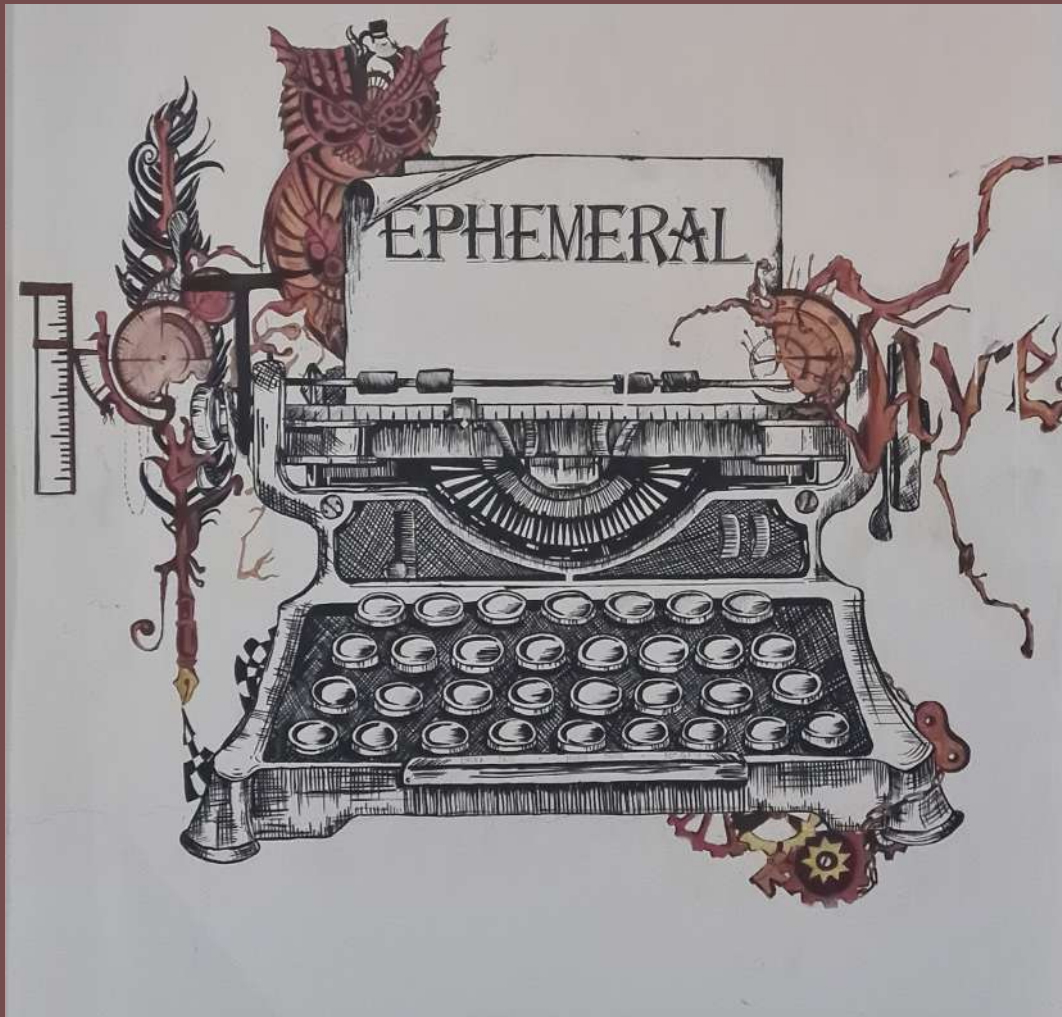


AVE SPECIAL ISSUE

# SRIJANYAM 2023



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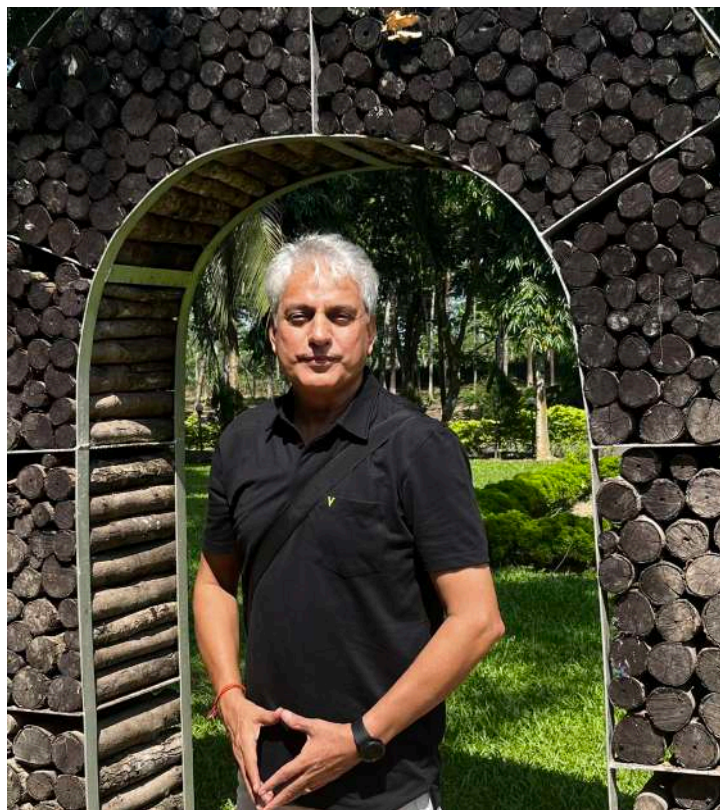
# MR. K. K GANDHI

**AVE:** Sir, you once said that you used to be a businessman, but later you left all of it behind to be an artist. What made you pick up art again?

**KKG:** I'm not from a rich family, however I grew up with the arts – I had experienced singing, dancing and art ever since an early age. I always believed that I was gifted in art but after completing my schooling I began working in A/C manufacture and assembly. After many years, I started working on art as a side project alongside my business. I eventually had my first solo exhibition in 2006, and after 2 or 3 solo exhibitions went by successfully, I decided to drop my business and pursue art wholeheartedly. Of course, I made many sacrifices but I believe that nothing is impossible if you set a goal and work diligently towards it.

**AVE:** Most of your work seems to be focused on the Himalayas and its culture. What forged this bond between you and the mountains?

**KKG:** I aim to bring awareness towards issues like global warming and ozone depletion with my works; I wish to present calmness and peace to my audience to offset the chaos and rush of urbanism. That is my chosen style and message – and the Himalayas and its culture, while also being our protector and home, does an excellent job in depicting this.



-Jigme Pao Tamang, XI

*Mr. K. K. Gandhi is an exceptional artist based in Jammu. His works have been showcased in numerous solo shows and in around 100 national and international art symposiums. His works bring with it the warmth of the sun, the lush greenery of the valleys, the magnificence of the lofty Himalayas and the cool breath of the mountain mist, enchanting all who view them. He was invited to The Assam Valley School to be both a judge and the chief guest for the Sixth Edition of Srijanyam. AVE caught up with this maestro over the course of the fest.*



**AVE:** Unlike most artists, you are self-taught. Do you feel that a formal education is required to be an artist?

**KKG:** To me and many others, if a person is born with an aptitude for art, then the education they receive through universities is just icing on the cake. However, although people who receive an education in art have a broader knowledge about different styles and forms, they do tend to inherit their mentors' artistic styles – it is, of course, not detrimental to their growth, however this makes it easy to deduce their alma

mater. An artist without a formal education, however, tends to be freer and more unique with their works; they are free birds, unhindered and uninfluenced by the constraints of current trends or other artists.

**AVE:** Thank you sir for being a constant with Srijanyam. Over the years, how do you see the journey of this event?

**KKG:** I have seen that, ever since the first Srijanyam, the artworks of some of the students here surpass the works of many students in art universities and it is commendable.

