

UNBOTTLED : Creativity and Innovation with bottles by Satpal Gandhi

Avid photographer, Serial Bird-watcher, ardent nature lover, stargazer, sculptor and designer of ‘up –cycled’ bottles. There are very few things that Mr. Satpal Gandhi can’t do as he has dabbled in all creative avenues to allow his imaginative ingenuity to find space for growth and development.



“Creativity runs in our family blood especially in my maternal family line where goldsmiths, artistes, musicians prevailed and I believe I have inherited a unique creative streak in spite of being an engineer kind of person”, laughed Mr. Gandhi who adds further, “By profession I am a

cost accountant but in my heart I am driven by all things artistic and ingenious.

As the sky changed hues to announce the presence of evening, we are welcomed into a well-lit house that is prettified with charming champagne bottles carefully designed and shaped to resemble a candle stand holder at the entrance door. The ceiling before the entrance is gilded with hanging flowers and bottles of various shapes and sizes with bulbs adjusted inside them that reflected a delicate ambient light all over.



Once inside, we are escorted straight to the workshop where Mr. Gandhi proudly displays his enviable bottle collection that are lined up in stacks for cutting and designing and are a part of his personal collection.

“The amusing fact is that I am a teetotaler and this is all sourced from rag pickers or sought from my social circle people. Unbottled is an initiative to reinvent recycling and reusing. My first exhibition was titled “Upcycle” which entailed all my bottles designed and innovated with my own understanding and creative knack. “

His artistic creations are varied that range from lampshades to candle stands to bookracks and a mass of other décor items. It seems that Upcycle is slowly catching the fancy of Doonites who are appreciating his work immensely.

Divulging further, Mr. Gandhi goes on to say, *“I proudly claim to be a small-town boy from Dehradun who successfully managed to create the work-life balance where not only do I maintain my professional commitments but I manage to find time to practice my arty vocations. This has been possible because of Dehradun where the languid pace of the town and abundant creative energies around helped me nurture my proficiencies better and continue with my work both professionally and personally. There is no question of not finding enough time to pursue one’s creative undertakings because if you have the sincerity, dedication and the will to hone your artistic skills further, nothing can stop you from doing what you like doing”,* he asserts inspiringly.

“I strongly advocate that every individual needs to be inducted with one noble hobby in his/her lifetime. This will aid the person to stretch his mind in different horizons of thoughts and multiple trajectories that will prevent him from idling his time away. When you are walking in a creative boulevard, you get to meet so many like-minded individuals who

are immersed in different arenas that permit the person to grow exponentially. ‘

On being asked about his future endeavors associated with Unbottled, Satpal reveals to us, *” When I started this project, I learnt how to cut glasses from various sources online as well as through guidance from my associates. However I was able to re-design bottles to a certain extent due to technical limitations. Now, I am focusing on making my own machine with its parts either imported or brought from different parts of the country as well as abroad that will help me in re-molding and reshaping my bottles in any design I want. This will assist me in designing bottles from scratch.”*

He reminisces, *“At first, I was unable to design anything at all as one minor mistake during cutting would result in the whole bottle being discarded. Through perseverance and patience, I mastered the art of cutting glass and now I can make designs in one go.*

Were there any other issues he had to grapple with, we ask?

He smiles a radiant smile and conclusively states, *” It is not necessary to restrict yourself to one specific domain of art. If you own a creative sensibility and a distinct aesthetic intelligence, you can experiment and let your creative wings soar touching new grounds everyday. You don’t need to invest a large amount of money in the first go. You can start small and let creativity and ingenuity guide you to create, design and learn a new art form throughout your lifetime.*

