



SRIJANYAM SPECIAL ISSUE 158

THE ASSAM  
VALLEY  
EXPRESS



Front Cover Illustration by Ikcalu Ahozhe, X  
Back Cover Illustration by Erik Angie Riba, XI







# MRS. BHAVNA K. BASUMATARY

*Mrs. Bhavna Khajuria Basumatary is an alumna as well as an Assistant Professor and Vice Principal of Kala Bhavana at Visva-Bharati University and specialises in ceramic art and sculpture. Mrs. Bhavna did her Masters in Fine Arts and is a judge at the 7th Srijanyam- Art and Design Festival, 2024.*

**AVE-** For many artists, it's a simple yet telling question: Ma'am, what exactly does art mean to you?

**BKB** - Art to me means freedom. Freedom to make whatever I want. Art means freedom of expression for my pleasure. It is healing and therapeutic.

**AVE-** What do you do when faced with a creative 'block'?

**BKB-** This was a phase I went through when I was a student. Fortunately, it doesn't happen to me anymore. I eventually learned to grow out of these phases and now I don't have art blocks anymore.

**AVE-** Did following your dream and passion as a sculptor go against the expectations set by other people in your life?

If yes, how would you advise younger artists to pursue a creative career?

**BKB-** I come from a family of artists. Thankfully I have had no problems in pursuing art as a career. As for the younger people, the only advice I have is that art can be an enjoyable field and you have to listen to yourself because you and only you know what you enjoy.

**AVE-** Ma'am, what made you realise that this profession was right for you? What inspired you?

**BKB** -I never wanted to become an artist. It happened by accident. Though I always practised art as a child, I never intended to become an artist. I started taking art classes in the 90s and now it has become my expression of freedom and I'm happy with where it has led me.

**AVE-** What advice would you like to share with the young artists here at Srijanyam?

**BKB-** My advice is that if you like being creative don't be afraid of backlash. I think if you have a passion or a desire you will thrive in it. Art can be as financially stable of a career as any other cooperative field.







# STRING ART

*-Carlynda Lyngdoh, XI*

String art or pin and thread art, is characterised by an arrangement of coloured thread strung between points to form geometric patterns or representational designs such as a ship's sails, sometimes with other artist material comprising the remainder of the work. Thread, wire, or string is wound around a grid of nails hammered into velvet-covered wooden boards that show distinct patterns and shapes of various sizes and angles. For the 7th Srijanyam, the theme is "Feather" and each school has an interesting take on it. Priyanshi and Nandini from Mayo College Girls' School are planning to showcase their artistic vision by creating a central feather with birds emerging towards the side with various shades of blue. The participants of Army Public School, Barcha Daimary and Joyrow Devi designed an art piece that features a peacock feather in the centre and have used various techniques like colour theory to highlight their art piece. This category promises to produce some of the best works of this year's competition.