Judges

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# LIFE STUDY

-Rianna Irom, IX

Life Study is an artform where the artist will create a drawing of the human figure from the observation of a live human model. The participants sat individually, prepared with their materials as they observed their reference, one of the utility staff from our own school, who sat in front of them. Some participants were sketching while others had started working on their base layer. The contestants were immensely focused as they settled into a neutral silence as they worked conscientiously as they painstakingly mapped out the details of their human reference. Though there was no opportunity to speak to the contestants, it was evident that the participants were committed to their work.



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# IMAGINATIVE COMPOSITION

-Aanya Paul Sarkar, X

Imaginative Composition, is the segment of Srijanyam in which (as the name suggests) one's imagination must be their main asset. There truly is no limit to the human mind, especially when it comes to art for what is creation without imagination? Ridhima from Sunbeam English School Bhagwanpur, was hard at work on an intricate drawing, telling the story of farmers during the harvest festivities. Keeping Assam and primarily Bihu as her theme, she said that the idea behind this was that the locals would meet up with their Prime Minister to promote their local goods. Her piece was inspired by the Swadeshi Movement. Vijyanti from The Tashi Namgyal Academy drew a girl soundly asleep in her room, only to wake up and find a monster at the window. While Tarushi from Pathways World School drew the complexity of the human mind. We may have two sides to us but there always will be a dominant half.





**AVE** - Looking at the participants of Srijayanam, is there any advice you want to give to the participants or young artists in general?

**Mrs. Nzano** - In this modern age, handicraft is extremely important. I want to encourage you to learn the skill. I myself specialise in hand embroidery and flower-making. The main point I want to make is that starting and finishing the handicraft is important.

**AVE** - How do you feel about the sixth edition of Srijayanam?

**Mrs. Nzano** - I came here to judge because I want to promote my handicraft since it is my dream to do so.

**AVE** - How has your art influenced you as a person?

**Mrs. Nzano** - My teacher has actually influenced my personality. I am both a designer and an instructor. I actually started my work because I wanted to earn money for myself in college.

**AVE** - In the Opening Ceremony this morning, it was mentioned that you teach young women to generate income through handicrafts. What pushed you to make the decision to become an instructor?

**Mrs. Nzano** - Actually, those women are proficient in handicrafts. Some of them are even better than me, it is just that they are lazy and they do not want to earn on their own. The reason why I started teaching was because I wanted to encourage those women to take up handicrafts and be independent.

*Mrs. Nzano was invited to The Assam Valley School as a judge for the Sixth Edition of Srijayanam. This competition included multiple fields of art where students from multiple schools competed against each other to see whose product was the best. Mrs. Nzano won a state award in 1920 for her handicraft. She works as a designer and is known to be proficient in jewellery making. She also has a workshop where she teaches other women handicraft so they're able to gain income on their own.*





# EMBROIDERY

-Aanya Paul Sarkar, X

Embroidery is an art where patience meets masterpiece and where every stitch carries a piece of the maker's heart. The carefully stitched knots are the epitome of elegance and are as often framed for walls as well as made to adorn places of honour. This event saw participants of the various schools' heads bent in concentration and effort to make something brilliant out of plain fabric. Hetal from Daly college expressed the joy she gets out of this activity and said that it was like meditation to her. When asked how she was liking the event so far, she said that the food and environment were great. The weather however, not so much.

# FLOWER MAKING

-Rianna Irom, IX

True to its name, Artificial Flower Making is a type of handicraft where the artist must create a finished product out of artificial flowers that they have to make using various materials and techniques. Trisha Sisodia, and Ssara Jha — two of our very own students from The Assam Valley School — elaborated on the theme of the event and mentioned that the participants had to create a floral headpiece of the state of Meghalaya. Different students went about it in different ways: Phuming Lepcha and Ahasamit Lepcha from Tashi Namgyal Academy used organic materials for their headpiece while Subhani Chatterjee and Rubaab Bhatia from Pathways World School crocheted the flowers to make a headband. Subhani and Rubaab elaborated on their headpiece; they mentioned that the flowers they were making were actually flowers found in the state of Meghalaya. They also added that their piece had a relation with womanhood. The contestants were patient and meticulous when it came to their work.



