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YourGuide...

North Indian restaurants



SPICE Garden is a great fine-dining restaurant for sampling North Indian cuisine. The restaurant offers a variety of breads baked in the clay or earthen tandoor as well as meats such as mutton rogan josh and vegetables such as paneer capscum (cottage cheese capsicum). Of the five outlets, three are in the Klang Valley namely, Spice Garden Express in Lucky Garden Bangsar, Spice Garden in Jalan Batai Laut 4, Klang and Spice Garden Imperial in Chulan Square. The other two outlets are in Genting Highlands and Kota Kinabalu.



SAVOUR the exotic tongue-tickling flavours of North Indian cuisine at Jessal Tandoori Restaurant and Jessal Sweet House at 84, Jalan Tun Sambanthan, Brickfields, Kuala Lumpur. The restaurant's Indian sweets come in a variety of colours, flavours, sizes as well as shapes. The restaurant is open from 11am to 11pm Mondays to Thursdays, and from 11am to 11.30pm Fridays to Sundays. Buffet lunches are also available on working days.



CHECK out a Sagar Restaurant near your home. The restaurants are located at Lorong Maarof Bangsar, Sunway Resort Hotel and Spa, Palace of the Golden Horses, Kompleks Antarabangsa Jalan Sultan Ismail as well as the Bayview Hotel in Penang and Pulau Lang Tengah, Langkawi. Among its signature dishes are potato or aloo cutlets, mixed vegetable bryani, methi or fenugreek fish and chilly paneer.



Waiting for the Lover in Kebaya Labuh Songket (3), 2011. (Oil on canvas, 31cm by 31cm)

Paintings that show the splendour of love

KUALA LUMPUR: Syed Thajudeen Shaik Abu Talib is considered one of the country's best figurative and lyrical artists. Fans of his paintings or those who are just plain curious can now view them at KL Lifestyle Art Space (KLAS) @ 150, Jalan Maarof in Bukit Bandaraya, Bangsar.

The *Paintings on Love* collection on display at KLAS features several oils on canvas painted this year. These include pieces entitled *Ka'bah, Ibu, Holy Book, Meeting of the Eyes II* and six works in the *Waiting for the Lover* in *Kebaya Labuh Songket* series.

Syed Thajudeen's works bear a distinctive look — elongated figures with stylised lips, eyes and motifs, the latter surprisingly small in number but oft repeated.

Visitors to the gallery will see pieces featuring the same tree, the same woman, the same lover, the same fish, the same cloud, the same birds (or geese) in the same painting and in different paintings, yet one will find subtle differences as well.

Visitors will also notice in Syed Thajudeen's artworks an unmistakable Indian influence, as the artist trained

at the Madras College of Arts from 1968 to 1974. Although Indian art inspired him, as he once said, his works were his own compositions and they came from the heart.

A major concept in Indian art is separation and union. For instance, in *Springwood I* (a 2008 oil on canvas mounted on three big panels), a woman dances on her own while other women dance in a group, but with arms interlinked. In *Embrace* (a 2001 oil on canvas), two figures have their arms around each other, their heads turned to face in the same direction

rather than at each other.

The first painting has a theme of separation, the second a theme of union. Both are paintings about love in all its facets — a love of dance, a love of nature.

But what is interesting is that some of his artworks of the past five years show Syed Thajudeen moving in a new direction in painting technique, employing stylised form with conventional form.

This is evident in two of his works on exhibit entitled *Longing for Love* (he has several pieces of that name).

The earlier work depicts a maiden, in stylised form, touching what are unmistakably mangoes despite the hazy blur of colour. In the newer work, another maiden seems to be conversing with a bird in its feathered glory. Then there is *Essence of Rhythm*, a 2008 oil on canvas where no stylised technique is used. It's a conventional piece of painting, rather unique and very "Indian".

Though both his parents were Malayan-born, Syed Thajudeen was born in India after his parents fled Penang during the Japanese Occupation. They returned to Penang but left him behind until he was old enough to go to school in Malaysia.

