

Bindu Gopal Rao

**W**omen have stepped out of traditional roles and today, are donning multiple hats. And “Unfettered” pays homage to this uninhibited and unstoppable spirit of the modern Indian woman.

The women in artist Amit Srivastava's works are confident young women, pursuing little things that they love doing – unrestricted. Be it playing an instrument, traveling, or something as regular as taking a sip of a humble cup of coffee, his paintings capture them unrestrained.

They are shown in moments of deep involvement and reflection as they unwind, rejuvenate, and celebrate their independence and individuality in a truly “Unfettered” way.

### The artist

Srivastava's solo show at Gallery Time and Space, Bangalore, is interesting for more reasons than one – the artiste is an engineer from IIT-Delhi.

“I had a good hand at drawing from an early age but academic pursuits took over and I went on to do my engineering from IIT-Delhi. After graduating, I initially pursued a successful career in IT. Yet, my genuine passion lies in the arts, and it continued to grow. I began honing my skills under the guidance of good teachers, while maintaining my professional commitments,” says Srivastava.

He fondly reminisces about his early years as an art enthusiast when time felt like a fleeting ‘tick’ on a clock that was never enough when engrossed in painting. Sharing his passion for the brush and canvas, Srivastava says, “I clearly remember the day when I started painting a subject at about 5:00 pm. And when I put the brush down, it was 4:00 in the morning. I didn't feel any tiredness or the urge to take a break. It was moments like these that strongly convinced me to turn to arts and that it is the right path. This realisation led me to make a life-changing decision to exit the corporate world and pursue my artistic aspirations.”

Admittedly, the old masters inspired him; pushing him to paint like one. This was when he found The Ryder Studio in the USA and honed his skills, full-time under master painter Anthony Ryder, focusing on classical realism and life drawing.

### The show

The exhibition is a figurative series

# UNAPOLOGETICALLY WOMAN



*In his solo show, “Unfettered”, engineer-turned-artist Amit Srivastava paints a vivid tribute to the unrestrained spirit of the modern Indian woman*



Indian woman has been liberating herself from societal constraints. Apart from becoming self-reliant and independent, these women are inspiring and empowering others as well. This series is a story of this new age confident woman, who lives life and unwinds on her own terms. This is why I felt motivated to depict them,” explains Srivastava.

### The style

Shedding light on his preferred mediums, Srivastava stresses on oil. “I mostly like working with a full colour palette in oils. I feel comfortable with the pace the medium offers and love the depth that an oil painting can render due to the inherent transparency of the colours. Some dry medium artworks at the show are in charcoal and conte on paper as well. Charcoal is one of the closest to painting approaches, while conte, a traditional drawing medium, presents a compelling and subtly coloured alternative between the black-and-white of charcoal and the full colour oil palette,” he explains.

For someone who believes in “artist's block”, Srivastava terms it “inherent” in the line of art. Sharing his strategy against it, he stresses on “quintessential” in-between breaks.

“Artist's blocks are inherent in the creative process. If I find myself getting into one, I try to do small studies or quick plein air sketches. At times, stepping away from the canvas and immersing myself in diverse experiences also helps – be it reading, travel, or engaging with other forms of art. Such breaks allow my mind to recharge. Collaboration and interaction with fellow artists also help in overcoming creative hurdles.”

Post “Unfettered” in Bangalore, Srivastava aims to continue working on the theme, covering a wider range of emotions and showcase the exhibition in other prominent art hubs across India and internationally.

Collaborations with fellow artists and engaging with art enthusiasts to foster a deeper appreciation for visual storytelling are also on the horizon, he shares. “In essence, ‘Unfettered’ is not just an exhibition; it's a reflection of my artistic journey and a tribute to the remarkable spirit of contemporary Indian women. I am excited to share this collection with art enthusiasts in Bangalore and beyond,” he concludes.

that leans towards Contemporary Realism. The artworks are dramatic with a warm vibe and depicts women in intimate moments in various settings, highlighting their journey to unfettered independence.

Srivastava's narrative of the show is an array of shattered glass ceilings and the beauty of self-expression. And the title aptly encapsulates the spirit of breaking free from traditional norms and embracing individuality.

Works on this series began a few years ago but gained momentum in 2022, he admits, adding that creating these artworks has been a meticulous process, spanning several months. Each piece is a culmination of thought, emotion,



### SHOW TIME

- **Venue:** Gallery Time and Space, Lavelle Road, Bangalore
- **Date:** Jan 20th – 28th
- **Timing:** 11 AM – 7 PM
- **For information contact:** 9980991645

and skill, carefully crafted to authentically represent the spirit of the modern Indian woman.

Srivastava shares that inspiration behind the series stemmed from him witnessing the evolving role of women in India.

“Right from my childhood days, I witnessed my mother, a school teacher, step up and take private tuitions to support the family. Despite the additional working hours, she managed the house-

hold with unwavering love and affection—an insight, I came to appreciate much later in life,” he says.

He further stressed that women are continuously breaking barriers and new milestones are being achieved by women in domains traditionally considered as man's strongholds.

“On my recent trips to Kashmir and Ladakh, I came across women bikers on solo trips. The modern



Bangalore will always have a very special place in my heart. Returning here with my solo exhibition is like a homecoming. This vibrant city was the starting point of my artistic exploration more than a decade ago. The city's artistic energy and supportive community have been instrumental in shaping my journey.

**Amit Srivastava, artist**