# MR. JAMES LOTHA

**AVE** - Who are your artistic influences and how have they inspired your art?

**Mr. Lotha** - I love craft, as a Naga from a generation practicing handicraft that we have learnt from our forefathers.

**AVE** - How do you overcome a creative block?

**Mr. Lotha** - If I want to make something out of a block of wood I let my idea do the carving. The key is consistency.

**AVE** - Do you think networking with other artists is important?

**Mr. Lotha** - Networking is important and it is necessary to get connections for work and marketing.

**AVE** - Your opinion on Srijanyam 2023, and has any artist caught your eye?

**Mr. Lotha** - A lot of pieces have caught my eye, and I'm excited for young students to find joy in art and design.



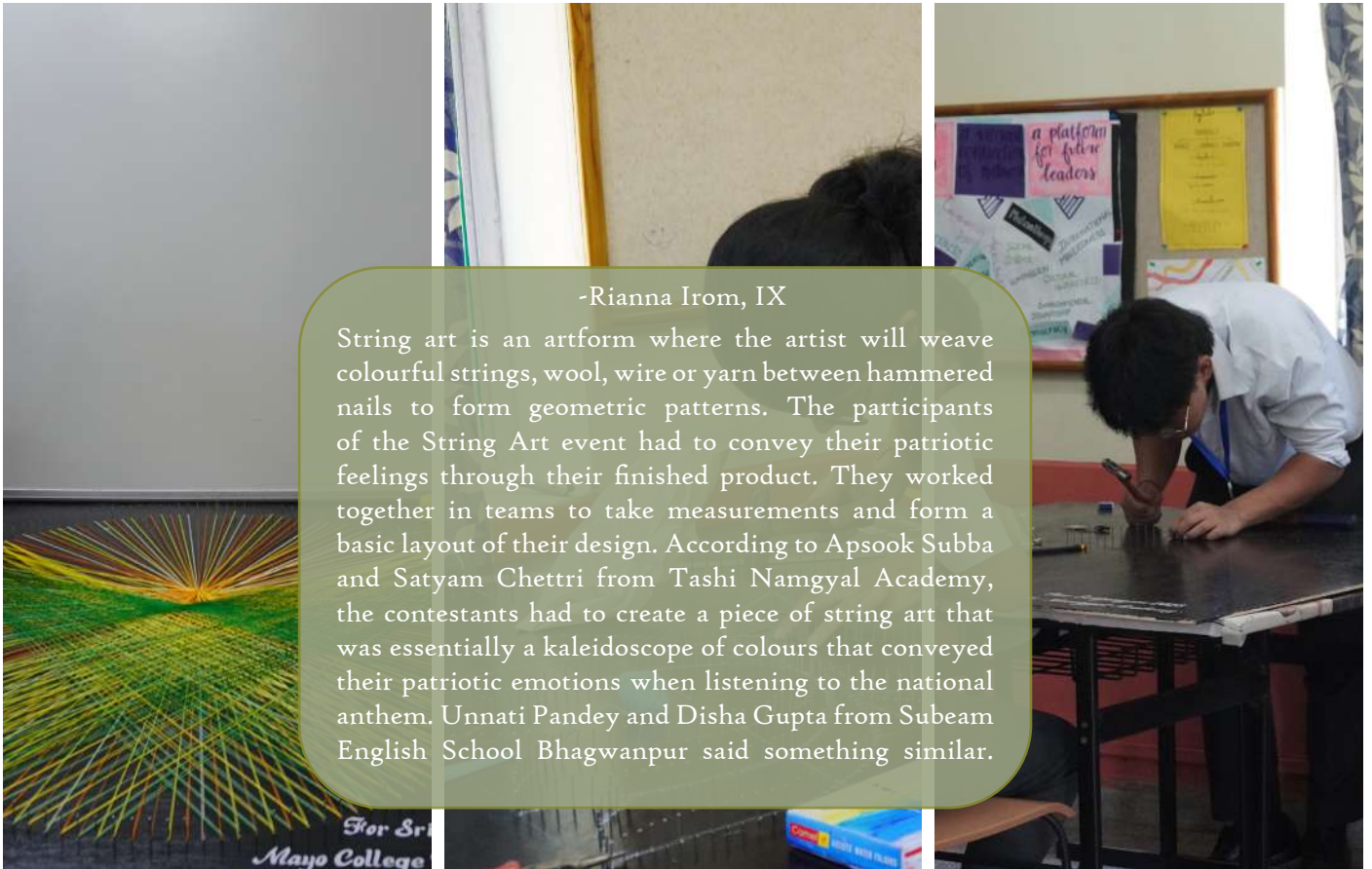
-Siddhi Priyadarshini, IX



Mr. Lotha was invited to The Assam Valley School to judge the Sixth Edition of Srijanyam. It is an Inter School Art & Design Fest hosted by The Assam Valley School. Mr. Lotha has made a distinction in the art of sculpture on 3D relief carving and his works are some of the most sought after at the Hornbill festival in Kohima.

Judges

# STRING ART



-Rianna Irom, IX

String art is an artform where the artist will weave colourful strings, wool, wire or yarn between hammered nails to form geometric patterns. The participants of the String Art event had to convey their patriotic feelings through their finished product. They worked together in teams to take measurements and form a basic layout of their design. According to Apsook Subba and Satyam Chettri from Tashi Namgyal Academy, the contestants had to create a piece of string art that was essentially a kaleidoscope of colours that conveyed their patriotic emotions when listening to the national anthem. Unnati Pandey and Disha Gupta from Subeam English School Bhagwanpur said something similar.

# POTTERY DESIGN



-Aanya Paul Sarkar, X