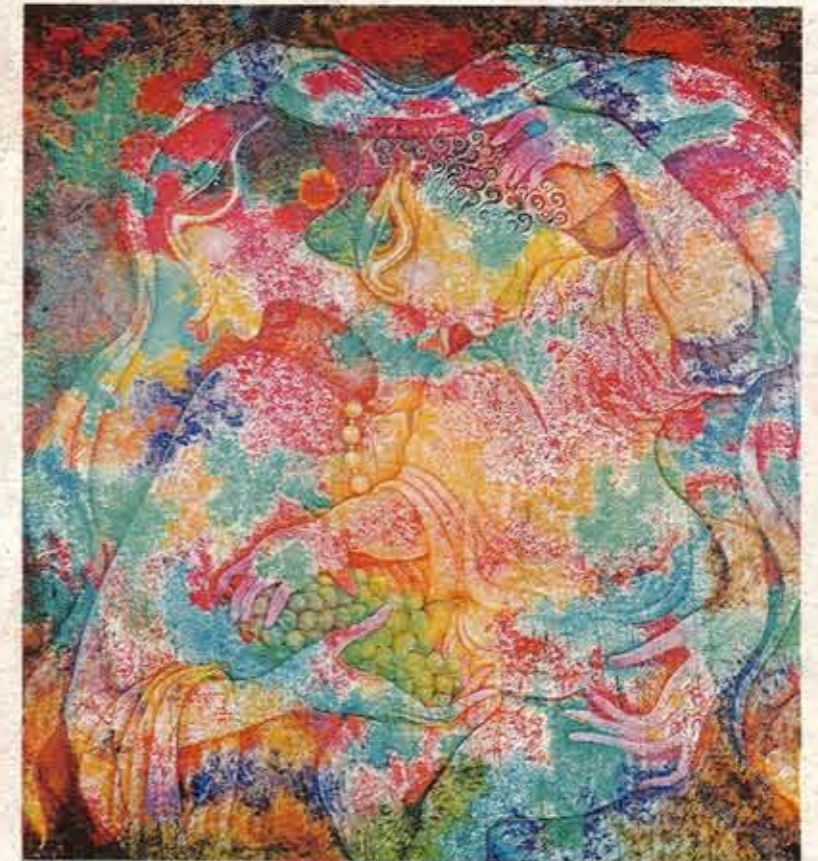
His ancestral village was near a deeply-spiritual temple city and it exposed him at an early age to the power of spirituality.

Syed Thajudeen's travels across the length and breadth of India when at art college in Madras in 1968 opened him to other influences — Buddhist rock paintings and delicate minarets, the Taj Mahal's magnificence and the wondrous Elephanta caves. To India, evermore, he felt aesthetically connected.

Looking at *Paintings on Love*, it is evident that more than 40 years as an artist have given Syed Thajudeen the subtlety and reach indicative of a master painter.



Lightness of Being, 1999. (Oil on canvas, 138cm by 276cm — 3 panels)



Ibu, 2011 (Oil on canvas, 127cm by 127cm)



today

NEED a break? Then hit the waves at Sunway Lagoon's Flowrider. The surf stimulator is great for surfing, body boarding, wakeboarding and snowboarding. For details, go to www.sunwaylagoon.com. Or call 03-5639 0000.



sunday

CHECK out Petrosains at Petronas Suria KLCC. Visitors can visit its many learning sections and embark on The Dark Ride that travels through the centre. You will also be transported 200 million years in Geotime Diorama to meet a singing dinosaur. Also venture into Space to learn about the outer space and astronomy. For details or visit www.petrosains.com.my or call 03-23318787



monday

CHECK out the KL Lifestyle Art Space Tropicana City Mall, Petaling Jaya today. The KL Lifestyle Art Space supports local artistes and is a hub for rookie art collectors.



tuesday

SAVE a life by donating blood to the National Blood Centre today. The centre on Jalan Tun Razak is open from Monday until Wednesday weekly. For details, call 03-2695 5557/5558.



wednesday

CATCH the first International Furniture Market (IFM) exhibition at the Malaysia Agro Exposition Park Serdang (MAEPS). The expo, which ends on Saturday, offers buyers, retailers, interior designers and architects the industry's latest trends and innovations, from furniture and furnishing to lighting and accessories. For more details, call 03-8024 7736 or visit www.ifm.net.my.



thursday

CAPOEIRA is a Brazilian martial art which combines self-defence with music, dance and acrobatics. Classes are available in Havana Estudio, Taman Tun Dr Ismail. For details, visit www.havanaestudio.com

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public facilities in Petaling Jaya



TAMAN Jaya is a must-go recreational park for residents living in Petaling Jaya. The park which is located near the Taman Jaya Putra LRT station has shady trees and a large lake. The Petaling Jaya City Council also frequently holds aerobic exercises there.



MAKE a big splash at the PJ Palms Sports Centre pool. The pool is 50m by 18m wide and is between 1m and 4m deep. The eight-lane adult swimming pool is also a good place to train for sporting events. Children can swim for between RM2 and RM5 while adults can use the facilities for RM4 and RM8. Charges differ according to day use, weekend use and night use of the pool.



IF you love jungle trekking, drive up to Gasing Hill. The only reserve in Petaling Jaya, there are more than 100 species of birds and tropical plants. The trails are suitable for jogging and trekking. Also check out the tower there for a panoramic view of the city.