



### FROM THE FOUNDER'S DESK

### A Letter to the Artist Within Us All

There's a boy. He's about twelve.

It's a summer afternoon, and the fan is spinning above, slowly, like it's too tired to do its job. The boy is lying on the floor, a crayon in hand, and a notebook under his chest—because that's the only way he knows how to feel close to the page. He's not drawing anything fancy. Just lines. Some curves. A shape that probably makes sense only to

But to him, it does make sense. In that moment, that notebook is the only place in the world where he feels like he belongs. No teacher. No right answer. No need to explain.

That's what art does.

It gives people a place where nothing needs fixing. Where silence isn't empty. Where questions don't need perfect words. It doesn't ask for stage lights or standing ovations. It just waits for that one quiet moment when someone is ready to say something real.

Art has always been this quiet shelter. For some, it is a way to go back—to the smell of a kitchen where their grandmother sang old songs, or to a memory buried under years of trying to fit in. For others, it's the first time they feel like they are allowed to speak, in a voice that actually sounds like their own.

It's not always beautiful. It's not always understood. But it's always honest.

And that's the thing—art doesn't promise to change the world. It just holds space for people to be who they are, without needing to wear a mask.

Somewhere, there's a young girl painting her village's walls in secret because no one in her family thinks art is "useful." Somewhere else, a boy sings quietly in the school bathroom, because it's the only place he feels brave.

They don't think of it as finding their "identity." They're just trying to breathe. And art gives them room to do that.

At IIG Arts Academy, this is what matters most. Not just the perfect technique or polished stage shows. But the rawness. The searching. The student who stays back after class to ask, "Does this sound like me?" The one who starts writing in their mother tongue again after years of feeling ashamed.

This edition is for them.

For the artist who's still figuring it out. For the one who doesn't always finish what they start. For the one who's never shown anyone their work.

Art is not about being loud. It's about being real. And if you're reading this—there's a good chance you already know that.









### THE MIRROR EFFECT

How Art Reflects Who We Are

What does it mean to know oneself?

This question has followed people for centuries. Some try to answer it through words, others through silence. Some look to their families, their hometowns, their language. Others look in the opposite direction, to escape, to rebuild, to rename what they were given. Still, the question remains.

And often, without making a grand decision, without planning it too much, people turn to art.

Not because art holds all the answers. But because it gives people a place to ask the question without being interrupted.

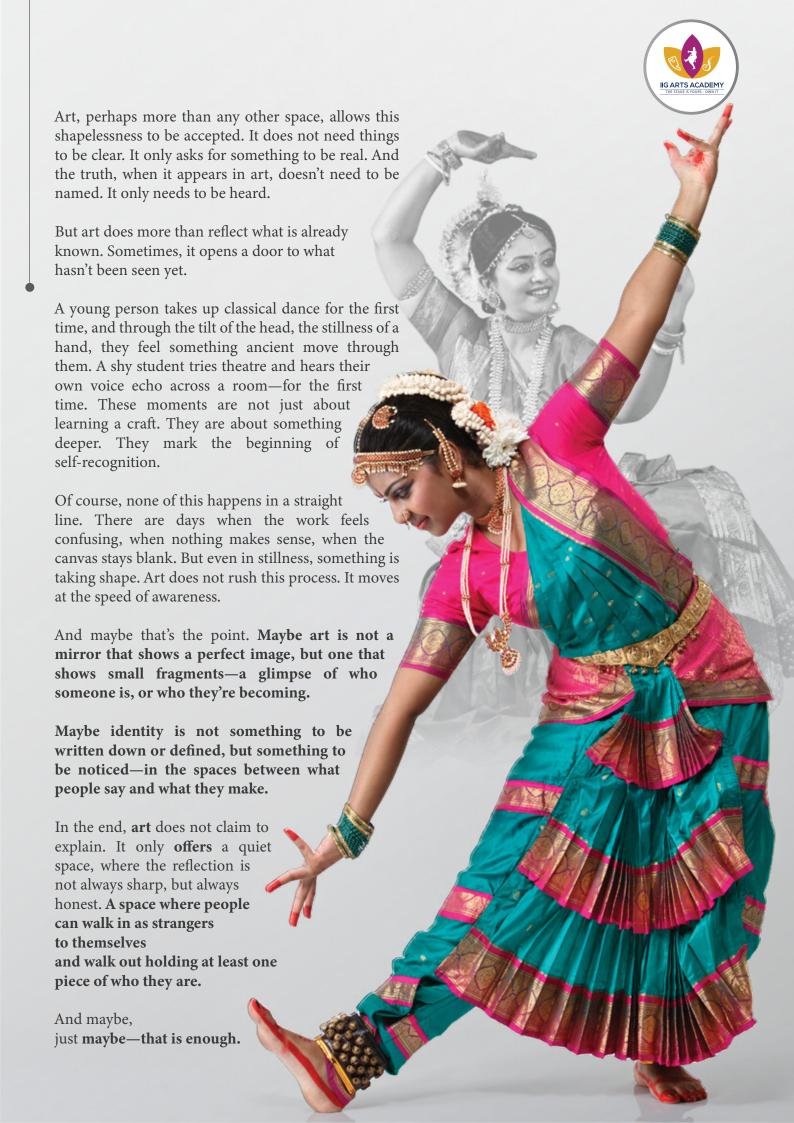
What if the lines drawn on a page, the pauses between notes, or the shadows in a photograph are not just part of a technique—but quiet signs of a person trying to understand themselves?