What sets Pottery Design apart from the rest of the competitions is that it requires to be sculpted and molded by hand and with every fold and bend, it comes alive a little bit more. Mannat Gal from Pathways World School said that they were inspired by Greek pottery and were attempting a Greek technique with elements of the North East to add a twist. Urja Pal Singh and Palak Tendon from Sunbeam School, Varuna said that they were making a Greek pot using the Coiling Technique. Gaurisha Saikia and Pranjal Jaiswal from The Assam Valley School simply said that they were going with the flow and were letting their creative energy guide them.



# MUNGLI SANGTAM



**AVE:** How does it feel to back to school and Srijanyam, except this time as a judge?

**M.S:** It feels like time has come to a full circle. It is wonderful to see that the organization of the event and the involvement of the students not to mention the participation of the students have increased manifold. It feels very satisfying to see it having come where it has from when it all began.

**AVE:** You have been a part of the Srijanyam journey since its inception. Where do you see the fest going from here?

-Emidaka Rapsang, XII, Editor-In-Chief



*There is a certain way time catches up with life here at AVS. Alumnus Munguli Sangtam, M/ 2483, ISC Batch 2018 was part of the pilot team that conceptualized, planned, and then implemented the very first edition of 'Srijanyam'. A SCAD Hong Kong and Atlanta alumnus and awardee of the Hong Kong Government's Outstanding Performance Scholarship, Munguli is a Graphic Designer. At the crux of his work lies his philosophy 'to allow his art to create an impact'. He believes that design itself is 'problem-solving' and therefore helps to make the world a happy place. AVE caught up with this legend whose work continues to honour the walls and corridors across school.*

**M.S-** The fest has done wonderfully for itself. The number of participating schools have increased over the years. I believe it will increase manifold if we market the event to a target audience. The festival is a wonderful platform for budding artists and will catch the imagination of young artists across the country.

**AVE:** What changes would you like to see in school now that you have travelled wide and far?

**M.S :** Most certainly more accessibility to technology. Aviators are innately creative and have the potential of becoming active creators. Technology and easy access to it in their everyday lives will help them explore and become self-learners.



