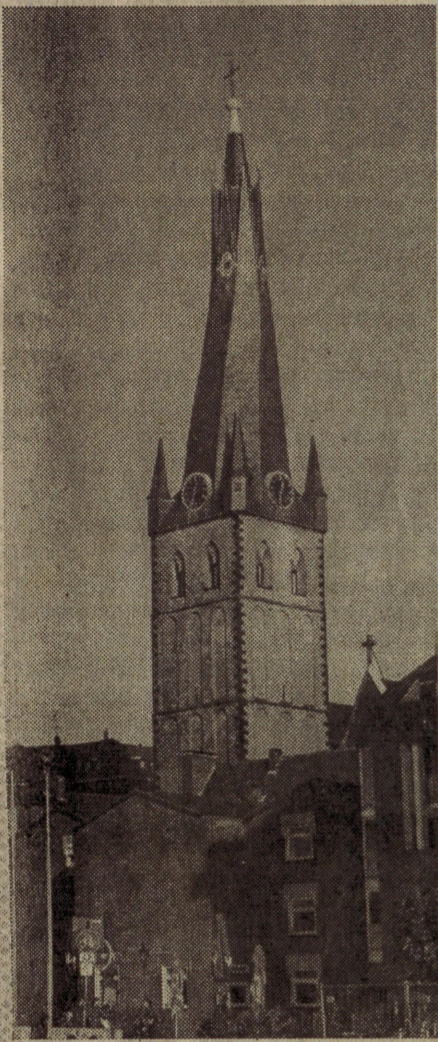


City of Haute Style



By Meher Castellino

Haute couture designers may dream up their collections in Milan, Paris, London and New York but not for nothing is Düsseldorf, called the ultimate market place where the world's fashion is sold to stores all

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over the world.

They say Düsseldorf only feasts on fashion and is the culture and style metropolis on the Rhein. When it is time for the CPD Woman/Man fashion fair held twice a year for the Spring/Summer and Autumn/Winter - buying seasons this tiny city on the equally tiny Dussel River comes alive. Thousands of buyers, designers, labels, models, choreographers descend onto Düsseldorf, which makes its living from the many fairs held at the sprawling Messe Düsseldorf ground near the Rhein stadium.

The Messe is spread over lakhs of square metres with seventeen giant halls that exhibit the best men's and women's ready-to-wear clothing and shoes in the world. To make a fashion impact many new labels debut at the CPD fashion fair turning them into international brands. Labels like Anke Schloder from Madrid, Peter O Mahler from Switzerland Umil Unal from Turkey had their initiation on the Düsseldorf catwalks. Our own Indian models Jesse Randhawa, Ujwala Raut, Nayanika Chatterjee, Fleur Xavier, Gauri Parulekar, etc, got their first international breaks on the catwalks in Düsseldorf, a city which is also considered the seat of art, culture, music, food and fun.

Next to the Rhine is the heart of the city that is the one square kilometre Altstadt (old town) where it is pedestrian-walk only and most of Düsseldorf's out and indoor events take place in this area. The narrow cobbled streets wind through Altstadt where two

hundred and sixty pubs/bars (making it the world's longest bar) and restaurants with food from every corner of the world are available not to forget its own brand of Düsseldorf beer.

It was at Königsallee - known as the public catwalk of international fashion trends - that the most spectacular fashion show takes place twice a year. Termed as the biggest fashion event in the world a seven hundred metre ramp runs along the length and breadth of the avenue with state-of-the-art overhead lighting.

The audience applauds wildly as the labels featured from Galleria Kaufhof KO No 1 and Carsch Haus present their Autumn/Winter collections for 2005-06, which will be on the racks by September/October. Budget shoppers need not despair. On the other side is the more affordable Berliner Allee (Berlin Avenue) that has stores for bargain hunters.

Düsseldorf is a beautiful city dotted with parks, gardens, little rivulets, ponds, huge patches of woods and special walking pathways along the majestic Rhine with its constant stream of cargo ships. Picture postcard perfect,

Travlogue

it's difficult to write about Düsseldorf a city that appeals to all the five senses. It definitely comes alive when all its senses are touched.

