



@rameshsrivats: I don't think people are that worried about AI replacing their jobs. I think people are a bit more worried about AI replacing their friends. Or them, to their friends.

When Dior serenades karigars

Have you ever seen a rendition of Kali with hands that look like those of Little Miss Sunshine, the zaniest character from Roger Hargreaves bestselling series? Madhvi ben Parekh's Kali is black; her pudgy hands and halo, yellow. Raktabija, the demon she slayed, lies horizontally flat under her, resembling an evil eye doll. The child-like wonder with which the veteran painter sees the world couldn't have been learnt at art school. The 71-year-old told a bemused audience of journalists, art patrons and fashion professionals gathered at Worli's Snowball Studios for the launch of the Mul Mathi (From the Roots) exhibit curated by Asia Society India Centre, that she learnt painting "aaste, aaste [slowly, gradually in Gujarati] thanks to her



(From left) Inakshi Sobti, Maria Grazia Churi, Manu and Madhvi Parekh and Karishma Swali at the launch of Mul Mathi

husband, who prodded her to play with colour, circles, triangles and squares when she was pregnant with her daughter. The man she talked about, Manu Parekh, is one of India's finest modernists and the product of this city's JJ School of Art.

Madhvi ben's early tryst with embroidery — the fallback to fantasy for every small town Indian girl — and Padma Shri

Manu Parekh's two-decade-long association with textile doyenne Pupul Jayakar and the Weavers Service Centre, make this unassuming but innately powerful couple the perfect choice for a monumental artistic collaboration that sees Christian Dior and its creative director of women's collections, Maria Grazia Churi commission a series of textile artworks interpreted

in craft by the ingenious Karishma Swali and 340 artisans from her Byculla-based non-profit Chanakya School of Craft. The 22 works, some of them floor-to-ceiling, have used jute, silk, cotton, nettle and chord in a variety of stitches — saddle, chain, tapestry, stem — and French knots to interpret original paintings by the couple.

Only a tight group of high-profile guests made it to the by-invite-only Dior Fall 2023 runway show at the Gateway on Thursday night. But, everyone and their grandmother are invited to Swali and Parekh's hastkala party. Art, especially the kind Madhvi ben and Manu Parekh create, rooted in community and inclusion, can be as accepting as fashion can be isolating. It's this bewildering contrast that makes Mul Mathi a must-visit. Make a trip to the Worli venue before April 22.