Judges

# ART, CRAFT AND DESIGN WORKSHOP

-Siddhi Priyadarshini, IX



On September 4th, Mr. K. K. Gandhi led a unique session in canvas painting, guiding the students in creating works of art inspired by India's cultural heritage. Through the Himalayan landscape, the students uncovered the rich cultural legacy of India and learned about its ancient roots. They created beautiful and meaningful artworks, under Mr. Gandhi's guidance. This session allowed the students to enhance their skill-set and learn to appreciate the wonders of the mountains

The workshop on Plaster of Paris relief carving with Mr. James Lotha was a challenging and enriching experience for the participants. Working with Plaster of Paris is not an easy maneuver but the students rose to the occasion marvelously. Under Mr. Lotha's guidance students turned flat surfaces into 3D masterpieces. He encouraged them to be creative and create pieces that appealed to them. They carved and created art pieces using this unique and challenging technique, making it a memorable experience.

# ART, CRAFT AND DESIGN WORKSHOP



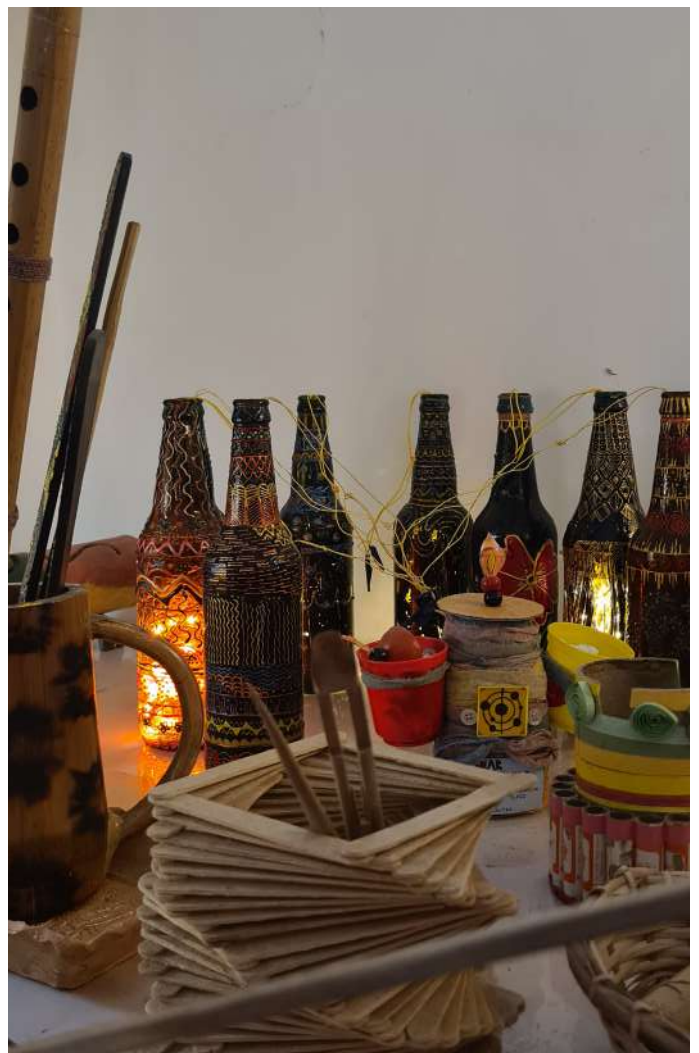
A workshop on Naga jewellery-making was held at The Assam Valley School by Ms. Nzano on the 4th of September. Utilizing traditional techniques and materials, the students created stunning pieces of Naga jewellery. Red earrings made with silk thread and beautiful hair accessories were crafted by the participants in multiple ways. They also learnt about the history and the cultural importance of Naga jewellery. The workshop was a learning experience and the students walked away with beautiful works of art and newly gained knowledge and skills.