What if art is not an activity outside of the self—but a reflection of it?

There is a kind of honesty that appears in creative spaces, not because someone intended it, but because they stopped trying to hide. A theatre student doesn't know why they cry during a scene that isn't even written as emotional. A young singer adds a rough edge to a soft melody, and when asked why, they say 'it just felt right'. A dancer repeats the same phrase again and again, not out of mistake, but as if their body is remembering something it was never taught.

No one teaches this. But it happens.

It may be that identity, as most people understand it, is too large to hold all at once. It is not one clear shape or story. It shifts depending on time, place, and who's watching. It is made up of childhood memories, cultural roots, names people are proud of and names they've left behind. Sometimes it is visible. Other times, it is only felt.







# REAL STORIES REAL IMPACT

Rishab Rikhiram Sharma — An Artist Who Carries Their Roots Within

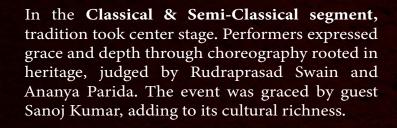
**♦** here's something unforgettable about the first time someone hears Rishab play the sitar. The music is precise but not rigid, emotional but never loud. It moves gently, the way old memories do-slow, warm, honest. Rishab, a Sitarist & Classical Musician, comes from a legacy. He is the youngest disciple of Pandit Ravi Shankar and belongs to a family of legendary instrument makers. But he has never treated that legacy like a crown. It's more like a thread—something he chooses to hold, shape, and pass on. What makes Rishab's work stand out is not just his skill, but the way he grounds tradition in today's world. His social media doesn't try to modernize classical music with gimmicks. Instead, it reflects sincerity. His videos are filmed with care. His captions speak gently about memory, discipline, and meaning. His tone is never trying to prove—it simply invites the listener in. Visibility through sincerity. He doesn't shout. But people still stop and listen. That's the power of quiet clarity. What Does He Remind Us of? Cultural grounding doesn't limit an artist—it strengthens their voice. ■ Being seen doesn't always mean being loud. Sometimes, it means being clear. ■ Art becomes more powerful when it carries memory with it—without apology. He is not just a "well-branded" artist - he's a well-rooted one.

And that makes all the difference.



## RANG-AE-MEHFIL

DANCE



The **Modern Dance segment** brought bold energy and personal expression, with styles ranging from freestyle to hip-hop.

Judges Rishi and Nandu Master recognized the creativity and intensity of each performance. Together, the competitions celebrated both heritage and experimentation—two sides of identity expressed through dance.

SOLO SINGING COMPETITION

The solo singing competition turned the spotlight on raw vocal talent and emotional expression.

With genres ranging from Indian classical to contemporary hits, the competition featured a wide range of performances that showcased the versatility of the young singers. Judge Anurag Patnaik brought musical depth to the judging panel with his constructive feedback and ear for detail. The atmosphere was further uplifted by the presence of Sanoj Kumar, whose engagement with the performers brought warmth to the event.





challenge and comfort, more colors that blur boundaries, and more moments where identity finds its stage.

Thank you for being part of this unfolding story.

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