

Vermeer exhibition sets out to challenge legends

The famous Parisian museum Musée du Louvre is holding a landmark exhibition about the Dutch painter Johannes Vermeer from February 22 to May 22, 2017. In the exhibition, 12 of Vermeer's paintings go on display for the first time since 1966.

The exhibition, Vermeer And The Masters Of Genre Painting, highlights the relationships that linked the painter to other great painters of the Dutch Golden Age.

In fact, Vermeer was not a recluse or a loner, as legend often suggests. The artist has been presented as isolated and removed from the world, and was even called 'The Sphinx of Delft'. It is this



A painting by Vermeer called The Milkmaid

expression, coined by French journalist Théophile Thoré-Bürger, who revealed the artist to the world in the 19th century, that shaped this image of the solitary genius.



A painting by Pieter de Hooch called The Gold Weigher

The exhibition sets out to challenge this view, suggesting that Vermeer was part of a network of major artists of the Dutch Golden Age who shared mutual

admiration and inspiration, as well as rivalry. These include Gérard Dou, Gerard ter Borch, Jan Steen, Pieter de Hooch, Gabriël Metsu, Caspar Netscher and Frans van Mieris the Elder.

All of these artists were active during the third quarter of the 17th century, when the Dutch Republic's global economic power reached its height. The exhibition is organised in partnership with the National Gallery of Ireland, Dublin, and the National Gallery of Art, Washington, USA.

The exhibition will be on from February 22 to May 22, 2017, at the Musée du Louvre, Paris, France.

RELAXNEWS

PHOTOS: HTCS

Adding a tadka to HTKGAF

Razvin Namdarian

The LG Tadka Theatre hosted the play Beewion Ka Madarsa. This play by Dinesh Thakur's Ank Theatre Group was staged at Horniman Circle venue of the Hindustan Times Kala Ghoda Arts Festival 2017 (HTKGAF). A romantic comedy, the play had people in splits with the witty dialogues and excellent repartee between the actors. Shanker Iyer was at his best as the old man who trains a young girl to be his future bride only to find her falling for a young suitor. Being a bachelor for most of his life, he gets a late realisation that "shaadi kya hai? Zindagi ka tadka!" (What is marriage? A spice of life.)

Preeta Mathur Thakur, wife of the Late Dinesh Thakur says, "This play was close to his (Dinesh) heart. So, we decided to present it at the HTKGAF. The elements of Urdu in the dialogues add to the charm of the play. Being a comedy, it is a very entertaining play. We perform at HTKGAF every year and we like to be here because the audience is so lovely and appreciative. Their appreciation for our work comes straight from their heart."

Speaking about their association with the HTKGAF,



A still from the play Beewion Ka Madarsa



Heena Merchant, partner, Laljee Godhoo & Co, accompanied participants on the food walk

Karna Vahalia, partner, Laljee Godhoo & Co said, "Just as asafetida (hing) adds a tadka to your food, our association with the HTKGAF adds tadka to the entertainment at the festival."

LG also presented the LG Tadka Tour as a part of the heritage walks presented by Fox Life. As a part of the tour, food walks were conducted at Kala Ghoda, where they introduced the participants to some of the eateries and



Participants of the food walk

restaurants around the place.

Roxanne Bamboat, the food walk co-curator for HTKGAF, started the walk with a stop at Gupta Bhel Puri Centre to get the taste of the street food of Mumbai that characterises the easy to eat, on the go food options in the city. For a savoury treat, the group headed to The Pantry and tried their incredibly light and delicious broccoli and pesto vegetable puff pastry. The participants were delighted to know that they would get to try two desserts at the end of the walk. Caramel custard at Café

Military was followed by cookies at Oh Dough. Heena Merchant, partner, Laljee Godhoo & Co, who accompanied the participants on the food walk, spoke about the benefits of hing, "Besides adding tadka to your food, LG hing is beneficial in digesting a meal, especially by controlling acidity and gas. LG hing works in all Indian cuisines and in fact, at the recently held LG Super Chef Jodi contest, the winners who made a pesto sauce using hing proved that our product works with international cuisines as well."

PHOTO: HILLORY SURATI/HTCS



At HTKGAF, several organ donor families in the city were felicitated as part of Fortis's More To Give campaign

Families of organ donors honoured

Organ donation is a generous and worthwhile decision that can save lives. At the recently held Hindustan Times Kala Ghoda Arts Festival 2017 (HTKGAF), several donor families in the city were felicitated as part of Fortis's More To Give campaign. The campaign gave the audience an opportunity to hear from those who have been through or have been impacted by this life-changing event. Each donor's family was presented with flowers by Brinda Miller, festival director, and Dr S Narayani, zonal director, Fortis Hospitals.

One February 9, Fortis

honoured the family of the late Jasbeer Singh Sahni, who had donated his cornea and liver, at Cross Maidan, Marine Lines. His wife, Harminder Kaur Sahni and other family members were called on stage to talk about their experience. "My husband slipped in the bathroom on November 4 last year. He was taken to Fortis hospital. The doctors informed us that he suffered a brain hemorrhage and his condition was critical. We had no hope and the doctors were unable to give us any positive news. We were already aware of organ donation but the doctors and social workers sat us down and counselled us about donating

his organs," says Sahni. But when the moment came closer to the surgical procedure to donate Sahni became hesitant. "I was on the verge of saying no but my daughter Gurmeet made me understand that I couldn't keep my husband for a long time on the ventilator. The person who received his liver recovered within four days and was out of the ICU. I was happy that at least there was happiness in someone else's life. He may not be in our lives but now I know that my husband is still there in some form in this world," she says. Vasantha Venkatesh's family was lauded on the last day of the festival on February 12.

"My mother was a teacher by profession. When she was declared brain dead, we donated her heart, liver, kidneys and cornea. The patient who received her heart was in the same hospital and no time was wasted," says Rohaan Ventakesh, Vasantha's son.

Talking about the initiative, Dr Avnish Seth, director, Fortis says, "More than 18,000 pledges have taken place since Fortis's More to Give campaign started this year. A total of 48 organ donations have taken place within the Fortis network. More than 140 lives have been saved by these donations." - HTC

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Fortis

To know more about organ donation, visit the Fortis stall at the Kala Ghoda Arts Festival 2017 or log on to www.fortishealthcare.com/moretogive

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