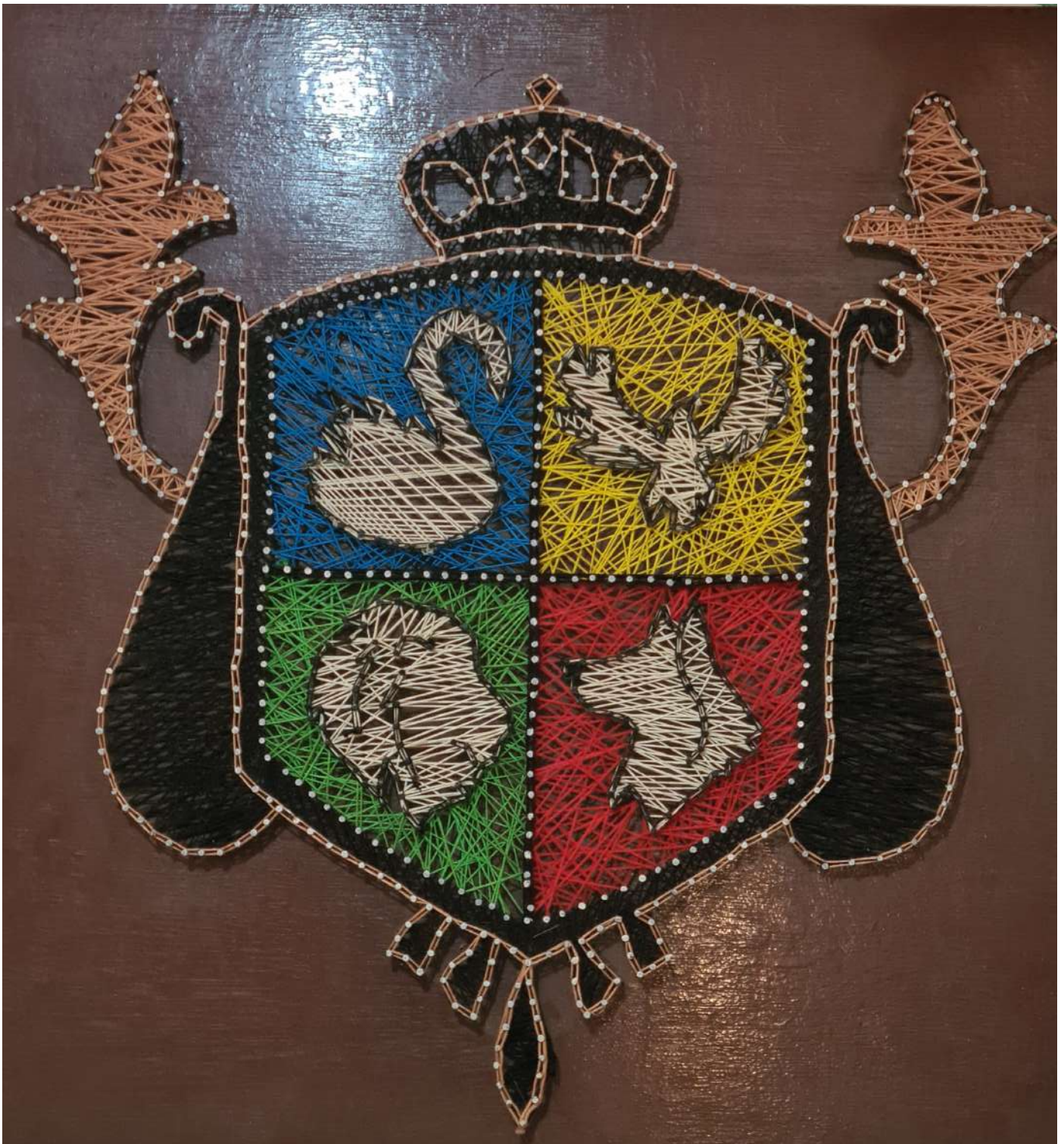
"The Currency of Creativity, Success Starts in The Mind" Workshop held by Alumna Mr. Mungli Sangtam was an enriching experience for the students who wished to pursue art, craft and design as a career. It was an interactive workshop where Mr. Sangtam addressed multiple questions from the students ranging from graphic design, the use of AI, college as well as career prospects in the field. The session was invigorating and the students left equipped with information to chart their next course of action.

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