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NO HALF TRUTHS

▲NIFTY 6,115.55 (+214.10) ▲SENSEX 20,446.84 (+684.48) ▼DOW JONES 15,655.68 (-21.26) ▼NASDAQ 3,783.18 (-0.46) ▲RUPEE/DOLLAR 61.77 (+1.61) ▲RUPEE/EURO 83.65 (+0.97) ▲GOLD/10GM 30,400 (+410.00) ▲SILVER/K 51,200 (+990.00)

MAGIC IN MARBLE

Svelte Italian sculptor Simona Bocchi unveils *Devotion Divine*, her latest work on metal and stone, in the national capital **PG2**



INDIAN SCHOOL IN UAE ORDERED TO SHUT DOWN

Academic future of 1,400 students has been thrown into jeopardy after the closure dicum **PG10**



RAM LEELA IS A WORK OF PERFECTION: BHANSALI

Deepika Padukone, who is playing the lead role in the film, calls the director a hard task-master **PG16**



Magic in MARBLE

Italian sculptor Simona Bocchi unveils her latest work *Devotion Divine* in the national capital

JHINUK SEN

She defines all things fine and Italian and her works are like magic flowing through marble and metal. Simona Bocchi, the Italian artiste who has made India her home over the last few years, unveiled her latest work *Devotion Divine* in the Capital.

The evening was a celebration of art and its finer nuances as the Italian Ambassador of Italy, Daniele Mancini spoke about Bocchi's works and her fine talent. The piece, crafted entirely out of marble flows in tandem with Bocchi's deep attachment to spirituality. In fact, Bocchi's India chapter is all about her spiritual connect with the country.

Bocchi was born in Monza, Italy and her initial enlightenment in her



field happened in her academic sojourn through art schools in Milan, Brera, Wimbledon, finally graduating in Carrara. She came to India in 2006, invited to organise an exhibition in Delhi by the Italian Embassy. And then there was no looking back. Her experience in India brought her closer to the spiritual search she had been on forever and Udaipur soon became her home.

The piece, *Devotion Divine*, reflects an figure that has the finesse of a female body, the soft curves and flow but it also has the slight edge of the masculine chiseled in. This connects to Bocchi's fascination with Shiva-Parvati, a theme that has been an intricate part of her work.

Host VN Dalmia expressed his love for art with a simple line, 'Never buy a piece that doesn't give you joy,' he says, explaining why he picked Bocchi out of a million other artistes.

Bocchi is not only the perfect cultural ambassador for her country, she now merges the finer arts learned in India with her past. She is currently working on a personal exhibition scheduled for next year and at the same time concentrating on her book.



VN Dalmia, Simona Bocchi and Italian Ambassador Daniele Mancini at the event PICS BY NAVIEN SHARMA