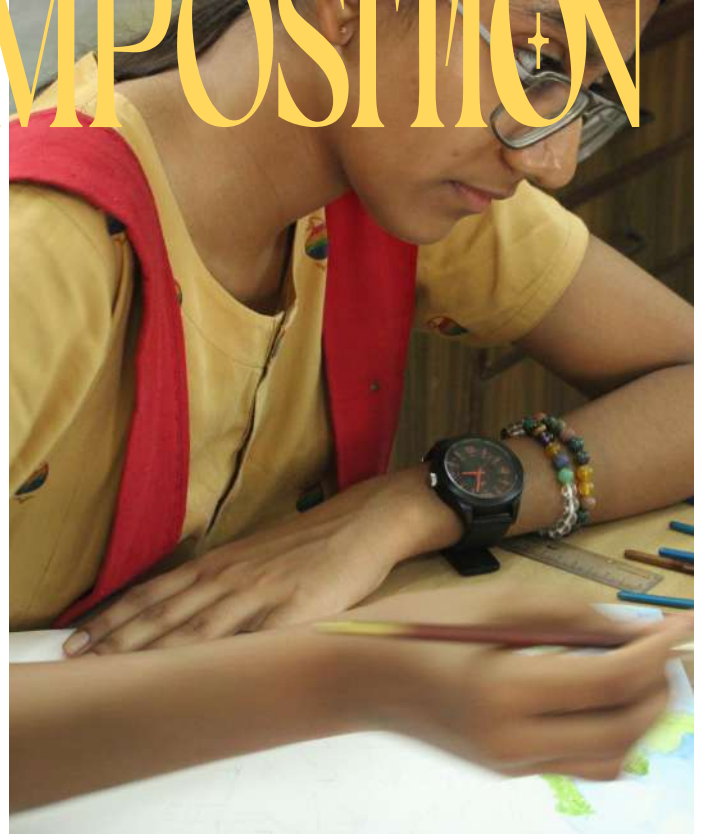
*-Imchalong Longchari, XI*

Macrame is a form of art produced using knotting and braiding techniques, as opposed to weaving and knitting. The theme for the 7th edition of Srijanyam Macrame Competition was 'Marine'. The competition saw each school working in pairs, displaying their creativity and skills through their complex techniques and patterns. Amrita Jain and Akshita Singh from Sunbeam English School explained their idea to make lamps and marine animals, adding some colour and liveliness to their product. They further described their plan to arrange the knots in such a way that they appear to move like flowing water. The attractive designs of the participants promise a fantastic exhibition going ahead.



Imaginative composition: an artform where an artist combines memories and elements to depict magical or supernatural scenes. The idea behind this art is to portray one's own interpretation of a certain topic or theme. Niketa Hazarika of Army Public School Tezpur, said that the driving factor behind Imaginative composition was a mixture of both Imagination and courage. The creative mindset of a person and their courage to try out new things. This year's theme is forest, and the participants have worked hard to bring to life a vibrant depiction of their imagination.

# IMAGINATIVE COMPOSITION



# POTTERY DESIGN

Pottery, one of the oldest and most widespread of the decorative arts, consists of objects made of clay and hardened with heat. The process and the products are both called pottery. The theme for the 7th edition of the Srijanyam pottery competition was animals, nature, or insects and each participant skillfully captured the essence of the animal and plant kingdom through their unique artistic interpretations.

Mhiesi Irellu and Khrike Kaihü from G. Rio school aimed to design a turtle-shaped pot, while Pranjal Jaiswal and Tanish Agarwal from The Assam Valley school planned on making a jar in the shape of a pumpkin. The pottery competition was a memorable event that showcased the beauty and versatility of clay. The participants' dedication and talent were evident in every piece, and the competition served as a platform to inspire and connect artists from all backgrounds.



*AVE caught up with visiting Judge and acclaimed sculptor Mr. James Lotha during the 7th Sriyanyam-an Art and Design Festival for a quick conversation.*

**AVE-** Sir, we feel honored to have you back this year for the 7th Edition of Sriyanyam - Art and Design Festival, 2024. How do you envision the event's trajectory over the course of time?

**Mr. Lotha-** I am very grateful that I have been called to be a judge at Sriyanyam again. The event has improved over the years. There are new ideas emerging and the artists are brimming with creativity.

**AVE-** Sir, artists use their own medium to express themselves, and each artist's mode of expression is unique. Could you name one essential quality an artist must have artist to reach the full potential of their art?

**Mr. Lotha-** One quality that I believe is a necessity for every artist to reach their full potential is patience along with consistency and hard work.

**AVE-** We know the expression "art is subjective" is frequently used to describe the various assortment of artwork. Artists have many ways to communicate openly through their distinctive craft. Sir, how do you determine that an artwork is complete?

**Mr. Lotha-** To be frank, as an artist, when we make something new, the artwork to us is never perfect. We can see the minor imperfections in our artwork but to others it seems just fine. So it is always left open to interpretation.



# MR. JAMES LOTHA



# RELIEF CARVING

-Carlynda Lyngdoh, XI

Relief is a sculptural method in which the sculpted pieces remain attached to a solid background of the same material. These sculptures project, in varying degrees, a two-dimensional background. With this year's theme being, "Textures from Our Biosphere" Shreya Ambesh & Aditya Raj Singh from Sunbeam School, Varuna said that they wanted their art to showcase the textures of Nature by carving the details of the layers of the Earth. We should expect to see various pieces that showcase the artistic vision of the students that accentuates the true beauty of nature.

# NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY

-Zerayah Cadessa Syiem, XI

Nature photography is a wide range of photography taken outdoors and devoted to displaying natural elements such as landscapes, wildlife, plants, and close-ups of natural scenes and textures. The 7th edition of Srijanyam introduced nature photography as a segment for the very first time. This category will showcase the frames of budding photographers as they attempt to capture frames on the uniqueness of nature. Anshika from Sunbeam School Bhagwanpur said, "Nature photography captures new perspectives and things that you wouldn't normally see when you roam around." Each participant used the best of their talents to display the breathtaking beauty of nature.





# Textile Design

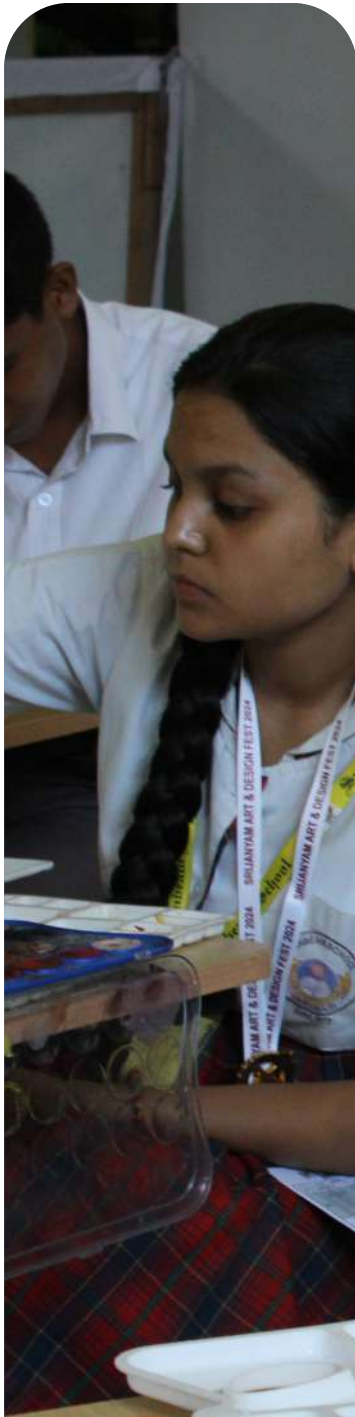
-Aanya Paul Sarkar, XI

Anni Albers had once said “Being creative is not so much the desire to do something as the listening to that which wants to be done: the dictation of materials.” This could not be more true for the students participating in Textile Designing. Textiles often tell a story, capturing a moment in time that can be treasured forever in the intricate craftsmanship of these precious pieces. The theme for this event was-transcendence in nature. Vidhi Sardar and

Prakriti Gupta of Sunbeam School, Lahartara said that they wanted to depict suffering in nature and would attempt to give their piece a touch of human emotion. They also said that art is an apt portal for them to express thoughts, they would not otherwise be able to communicate. The participants’ passion, hard work and dedication were apparent in every thread stitched together and the event provided a great platform for the students to hone their talent.







# LIFE STUDY

-Rianna Irom, X



Life study, also known as “figure drawing”, is an art form that involves the depiction of the human figure through either drawing or painting. The students participating in the “Life Study” event for the 7th edition of Srijanyam had to depict the likeliness of one of the faculty members of our school. Aditi Kumari from Sunbeam School Varuna explained that life study involved drawing the portrait of a live model and that the primary focus was the expressions, the details and the structure of the model on paper, including their colour combination and the feeling of the portrait as a whole. She added that it was important for the portrait to “come to life”. Other participants, like Aishwarya Prahat from Sunbeam School Suncity, shared that they were nervous, considering that for most of them it was their first time taking part in a competition like Srijanyam

and not all of them were as familiar with making portraits. Salenzio Kuotsu from G. Rio School expressed that he was facing a few problems at first, and that he was only familiar with drawing girls. Despite this, he shared that he overcame his initial difficulties after he completed the base layer of his portrait of the male model and gradually gained some confidence. He thoughtfully added that by participating in Srijanyam, he’d learned not to underestimate others and that the competition had been an “eye-opening experience” for him. A few other students were a little more experienced with making portraits, even if only as a hobby. One of them was Anjum Nishad from The Scindia School, who shared a little bit about his process and explained that he had to set the first tone and would gradually move from darker to lighter tones.