Working with Wildlife

What made you enter the field of wildlife art? Bird watching and art came to me in my pre-teens. A neighbour was a field biologist with the Bombay Natural History Society. He used to provide me with coffee-table books from the BNHS library and from his own collection. I started by copying artworks from those books. In 1980 when I became a student member, I would go straight from the J J School of Art to the

exhibit at the annual juried show of the Society of Wildlife Artists UK, in London, from 1987 to 1992. Then, work for field guides started pouring in, starting with 64 new plates for the "Book of Indian Birds". Then came the British published "Birds of the Indian Sub-continent". This had spin-offs like separate regional guides for Nepal, Bhutan, Sri-Lanka, and Northern and Southern India. With the same publisher I also did monographs like "Parrots of the World" and "Pheasants, Partridges

He is presently included in Asia's who's who. He is, arguably, South Asia's foremost Wildlife Artist, and his paintings have raised the bar in terms of modern wildlife art standards in the region. Yes, you have guessed right. The person I am referring to is none other than Goa's own, Carl D'Silva. I was privileged to meet him and gain an insight into his magnificent work. By Cedric Silveira



BNHS in the afternoons. There I would spend the rest of the day in the collection rooms or in the library. I was still in college when I started doing odd artworks for the BNHS field projects - designing and illustrating the reports and the BNHS magazine Hornbill. After college I became a full-time staff artist there, until 1989 when I came to Goa for good.

Could you tell us a little of your achievements till date...

While I was working at the BNHS, I got my first taste of international recognition. I became the first (and only, till date) Indian to

and Grouse of the World". The bestseller, "Birds of Mumbai" was a good one. I have recently finished the plates of ducks, geese, cranes, herons, storks and ibises for "Birds of East Asia".

How do you manage to paint so many birds?

I travel quite a bit, and have visited natural-parks and wildlife sanctuaries all over India. My paintings and illustrations are based on actual field sketching and photographs that I take, or by observing captive birds and checking museum skins. Skinning and bird ringing gives you a get-

InProfile

under-the-skin kind of insight to anatomy.

What wildlife do you paint other than birds?

I do mammals, shells, insects and flowers as well. I generically work with only wildlife as my subject matter in most media. I have done special effects for a feature film. I am also into the challenging world of antique artefact restorations.

You seem passionate about protecting wildlife. Are you associated with any groups or association?

In fact, I am the convener of the Goa Wildlife Group that is chiefly concerned with the protection and management of wildlife habitats. I am also the state coordinator for Indian Bird Conservation Network that monitors Important Bird Areas (IBAs). Goa has four.

Where can one observe your little masterpieces?

My works, many not so "little", are in several private collections in India and abroad. As I mentioned earlier my illustrations are also available on several books on birds.

ARIES: A new approach/attitude typifies all that you do. You will assign yourself fresh priorities and strive activity and concretely for both health and happiness right through the lunar month. This will manifest itself in several ways - better family and personal life, steady gains (rather than spectacular ones) at work, and good relationships with colleagues. There are new beginnings for you, a journey.

TAURUS: The gains described last week are maintained, and there's a sense of contentment. This has a major influence on your interest in spiritualism and occult phenomena. You respond positively and with faith to your leanings in this direction. Your week is highlighted.

GEMINI: You're going to have to deal with conflict situations and a fair amount of envy, rivalry from your competitors as you forge ahead in your chosen enterprises. It is your qualities (courage, determination, a healthy amount of aggression) that will win the day for you. Be valiant and storm the fortress of your enemies, say I, "only the valiant deserves the fair" holds good always. You'll shine at relationships closer to your heart.

CANCER: Where you sought to improve and enhance your skills, knowledge and mental capabilities, you now do the same thing with your material assets, yourself, your home. A whole string of makeovers - renovation, decoration, acquisition or updating of possessions. I also see a strong possibility of your acquiring a whole new wardrobe.

LEO: You concentrate on increasing your influence and status as well as your bank balance. A state of flux, of movement will be part of the main trend for the lunar month along with finances and money. Acquisition of wealth, lucre, the inflow of cash, all this will occupy your mind. From this you can safely say that there may be a sudden windfall.

VIRGO: A time for stalking your prey, which is success in the eyes of the world. You find yourself actively involved in the power game - the whys and whereos are not for me to say. You will certainly find funds and loans available for new ventures, undertakings and business enterprises. Personal complexes, nagging worries and apprehensions will require an effort to work out from your system. **LIBRA:** No more relaxation, you

decide, as you now make superhuman efforts at your job/work/profession. You find your time for power play. Extravagance suddenly comes to a grinding halt, and it's sincere and hard work that's once again the need of the hour. It's time for business transactions, negotiations, even wheeling and dealing. Finances will be your major concern this week.

