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5 great reasons to brave BKC traffic and visit Bvlgari's 'Serpenti Infinito'

Come for the photo-ops, stay for the snake lore

BY BUTOOL JAMAL



The works of Madhubani artist Baua Devi on display at the exhibition
Images courtesy Bvlgari

“Jewellery is not separate from art, the two are united,” says Sean Anderson, artistic director of the Bulgari *Serpenti Infinito* exhibition that opened its doors to the public on Wednesday night. “As jewellery becomes an extension of ourselves and the way we portray ourselves, so do art and artists react and portray themselves in their works.”

Anderson is speaking to a group of journalists that he’s taking on a walkthrough of the newly-opened exhibition, and he’s referring to the parallel stories of fine jewellery and watches from the Bulgari archives and the Contemporary art and sculpture from India and abroad, which are on display. But beyond being a form of expression, there’s another significant connection between the jewellery and art on display—they’re all inspired, in some form, by the snake.

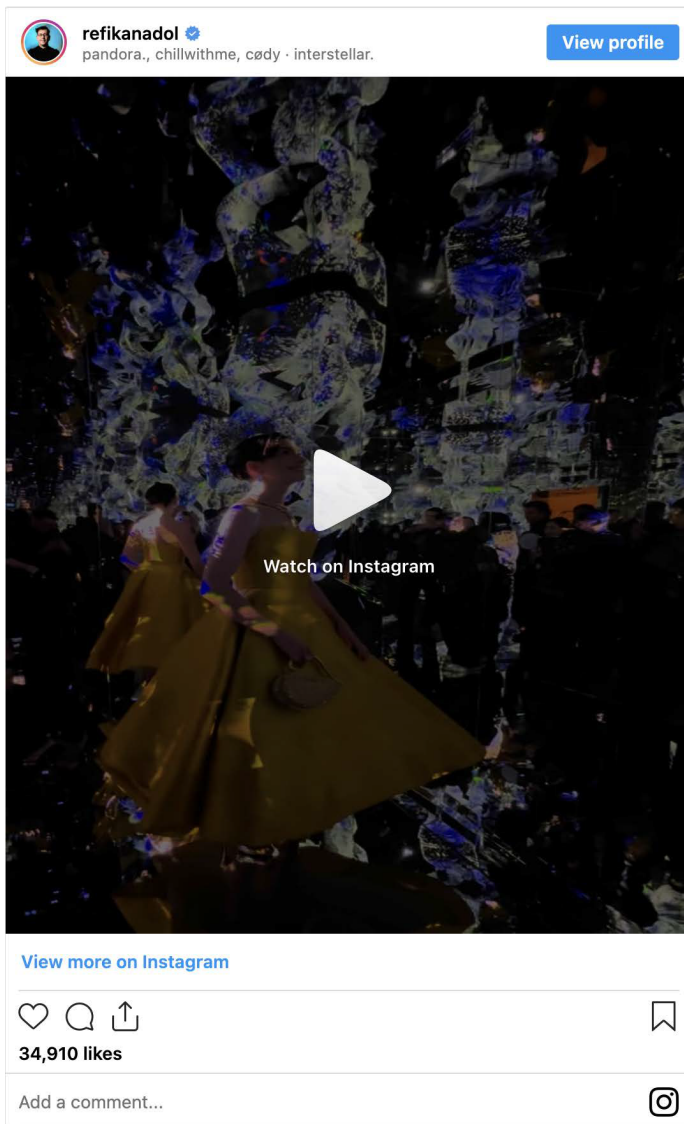
It’s 2025, and clearly the Year Of The Snake at Mumbai’s Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre, where the exhibit presents a showcase of art and jewellery that bites. Whether it’s the eternal Ananta Shesha, Lord Vishnu’s mount; the python who was a protector from Roman mythology; the snake from the Chinese Zodiac that signifies charm and intelligence; or even the serpent who tricked Eve in the Garden of Eden, the sinuous reptile has long fascinated storytellers from across the globe including the high jewellery house of Bulgari. The house’s *Serpenti Infinito* exhibition offers a brief perspective on this shared obsession, and the serpent’s magnetic charm that makes its presence felt in every piece from the classic, wrist-hugging Tubogas to the more opulent high jewellery pieces worn by red carpet regulars. Alongside, an excellent curation of Indian artworks—featuring works by Bharti Kher, The Aravani Art Project, even a VR installation by Harshit Agrawal—put together by Delhi-based gallery Nature Morte takes the serpentine narrative forward.

Below, five things to watch out for when you slither up to the show in Mumbai.



Chapter 1 of *Serpenti Infinito* looks back in time to explore the serpent's mythic and spiritual dimensions. So, alongside tantric drawings from the 15th century and bronze sculptures that depict dance movements of the Natya Sastras, there is a rare curation of 11 pieces from the Bvlgari archives. This includes the high jewellery house's signature Tubogas watches that loop around the wrist, a design that echoes both the articulated tubes used to carry gas in 1948 when they were introduced (hence the name) and the deft movement of the snake. Look out for the most iconic of these: a five coil Serpenti Pallini bracelet-watch in yellow-gold with a diamond-set head dating to around 1955.

House of mirrors



If an art exhibition today didn't have an Instagrammable moment, did it even happen? While photo ops are plenty at this exhibit, the most popular one (if social media is anything to go by) is Turkish-American new media artist Refik Anadol's AI-powered, dynamic installation set within a 360-degree mirrored room. The shifting imagery in the space was shaped by machine learning algorithms trained on natural snake forms—a reminder of the reptile's ability to repeatedly shed its skin.

A necklace inspired by the monsoon



Isha Ambani wears the Serpenti Divine Monsoon necklace
instagram.com/priyankapadia



The Bvlgari Serpenti Maharani Secret necklace

Two micro-textured rose gold snakes made of 450 individually welded rose gold plates and raindrops of tanzanites, green tourmalines, rubies, and rose-cut diamonds that drip from their body—that's the Serpenti Divine Monsoon necklace, part of the brand's most recent high jewellery collection that was inspired by India. The pieces are named after figures in Hindu myths—apsaras and the cosmic Ananta Shesha, or the king of the Nagas; and feature showstopping gemstones. Look out for a rare 109.27-carat cabochon rubellite that brings to mind the colours of Jaipur, and a mandarin garnet as bright as saffron. This collection serves to remind that Italy and India share deep cultural similarities, a love for bright, bold jewellery being just one of them.

Stories told in paint



Radha Sollur, set of 4 'Chittara Snakes', 2010

For Anderson and the founders of Nature Morte, Peter Nagy and Aparajita Jain, it was important to not distinguish between what's commonly viewed as folk or indigenous art versus Contemporary art. So, alongside a sculpture by Bharti Kher or paintings by Pramodbabu Ramteke, there are the lively Madhubani works of National Award-winner Baua Devi and the three-dimensional Chittara murals made of rice husks and clay by Radha Sollur, a painter from the Devaru community in Karnataka. Spread across 20 panels and in earthy natural colours, Devi's works in particular echo the deep meanings that serpents hold—of fertility, creation, and protection.

A mythology of snakes



Rithika Merchant's 'Zoomorph II'

Artist Rithika Merchant is known for her ability to take atavistic forms and bring them into a contemporary context through her colourful painted scenes. She frequently uses animal symbols—the snake, of course, but also birds, fish and other hybrid creatures as well the moon and stars, in a manner that echoes Greek and Egyptian mythology. Yet her stories aren't about the past, she's assembling them to talk about modern-day themes ranging from feminism and migration to global warming.

The exhibition is on till October 17, 2025 at the Art House, Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre. Book your tickets [here](#).