

## **Folk Arts of India – an aesthetic experience**

Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> June 2014

“Folk arts such as Warli and Madhubani teach you how to respect nature, and this gives you a unique joy and an aesthetic experience” contemplates Vaishali Lall, art teacher and graphic designer who recently conducted a series of painting workshops at The International Centre Goa, Dona Paula. “ The aim of the workshops; spread over weekends across June, was to get the participants involved in these traditional painting styles” she added.

Warli paintings depicting festivals and folklore decorate walls of huts in rural Maharashtra-Gujarat border. Vaishali demonstrated how to prepare the red mud base and how to apply it on canvas, she also showed how to create warli shapes using circles, triangles and squares. She explained how to create composition using trees, animals and human shapes to make warli designs. The next workshop focussed on Madhubani, a folk art that originated in northern India. Although this art mainly depicts the ancient epics and mythological deities, Vaishali restricted on how to create scenes of nature with geometric designs to represent flowers, birds and animals.

The participants were engrossed in learning the art of warli and madhubani.

Besides, folk arts ; mainstream painting styles such as watercolours and oil on canvas were also featured in the second part of the workshops. Vaishali introduced the participants to standard strokes and wash among other important techniques. “ Learning the correct techniques in painting is very important so as to be able to create a good work of art” she said.

Vaishali will continue with painting workshops at The International Centre; where she will demonstrate the professional application of oil pastels(or crayons) on Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> July and another workshop on Oil on Canvas on Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> July.

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