SCORPIO: Satisfaction at all costs seems to be your motto, as well as your modus operandi. You follow a lot of diverse lines of action. Torrid romance and passionate encounters draw you like a magnet - perhaps also high adventure that may appeal to your aggressive attitude. At the same time, you try to let do your hair, or socialise and party away, go bowling, do all the things that entertain you.

SAGITTARIUS: You realise that success means nothing if it is not projected to the world. I see you busy, therefore, with meets and conferences, collaborations, making appointments and facing interviews. I would say that the theme for this month to come would definitely be blueprints for the future in terms of not just gains but your public image as well as your self-image.

CAPRICORN: As part of your image building or rather enhancing, you undertake many things. There is a fair amount of travel, of useful work and secret activities. Philanthropy and social service draw you immensely. There is nothing small-minded. You want to do all things well, if not brilliantly, but this comes at a price. Hard work, extra effort is required.

AQUARIUS: You take on fresh new activities both at work and in the domestic scene. You are in such a positive frame of mind that you're looking for fresh new fields to conquer, to achieve just that little bit more. If so interested and inclined, this might be a fine time to take up a new interest, a crash course of study or even hone and sharpen existing skills. Your privacy, however, is likely to be invaded.

PISCES: You concentrate your tremendous energies, skill, and panache on your profession. All the activities of last week seem to culminate in a spurt. Olympic style, on your work, job and activity front. You give it all you've got - which is a lot, by any reckoning. Funds, loans, finances, borrowing, and buying and selling also see a similar spurt. You'll enjoy playing for a big win.

dent nature. Pursue romance, hobbies and entertainment. A favour asked will surely be granted. You can have fun and the responsible to duties at the same time.

October 23: Your desire nature is overheated. Think twice before making decisions. Especially money decisions. Little things are irksome, and you can be a bit critical. Don't judge others too harshly.

October 24: Put your practical cap on this year. The pursuit of pleasure could be costly. Keep your eye on your wallet. Be kind to your physical body. Guard your health.

October 25: You'll probably find a few invites in your mailbox. The stratosphere goes up a notch, and that is fine with you! Make and travel plans.

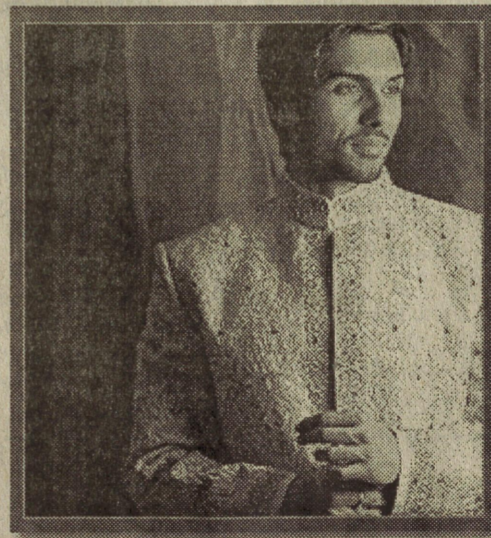
Sherwani: The Ultimate in Male Ethnic Wear

Since the middle ages, the Sherwani has held a prominent place in the wardrobe of the Indian male. Dubbed the costume for kings, the Sherwani is an embodiment of royalty, elegance and style. Normally not a part of everyday wear, the Sherwani is associated with special occasions such as weddings, engagements, family get-togethers, festivals, traditional rituals and ceremonies, etc.

The origins of the Sherwani can be traced to the kingdoms of Central Asia where nobles of Turkish and Persian origin wore it as a court dress. In India, the Sherwani first made its appearance during the reigns of the Delhi Sultanate, and was later popularised by the Mughals. Designed like a close fitting long-coat that is buttoned up to the collars, the Sherwani looks very similar to an Achkan or doublet. Usually knee length, it is worn over Churidar and Jodhpurs, and is generally teamed with a matching scarf or sash to complete the look. Often, turbans are worn to complement the look.

The most appealing thing about a Sherwani is its elegance. Strictly formal in nature, it is a perpetual favourite for dressing grooms on their marriage day. Embellished by intricate embroidery, a Sherwani conveys a regal aura when worn and gives the wearer a

Fashion



certain charm. If you are planning to buy a Sherwani for an upcoming occasion, here are some cool tips to guide you in making the perfect choice.

