



The portrait of a plant

Check out fascinating magnified plant portraits by an iconic German photographer in an exhibition, titled Karl Blossfeldt — Art Forms in Nature



Plate 45 from Urformen der Kunst



Plate 94 from Urformen der Kunst



Plate 49 from Urformen der Kunst



SOMA DAS
soma.das@mid-day.com

A SERIES of iconic vintage photographs await you at Tarq Gallery and are part of the exhibition, titled Karl Blossfeldt — Art Forms in Nature. The exhibition features the works of Karl Blossfeldt (1865–1932), who was a photographer and professor at the Royal School of the Museum of Decorative Arts in Berlin.

The event is organised by Tasveer and Tarq, in partnership with Vacheron Constantin and The Singleton of Glen Ord.

Blossfeldt is renowned for his magnified plant portraits, which fused scientific empiricism with sculptural form and design

mechanics to reveal abstract forms, patterns and details of organic structures. These photographs were significant to the development of modern photography and transformed the perception of the natural world as well as impacted Western art and architecture.

A key highlight of the exhibition are the first-time photogravures (photo-mechanical printing) from Blossfeldt's landmark 1928 publication, *Urformen der Kunst* (or *Art Forms in Nature*), which was one of the earliest books to use the photogravure process.

On display at the exhibition will be 50 limited edition prints being showcased for the first time in South Asia.

Speaking about the exhibition, gallery director Hena Kapadia says, "Europe, in the early 1900s, was a centre for events that altered the history of photographic theory

and practice. Blossfeldt, at the centre of this moment, is reflective of the historical transformation. This exhibition highlights his importance within the broader narrative of the history of photography and contextualises the contemporary work that we show."

She adds that while the images are traditionally beautiful, and their symmetry will appeal to viewers; they have an intellectual undertone as well.

Interestingly, Blossfeldt did not intend for these photographs to be seen as fine art. "As a student and professor of design, these photographs were meant to be pedagogical tools (to benefit education), and their primary function for many years until he published his book, were as such. However, his unique perspective and compositions, combined with the print quality of the photogravures, come together to build an illusion of solidity and animation, that capitulate them into the sphere of artworks," concludes Kapadia.

What are Photogravure prints?

It is an intaglio (image is incised or cut into a surface, and the sunken area holds the ink) printmaking process that reproduces deeper tones with a wider range, closer to a traditional

photograph. The images exhibited here are from the unbound folio published in 1928 and are of a richer tone than later editions and considered as the finest of Blossfeldt's prints.

FROM January 27 to February 28, 11 am to 6 pm

AT Tarq, Dhanraj Mahal, CSM Marg, Apollo Bunder, Colaba.

CALL 66150424



Plate 50 from
Urformen der Kunst.

PICS COURTESY/© KARL
BLOSSFELDT/COURTESY
TASVEER

Not crystal clear

Lower Parel's Crystal recently added a non-vegetarian section to its menu, but like most of its neighbours on the block, struggles to offer a tasty fare

HASSAN M KAMAL
hassan.mkamal@mid-day.com

WHEN Crystal first opened in Lower Parel, the pricing took us by surprise, especially since it was particularly steep compared to its iconic parent outlet in Charni Road. Still, we kept going back. The reason was simple: the food tasted better than any of the other budget restaurants in the neighbourhood.

So, when we heard that Crystal had added a non-vegetarian section to their menu, we were curious to drop by for a visit.



The Mix Platter at Crystal offered a decent mix of kebabs

The non-vegetarian fare is as vast as the vegetarian section; however, it is cooked in a separate kitchen (as stressed by the manager). Here again, the pricing is a major concern: The Non-Vegetarian Thali is priced at ₹180 (for Combo Meal) and ₹230 (for Deluxe Combo Meal); chicken dishes cost nearly ₹200, whereas the mutton dishes start at ₹240. Even the rolls come for a steep ₹140; that too, when the very popular Kathi Kabab Rolls is just a few blocks. Still, we

chose to ignore these warning signs, especially due to their reputation for serving great food. We shouldn't have.

To savour their kebabs, we ordered for a Non-Vegetarian Mix Platter (₹425) for starters, and Mutton Bhuna, (₹240) with Lacha Paratha (₹35); for the mains, we picked the Chicken Tikka Biryani and Non-Vegetarian Deluxe Combo Meal. For our drinks, we opted for the Sweet Lime (₹30), which unfortunately was high on sweetness

but low on lime. Minus marks.

The platter arrived in time, and included six different succulent kebabs. The quantity was enough to satisfy a group of six. So far, so good. But our joyride was shortlived. Our next orders were disappointments one after the other — the Mutton Bhuna, for some reason, had uncooked capsicum in it, the Lacha Paratha was a bit too dry. The Deluxe Combo Meal was the worst of the lot — it included two small portions each of Amritsari Chicken (curry) and Pahadi Chicken, Dal Makhani, and rice, each served in small bowls. The rice provided a much-needed comic relief, as we stared and chuckled at the quantity. But we weren't done yet; even taste-wise, it failed to stimulate our taste buds. The oil-heavy Chicken Tikka Biryani failed to impress as well.

As if its tall, hard-to-reach tables and tightly-packed seating weren't reason

enough, Crystal Punjabi Tadka now makes things more difficult with its below average non-vegetarian fare and small servings. Our advice: stick to the vegetarian fare, or stay away.

AT Crystal Punjabi Tadka, 2, Building A, Shinde Building Compound, next to Phoenix Towers, SB Marg, Lower Parel.
CALL 24990099

Crystal didn't know we were there, the guide reviews anonymously and pays for its meals.



eating out

CRYSTAL PUNJABI TADKA

food	AVERAGE
service	QUICK
ambiance	CRAMPED