

## Indy Bindi Art

**Despite having politician parents in India, a hidden thread of art runs through her blood's family. This 37-year-old and a mother, Bushra Hasan is a moving artist, leaving her fingerprint wherever she travels. Whist holding a particularly outstanding position in the media industry in India, Bushra' Soul could not rest until she finally finds her own natural orbit in Art.**

Bushra has been part of Australian Art's family ever since she landed in 2013. In October 2017, Bushra designed an art's tram for Melbourne festival which was commissioned for six months and actively participated in the art exhibition in the North. The following year she was appointed Ambassador for the Northern Melbourne Metropolitan by the Multicultural Arts Victoria of which she is proud. She was also hired by MAV in the same year as a Liaison Officer for Emerge in North and conducted a workshop to promote 'Health and Wellbeing' which was incorporated in the Emerge Art's event. In 2018 Bushra made a 4-meter-tall kite which was part of Darebin Kite Festival. Prior to that, she facilitated numerous children's workshop for Art play which was launched by the City of Melbourne from 2014 to 2018. She painted a life size puppet elephant for Moomba parade in 2015 which has been incorporated in the parade for approximate five years. To promote and market her artwork, Bushra used to put her small stall at the markets across Melbourne in 2014.

### Back in India

**'I just love playing with art's colours. Not even a day goes by without me thinking about what new could I paint or design.'**

Equipped with a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree, Bushra worked as a graphic designer for almost seven years for some fashion magazines such as Marie-Claire, Harper's bazaar and for the national newspaper such as the 'Hindustan Times' and the 'India Today' in India. While holding good positions in the media industry, nothing could supersede her love for art. 'I just love playing with art's colours. Art from around the world inspires me. Not even a day goes by without me thinking about what new could I paint or design.'

In 2005, she had some of her artwork's photography selected by Oxfam for an exhibition which travelled across few countries, while others were exhibited in the celebration of Taj Mahal.

In 2010 Bushra and her other four artist sisters along with other three artists friends started their own artistic venture in New Delhi which they named 'Indy Bindi'. Indy Bindi consisted of painting household items and became popular. Bushra was supplying her art pieces to six different lifestyle stores in different cities in India.

## The challenges

**‘I have learnt that one should not feel shy to get in touch, ask and connect.’**

Bushra admits that it was not always easy to identify and connect with Art’s world when she arrived in Australia. ‘I could not get proper information and guidance on upcoming opportunities for art’s exhibition or workshop, it was very hard for me to get head-start.’ She tried to put her hands on everything, and anything related to visual art and spent many hours on internet seeking information about art. She attended each gallery to show her work and was a regular at some markets. ‘My biggest challenge has been settling in one place to understand the environment, the culture and to get to know people to harness opportunities.’ Once things started to go in the right direction, it is time to move again. Bushra and her own family moved to Australia and has been moving interstates within Australia quite often. ‘I’ve learnt to do my best wherever I am, I motivate myself to keep trying even harder and it will definitely take me somewhere.’ If she lost her motivation, Bushra writes down a list of her goals, makes plan A, then Plan B and Plan C as contingencies. She then embarks on researching; and will make a ‘To-do list’ and follow through. ‘I have learnt that one should not feel shy to get in touch, ask, connect, and follow up with people who shows an interest in your work or ask for help. You just never know, who might need a person just like you.’ Bushra admits that there are times when she gets discouraged, but she never gives up. ‘I believe in pushing myself to my maximum capacity and then leave the result to ‘Almighty and destiny.’ During her down times, she calls her mother in Indian who is her major source of inspiration and support. ‘She always has very encouraging and motivating things to tell me.’ While her father has been a member of the legislative Assembly in India for four terms, her mother was a mayor for the shire of Kora Jahanabad for three consecutive term (15 years), in a conservative male dominated society. ‘My mother has a *Never give up spirit*, and always advocates for women’ rights.’

## Women in the Arts’ World

**‘Keep trying, there is always help and information available, we just have to reach out.’**

Bushra believes that Art is a ‘extraordinarily strong medium for self-expression. She urges women to voice their opinions, to tell their stories and bring attention on many women’s issues locally and around the world to bring positive changes. Bushra was fortunate enough to meet with a lot of artists who are extremely talented, ‘but some of them lack confidence and motivation and get discouraged due to lack of proper information. ‘They ended up confining their talent to just hobbies.’ She would like to see local councils, arts and support organisations making all resources and information about art available and accessible to migrants and refugees who are not computer literate and thus unable to engage in Arts’ World. ‘Keep trying, there is always help and information available, we just have to reach out.’