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# GLIMPSES OF THE DAY





# *teams at srijanyam '24*



ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL, TEZPUR



DALY COLLEGE



G. RIO SCHOOL



GENESIS GLOBAL SCHOOL



MAYO COLLEGE GIRLS' SCHOOL



SCINDIA BOYS' SCHOOL



SANSKRITI THE GURUKUL



SUNBEAM ENGLISH SCHOOL





SUNBEAM SCHOOL SUNCITY



SUNBEAM SCHOOL VARUNA



SUNBEAM SCHOOL LAHARTARA



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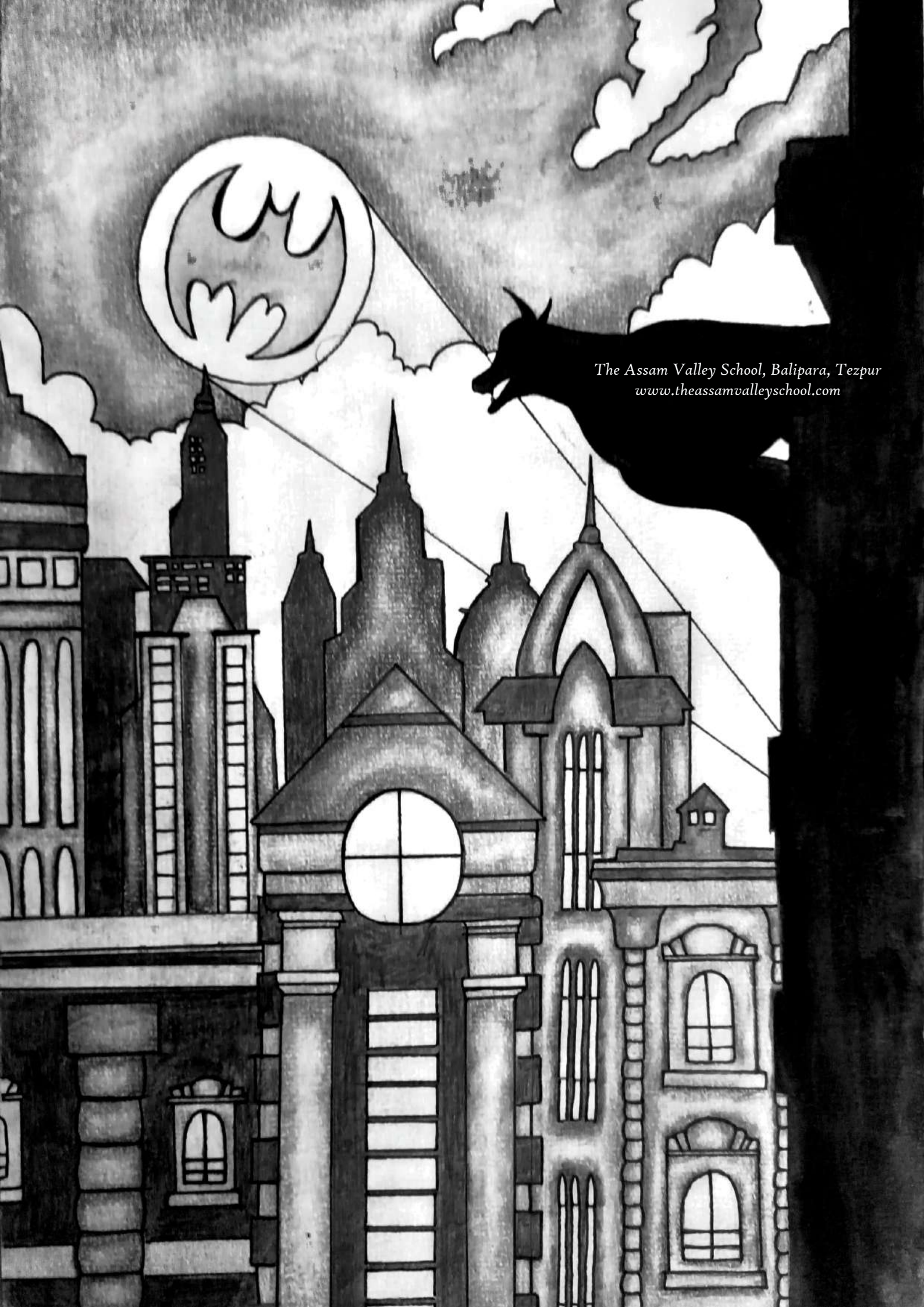
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