The traditional and most common colour for Sherwanis is off-white. But with a change

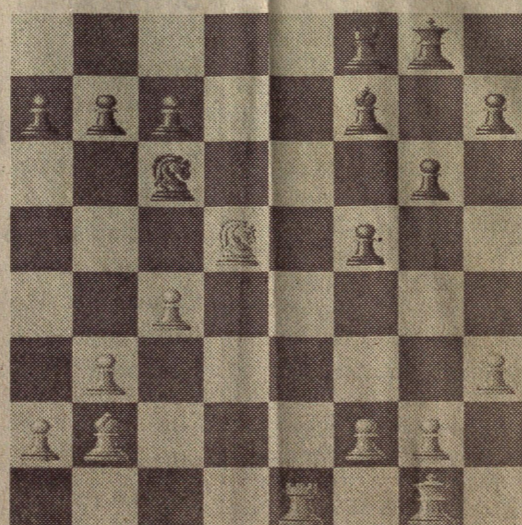
of times, new colours have crept in to make strong fashion statements. Shades like black, maroon and dark blue are ruling the roost in the fashion world. To add to the glam quotient, intricate embroideries like Zardosi, sequin and stonework and Swarovski crystals may also be tried. And if you are looking forward to sport a more urbane and casual look, you may opt for the calf length version. Teaming a Sherwani with a pair of trousers goes a long way in achieving a distinctive hip-hop look. Retro designs and traditional buti motif are also hot.

Although many types of fabrics are used to make Sherwanis, silk is perhaps the most popular material. Depending on their looks and material, Sherwanis may be classified into various types, such as wedding Sherwani, party Sherwani, silk Sherwani, traditional Sherwani and embroidered Sherwani. Quality of fabric and tailoring skill are two important areas that one needs to focus on while buying a Sherwani.

Prices of Sherwanis usually start from 2000 rupees and go higher depending on the quality of the material and intricacy of crafting. If you are searching for something elegant and unique, a Sherwani might just be the right thing for you. www.indiastudychannel.com

GamePlan

CHESS White to play and win in 4 moves



Nf6+ Kg7/Kh8
Ng4+ Nd4/Ne5
Bxd4+/Bxe5+ Kg8
Nh6++ Mate

BRIDGE THE NAMYATS CONVENTION

As dealer what would you open with each of the following hands:

- | | | | |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------------|
| 1) ♠S: 10 | 2) ♠S: AKJ98653 | 3) ♠S: K3 | 4) ♠S: KQ108652 |
| ♥H: KQ108742 | ♥H: 4 | ♥H: AKJ | ♥H: A5 |
| ♦D: QJ62 | ♦D: K83 | ♦D: AQ74 | ♦D: KQ3 |
| ♣C: 8 | ♣C: A | ♣C: AQ54 | ♣C: 4 |

The NAMYATS Convention is coined from the reverse of the last name of the famous Sam Stayman. It signifies a hand with at least nine tricks based on a seven card or longer solid or semi-solid (one loser) major suit. An opening of 4C signifies a 7card+ heart suit with at least 3 of the top 4 honours in that suit i.e. at worst KQJxxx.

An opening of 4D implies a similar holding in spades. The hand may contain 2 or even 3 Aces. If partner has a good hand with 4+ controls he makes an intermediate bid of 4D over 4C or 4H over 4D. One of the advantages of the NC is avoiding the abuse of the 2C opening for distributional hands. The 2C opening should generally be reserved for hands containing 23+HCPs.

An opening of 4H or 4S are now pre-emptive following the rule of 2 and 3. That is 2 losers Vul and 3 losers N-Vul.

Solutions to Bidding Problems:

- 1) Open with a bid of 4S, 2) Open with a bid of 4D
- 3) Open 2C, 4) Open 1S.

BIRTHDAY FORECAST

October 19: You will have ample reason to feel like a guardian angel is looking out for you, as a partner, relative, neighbour, or someone else in your circle clearly has your best interests at heart.

October 20: It may take a bit of juggling to make room in your schedule for a little socialising midweek, but it will be worth the effort. Feeling part of a team is pleasurable, while also providing practical benefits.

October 21: You're sharp as a steak knife and full of plans. Someone is not telling the whole story, but you are in charge and you know what you want. Make phone calls.

October 22: Someone admires your indepen-