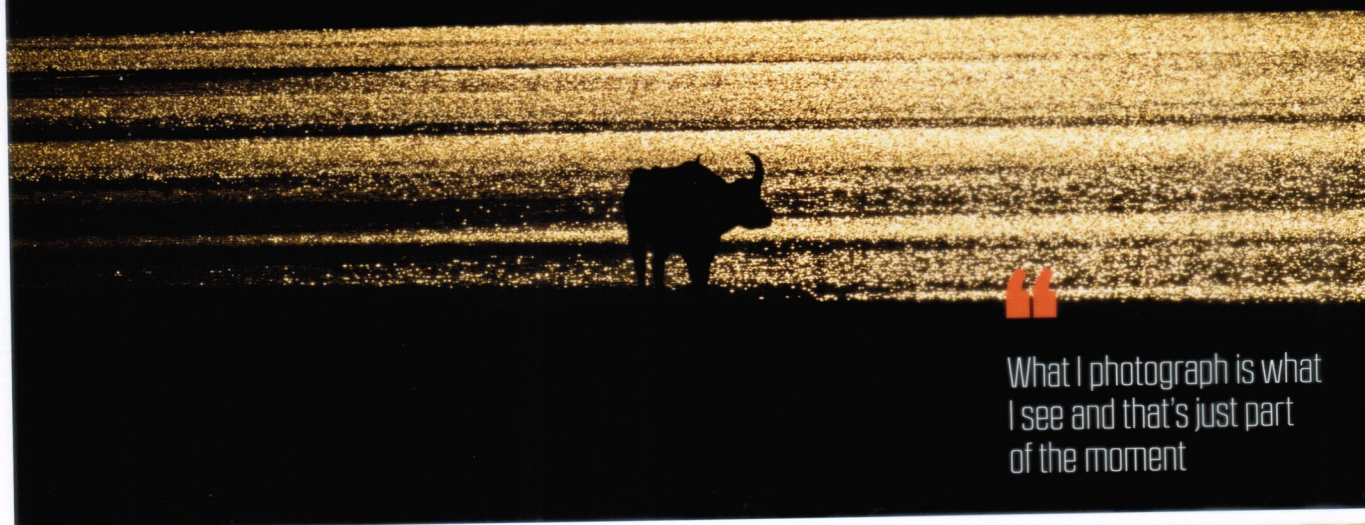


A Fine Eye

The photographer that mixes pleasure and business his way

WORDS ISAAC TAN PHOTOS LALIN JINASENA



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LALIN MICHAEL JINASENA, 37, has had an impressive number of professions for one person: hotelier, interior and furniture designer, architect, donut chain owner and technopreneur. As of last month, he can add fine art photographer to the list.

Recently opened at Raffles Hotel Arcade, Lalin Gallery houses Jinasena's fine art photographs that range from wildlife to architecture. Completely self-taught, Jinasena has pursued the craft for more than two decades after his father, a hobbyist photographer, introduced it to him.

His budding interest was shaped by the brutally honest opinions of his father. He recalls, "It was a challenge to beat my father at his game, so I kept trying to improve. There came a point, in my teens, when I managed to earn his approval and admiration. He said I surpassed his expectations." Since then, photography has taken him on myriad adventures, especially with animals in the wilderness.


Despite the technical competence, Jinasena's approach to photography retains a touch of youthful spontaneity. "What I photograph is what I see and that's just part of the moment. It's a

certain feeling of something that is happening or about to happen."

He has the tendency to march to his own tune. "I tend not to follow or read up too much about other people's work. When it comes to being creative, it's good to have a completely open mind."

A coming together of passion and business acumen, the gallery is not just about selling his works, but more about setting a trend. He explains, "Fine art photography is huge in the US. And I can see it happening here too, which is why I think it's a good time to set up the gallery."

Visitors can expect an exciting slew of exhibitions as Jinasena plans to change the collections on display every two months. He hopes to inspire more people to try the art form.

His advice to aspiring photographers: "Don't worry about the rules too much, because art comes from within oneself; it's what you create from what you see and feel. Also, take the bold step and exhibit your stuff. You'll never know the kind of response you'll get and it might surprise you." 

To learn more about Jinasena's photography adventures, visit www.augustman.com

