritism, police brutality and discrimination. Towards the end it was very moving and it was hard for me to accept the harsh truth that some people can go to such limits and let the hate cloud their minds. It’s sad that such people exist among us and they are so blinded by the cruel faith that has consumed them as whole. The plot of this story was inspired by the real-life police shooting of an unarmed black man. I would recommend this book to every young adult as they say we are the future. It has made me aware about the current issues and educated me about various sensitive matters. The book taught me how right it is for us to raise our voice against injustice. It will make us realize that words become important only if you stand by it firmly and strongly.

CALIBRE CORNER

Q. What inspires you?

Aniruddha Chaube, TYBA

A. Inspiration itself is quite a vague yet powerful word. A person can be inspired by many things or none at all. For me however inspiration is a form of encouragement and that little push which makes me work efficiently. My inspiration derives from human history itself because that is the one source of unfiltered knowledge which teaches me through the cumulative experiences of our ancestors about how to be an optimum human, the mistakes made by them help us learn how to live today so that we don’t repeat the same and with each passing generation we grow to be better and more harmonious.

Pratiksha Mishra, FYBA

A. Well this is a very easy and tough question. When one knows oneself and one's passion it is very easy to answer...but what if one doesn't? The answer to this question varies person to person. Sometimes what inspires you is not necessarily you would likely to do. for eg:- After watching any patriotic movie like Soldier or Border or Baby or Holiday etc, being an Indian I get goosebumps and get excited to do some-

thing for my country but after even a couple of hours, all of my energy gets settle down.

So, “Inspiration” itself is a universe ...and it is really important to understand, what kind of inspiration you are carrying? Is it temporary or from your inner self? Firstly identify it and then even if it is from your inner self, it needs nourishment.

Nourishment comes from more and more information about the thing you are inspired about, practice and dedication.

So to answer this question, I get inspired from everything and nothing at the same time, as it is something that is influenced by my thinking and the way I have a perspective on life.

Aditi Jadhav, SYBA

A. Cosmos has always appealed to me during the darkest parts of my life. Its mystery and magic fascinates me and nothing can be more inspiring knowing the fact that you are a part of this magic. Life gave me a gift of desire and satisfaction and the key to unlock this gift is inspiration. Anything and everything can be an inspiration for me, be it my environment, role models, family, friends, even foes. It all depends on the perception and concept of self. Inspira-

tion can be found anywhere with a right perspective, if you are aware of your desires. I believe in myself and this life, which makes it easier for me to respect and be grateful for everything and use it as an inspiration.

Devki Natu, TYBA

A. I have always viewed life as a big novel with many chapters. But when the ending of each chapter is near, I am reminded of all plots that could have transpired differently. To keep going, I take refuge in a verse of my favourite Bengali song, which goes "Jodi tor dak sue ne kyu na ashe, tobe ekla cholo rey" - meaning - "If no one answers your call, walk alone without being afraid." Continuity of life is what intrigues me. Whatever happens, the sun rises and sets everyday, the wind keeps blowing and the water keeps flowing. When I am disappointed, I recall the quote of one of my favorite authors, Randy Pausch - "experience is what you get when you did not get what you want". The quest for the supreme truth, the pursuit of higher echelons of intelligence and the humility and kindness of fellow humans is what I thrive upon. Inspiration is thus a daily ritual for me.

Gaurav Rawat, FYBA

A. There are many things that usually inspire me, but one such particular thing I would say is poetry. Poetry

Tanvi Raiththa, T.Y.B.A.

Aryan Yadav, S.Y.B.A.

is almost a social Commentary on every aspect of human life, tangible or not, it helps me to expand my horizon, have new and different perspectives and better ideas and understanding. The idea of change portrayed in poetry is what inspires me the most, the necessity of it helps me to improve and keep on going. So to simply put, poetry

Preksha Doshi, SYBA

A. To me inspiration doesn't come from a single person or a thing it comes in various different forms. My mother inspires me to become an independent woman and do your own thing no matter what the world says. The nature and the changing seasons inspires me to believe that nothing remains the same. My father inspires me to take my responsibilities head on and work hard towards them. My grandmother inspires me to understand that time waits for no one so I should grab the opportunity and be the best version of myself. My grandfather inspires me to be a decent human being. There are many other people in my life who have inspired me by their unsolicited advices, constructive criticisms, sweet words and kind gestures but these are my biggest inspiration.

