

Canal plus: All aboard for a voyage around the backwaters and beauty of Birmingham

canal - on a sleek, green 66ft end of lazy living. narrowboat called Herring stress.

along the towpath. It's England. Middle England in miniature.

and Worcester Canal, past But when the waterways were

3mph in a car and we'd be and flaps towards the sun, its and a muddy-wellies week-

Miss the cities and you dark with our headlight on, A heron watches our miss the canals. The great praying nothing comes to- opment, teeming with

Could there be a better we think it's a garden statue. they offer a near-perfect blend is room for two boats to pass, centre of the city. As we are fast as leep, their parable of modern Britain? But then it suddenly lifts off, of urban and rural pleasures: but it's not something you moor the Herring Gull, wan-heads tucked into their

All is serenity as we as the Kennet & Avon, do, in- then chug gently onwards, with its Italianate tower, past glide along the Birmingham deed, have a pastoral charm. towards the heart of the city. suburban railway stations, have stayed there all day below deck with a mug of First, like burrowing past factories and churches and all night, but, having coffee and greets us with pubs and churches, fields of dug, they were not built to be moles, we must negotiate the and housing estates, until been lured by the sheer va- a seraphic smile. sheep, neat suburban gar- picturesque: they were indus- 2,726-yard West Hill tunnel, we get to fashionable riety of life on the canals, dens, joggers, cyclists and trial arteries linking cities such one of the longest in the Brindleyplace, we board our boat again, do scenery passing so parents pushing buggies as Birmingham to the rest of country. It is an eerie experi- Birmingham's answer to an inelegant three-point slowly you can savour

This canalside devel- then head out of the city.

Approaching Birmingham at does a graceful swivel mid-air you get a city-break weekend want to test as a learner driver. der, potter, buy some an-chests. A boat called Sir But soon, we are out in tique jewellery from a Tristram meets us coming fidgeting, tooting our horns wings tinged with gold - just end rolled into one. We board the fresh air again, with the woman on a canal boat, the other way. 'Lock in and snarling at other drivers. one of a hundred vignettes we the Herring Gull at Birmingham skyscape in the then tuck into organic two miles,' says the Approaching it at 3mph by will take home from our week- Alvechurch marina in distance. Our route takes us burgers and a glass of bearded, weather-beaten Worcestershire, spend our past Cadbury World - so close pinot grigio, with jazz play-skipper. The boat is his Some people associate first night moored beside a we can smell the chocolate - ing in the distance, there is home, he explains, as we Gull - and there is no such canal holidays with the coun- field with nothing to disturb past graffiti-covered walls, a Bohemian feel to the day; pass. He'd not live anytryside, and many canals, such us but the baa-ing of sheep, past Birmingham University city life at its most relaxed. where else if you paid him.

progress from the bank. It is thing about the canals in and wards us from the opposite shops and bars and restau- us along the Stratford-upon- strangers with time on standing so still that at first around Birmingham is the way direction - theoretically, there rants, has transformed the Avon canal, a mazy backwa- their hands. No one is in ter meandering through green too much of a hurry to fields and past the backs of say hello or to swap gardens. Cats watch us from yarns about life on the eatly mown lawns. The smell can als. of sausages on a barbecue empts. The canal is over- boat of my own,' says hung by trees that seem to the publican of one cabe kissing over our heads. nal-side pub, in a broad Even the ducks on the bank 'Trouble was, it

We could happily A woman emerges from If canals are about

ence, inching through the London's Camden Market. turn, jeered by onlookers, every detail, they are also about good fellowship; Our route this time takes the give-and-take of

'I used to have a It is all eerily quiet. Black Country accent.

An evening with Dr. S.Y. Quraishi



(Lto R) Dr. Surinder Singh Malhotra, Surender S. Dhall, Mohinder Singh Taneja



Sardana Family (Host) seen with Dr. S. Y. Quraishi



(L to R) Mrs. K. L. Sardana, Indu Jaiswal, Gunjan Desai, Dr. S. Y. Quaraishi (Election Commissioner of India), Neeta Bhasin, Mr. Bhasin, Anupam Goenka

(Contd. from page 1)

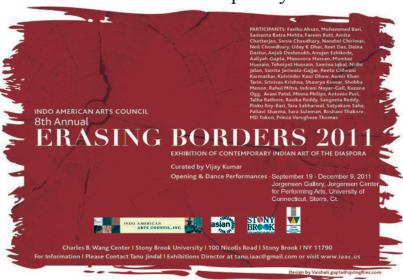
tion of accuracy and fairness Sharanjit Singh Thind, of the Indian Election pro- Kamlesh Mehta, Inder cess was the focal point of Bindra, Neeta Bhasin,

Gulshan

Mohinder Singh Taneja, of India, world recogni- Indu Jaiswal, Bobby Kumar, Surender Singh Dhall, Prominent Long Island Dharam Aggarwal, Dr. dignitaries like K. L. Sardana Krishna Jhaveri alongwith and family (Host), Dr. several other community Surinder Singh Malhotra, Dr. members graced the evening Malhotra, session, followed by dinner.

Indo-American Arts Council presents **IAAC ERASING BORDERS 2011**

Exhibition of Contemporary Indian Art of the Diaspora

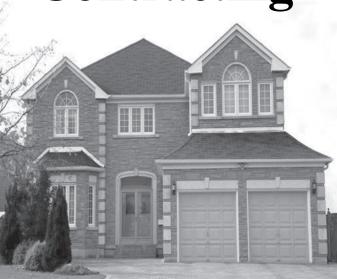


Exhibition Starts: September 19 - December 9, 2011 at Jorgensen Gallery, Jorgensen Center for Performing Arts, University of Connecticut, Storrs, Ct. Panel Discussion: November 29th,

3:30 pm Reception: November 29th, 6:00 pm Featured Artist 2011: Natvar Bhavsar Curated by Vijay Kumar IAAC Director of Exhibitions: Tanu Jindal

Erasing Borders is a richly provocative exhibition by artists of the Indian diaspora who confront issues of sexuality, terror, disease, the environment, racial and sectarian politics in painting, prints, installations, video, and sculpture. With great technical mastery and diversity of theme and style, these works combine traditional Indian aesthetics with Western elements, and speak to the powerful experience of personal and cultural dislocation in the global village. In its eighth year, Erasing Borders is curated by Vijay Kumar and produced by the Indo-American Arts Council. Free and open to the public. Participating Artists: (Click on the artists name for details): Fasihu Ahsan, Mohammed Bari, Samanta Batra Mehta, Fareen Butt, Amita Chatterjee, Sonia Chaudhary, Nandini Chirimar, Neil Chowdhury, Uday K Dhar, Reet Das, Delna Dastur, Anjali Deshmukh, Anujan Ezhikode, Aaliyah Gupta, Mansoora Hassan, Mumtaz Hussain, Tehniyet Hussain, Samina Iqbal, Nidhi Jalan, Sunita Jariwala-Gajjar, Reeta Gidwani -Karmarkar, Kulvinder Kaur Dhew, Aamir Khan Tarin, Srinivas Krishna, Shaurya Kumar, Shobha Menon, Rahul Mitra, Indrani Nayar-Gall, Kuzana Ogg, Avani Patel, Minna Philips, Antonio Puri, Talha Rathore, Rasika Reddy, Sangeeta Reddy, Pinku Roy-Bari, Tara Sabharwal, Satyakam Saha, Pallavi Sharma, Sara Suleman, Roshani Thakore ,MD Tokon, Prince Varughese Thomas

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