

Capital offers Italian artefacts with desi touch

By **Ashlin Mathew** in New Delhi

ACE DESIGNER J.J. Valaya's flagship travel store, The Home of the Traveler, in the Capital has a new lure. It combines Italian craftsmanship with Indian themes.

The creator of these artefacts, Simona Bocchi, who has been in the country for more than eight years, has in association with the Embassy of Italy organised a curated show at The Home of the Traveler. "India has inspired my art and the evolution of the ancient culture motivates my inner exploration. The Home of the Traveler houses unique pieces picked from various parts of the world from across borders and cultures, so it was a natural extension of my journey," Simona says.

"Housed within the flagship store is MORE@THT, a space dedicated to showcasing outstanding talent and unique craftsmanship. More is an acronym for Moving, Original, Resourceful and Experimental, all being virtues found in our special exhibitions and shows. This exhibition showcased the contemporary sculptor's works in wide range of materials," says Valaya, director, The Home of the Traveler.

The Italian sculptor, who works with Carrara marble, bronze and jute, reflects her intuitiveness and spiritual experience onto her art. "For me it is about finding harmony between the opposites – the yin and the yang. My energy has to go into every piece I create," Simona says.

Her *Kundalini* combines a mas-

culine form supporting feminine bliss, while her Shiva and Parvati in bronze invokes fusion in life.

Simona says her contemporary language evolved in Rajasthan, especially in Udaipur, where she has lived for seven years. "I encountered techniques and Indian styles that I combined in harmony to create a new language of personal expression," she adds.

The fluidity of motion and stillness are an antithesis of each other. There are only some who can capture both in their entirety. Some do it in their movements and others in their craft. Simona brings out the polarities through her sculptures using bronze and marble. Marble for her is about purity and toughness, while bronze is all about malleability and softness.



Italian sculptor Simona Bocchi with one of her creations called Sunrise; (right) another piece she crafted.

