



One to Watch

ZAHABIYA GABAJIWALA

Adding drama to spaces with vivid art comes naturally to the founder of Za Works Design. In this chat, the Mumbai-based mural artist discloses her intricate process and compelling inspirations that have transformed spaces—both, interiors and exteriors.

What inspired you to set up Za Works Design?

I was always inclined towards art and design, and initially started off with set design. Working with art directors helped me learn how spaces can visually communicate a range of thoughts and themes. What led to my own practice was my meeting with Jamal Shaikh, who was opening The Bombay Street Treat at the time and asked me to create a mural on the facade. It became an Instagrammable icon in Kala Ghoda, Mumbai, and so began my journey.

Tell us what goes into the process... The first step is understanding the client's brief, what they've visualised and wish to convey. The next step is creating the artwork and then infusing it with a 3D concept or sometimes a creative perspective, if the space is small. I often use mix media in a single project.

And what's next on your agenda?

After having worked with several creative practices, including with Abraham John Architects on Tiger Shroff's MMA Matrix, my hope is to become a designer's partner-in-creativity. Soon, I'll be launching a furniture venture, which will offer customised, hand-painted pieces. Plus, I am also in the process of going beyond borders and establishing Za Works Design globally. zaworksdesign.com



(Clockwise, from top) The Instagrammable facade of Bombay Street Treat; A monochromatic mural at House of Tipsy; Art is seen on the 360° marble bar at Esra; Zahabiya Gabajiwala

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