Ashes

Nandana Pillai, F.Y.B.A.

Sleepwalking my way to myself,
Worshipping all of my parts,
That you refused to love,
This will forever remain a love story,
Because just as I loved you,
I love myself now,
Not wasting another sunset,
Hoping you would come back,
to watch it with me,
Here I am,
Standing with the ashes,
Of the memories of you that I cremated,
For I never wanted to be a feminine in a cute way,
I always wanted to be feminine,
In a way that intimidates men,
And I know for sure, I am,
And always will be one.

Afraid

Nandana Pillai, F.Y.B.A.

I am afraid afraid of being silenced,
I am afraid of not being able,
to tell my stories,
Of being sublime,
Of never been able to make a rhyme,

I am scared of anyone but myself,
I am scared of being deserted by my muse.

I'm petrified of you finding me in someone else,
Of the chapter that I wrote,
being torn from your book,
I am scared of being here forever,
Of you being tired of my words,
But most of all I am scared of,
Not feeling anything again,
Of picking up the pen but never writing again.

Sensei

Chaitanya Raigond, F.Y.B.A.

If not Sensei, nothing exists like the 'best',
Like a pite blank canvas she is;
Her art becomes epitome of zest
When she make the colours kiss.

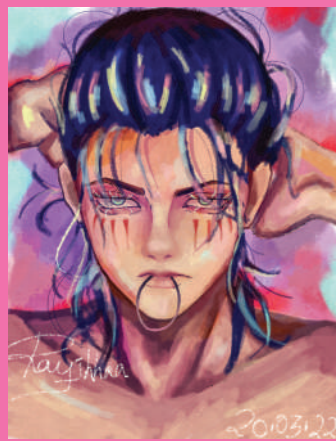
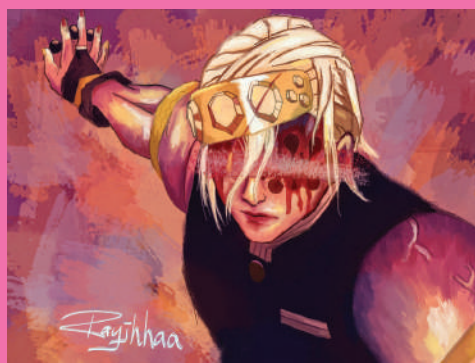
Time is not an illusion,
Nor is her cuteness;
'Benevolence', says my intuition,
But her eyes sparkle 'kindness'.

With a pinchful of brains,
And barrels full of love;
He showered her with the rains,
A green twig held by the graceful dove.

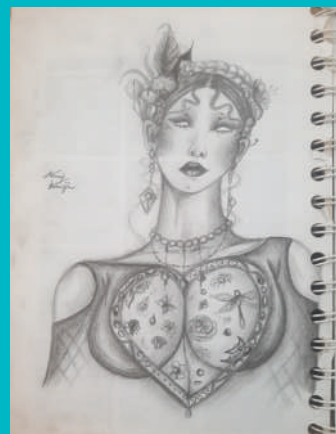
Insanely Serene

Savio Cheruvathoor, F.Y.B.A.

I look from left to right,
-not once but twice-
Hoping for some sight to turn
And some heads to rise.
What's with this awkward silence!
It doesn't fit the sight.
Even though people continue living
They don't see life's delight.
Here hands only shake on feasts
And hugs are given for formality
That's what circus animal too can do
-Fools!- this is insane humanity.
Today the best friend is "Google"
While workout is texting
Daily chores computer screen wiping
And face to face talks video calling.
They think deals agreement and
treaties will give them ease
thinking that's what serenity is
-the ultimate calm and peace-
They'll regret about this and then
They'll remember their pasts
Untill they have nothing to develop and no
technology that lasts.



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