lowers have played a significant role in the cultural history of Netherlands, From 1600 to 1800, it was a crucial. part of the Dutch Golden Age wherein artists sought inspiration from them and captured their beauty on canvas. Over the last eight years. Dutch photo artist Bas Meeuws has taken this tradition forward in his unique way Rather than painting them. he has been diligently clicking individual pictures of various blossoms. With the use of digital technology, he has been assembling these

creativity. He is showcasing his works for the first time in India at an exhibition titled Spring in the Wintertime, which is underway at Taru in Colaba and has been organised by Bengaluru-

based art gallery, Tasveer,

images and conceiving

still life series with his

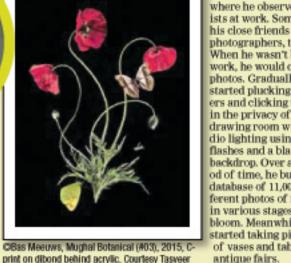
Flower power

Dutch photo artist Bas Meeuws captures the beauty of nature through his still life series



network for art). A physiotherapist by profession, Bas' fascination with flowers began at an early age. He would gift them to his mom on

Mother's Day Later, as



OBas Meeuws, Mughal Botanical (#03), 2015, C-

wife at her art school. where he observed artists at work. Some of his close friends were photographers, too. When he wasn't busy at work, he would click photos, Gradually, he started plucking flowers and clicking them in the privacy of his drawing room with studio lighting using two flashes and a black backdrop. Over a period of time, he built a database of 11,000 different photos of flowers in various stages of bloom. Meanwhile, he started taking pictures of vases and tables at antique fairs.

an adult, he visited his

He started collecting the images to build a collage. Elaborating the process, Bas says, "I start off with a table and an empty vase and then I put in one flower digitally. followed by another and the process continues till I create a unique arrangement. They are

neither based on any past paintings that I have seen nor do I sketch the final image in advance. Everything comes from my imagination. The best part is that I can play with the flowers to my liking, as there's no gravity So, I can place them in strange positions, Sometimes, I use the

same one in three different

©Bas Meeuws, Untitled (#47), 2011, C-print on dibond behind acrylic. Courtesy Tasveer ways in one single work, and all of them look distinct. Lalso use pictures of butterflies and insects. I add a lot of layers, clean up the images, adjust the

lightings and create shadows." He decided to capture God's creations of nature in

his lenses after being

inspired by the rich art heritage of Holland, "In my country, we have a large tradition of still life, I was inspired by the Dutch still life of 16th and 17th centuries and was attracted. to them. I wanted to create them through photography" he exclaims.

Quiz him about the

tion's name and he says, "That's the beauty of it. You can see spring flowers during winter. I can change proportions and colours just to Spring in the create the perfect Wintertime is picture irrespective of whether on at Tarq, Apollo Bunder till May they are in 31 from 11 ambloom or not at that point of 6.30 pm.

time." As part of this show, he has also created the series titled Muchal Botanicals and Mughal Still Lifes, which reflect a crosspollinisation between eastern and western artistic traditions. For this, he sought inspiration from floral motifs seen in illuminated Mughal manu-

scripts and monuments and used the same techniques of representation as his Dutch works. "For this, I have used the private collection of Abhishek Poddar, the founder of Tasveer, who had approached me to put

> 2015, when I came to India. I visited the Golden Triangle — Delhi, Agra and Jainur — where I learnt about Mughal art and architecture. I used some pies for background, but it was a challenge to transfer the marble inlays into my photos. I also used Indi-

together this exhibition. In

hibiscus and a combination of tulip and lily, thereby creating my own flowers," he smiles and says. He adds that he will continue his quest for flowers, "I am pretty curious to see how I can keep on using them. yet have a fresh approach towards my work," he

signs off.

an flowers like

