



WORDS KANAKA GHARE PHOTO PRERNA MAHAJAN

art of the matter

WITH SONAM GALA GOSALIA

Sonam Gala Gosalia shares the story of a dreamlike Jaime Rovenstein painting — a love letter from New York that anchors her home

For Sonam Gala Gosalia, principal designer at Kiran Gala & Associates and daughter of architect Kiran Gala, collecting art is second nature. Growing up watching her father acquire works for their home and his clients, she developed an appreciation for living with art. Today, she calls her passion for collecting even greater than her love for designing homes. Among her many pieces, one painting stands out — a commissioned work by New York-based artist Jaime Rovenstein, which Sonam fondly calls their ‘Bombay painting’. kgadesign.in

Tell us about this painting.

This was the first painting my husband and I bought after our wedding — our honeymoon painting. We discovered Jaime’s work in a gallery in New York, and I was instantly drawn to its dreamlike, happy quality. We asked her to make something for us, and a few months later, the painting arrived rolled up with an envelope that felt like a love letter, complete with sparkles and colour cut-outs.

Where does it live in your home?

It has always been above our sofa and the entire space was designed around it. I kept the walls white, chose the sofa colour to work with the piece, and even repainted the ceiling twice to get the exact shade of sky blue I wanted. Ten years on, it’s still there, and I wouldn’t move it anywhere else.

What does it mean to you?

This painting is pure happiness for me. The blue dots remind me of the Mumbai coastline, and it always lifts my mood. For my son’s first birthday during the Covid lockdown, I even got the cake designed to match this artwork. It holds so many memories for us as a family.

How does it reflect your design sensibilities?

I love modern art, especially works that are open to interpretation. Everyone sees something different in this painting — water, clouds, mountains — and that’s what makes it special. My design process is similar: renders are just the starting point, and as the site progresses, colours and ideas shift until the final result feels right.

What shaped your love for art?

My father’s collection was my first education. He had a Gaitonde, a quirky Picasso, a Chintan Upadhyay that are all bold, colourful works. He even bought art for his clients, which taught me early on that plain walls and vibrant art are all you need to make a home beautiful.. ♦