

Reflections of the search for roots

Elena Pereira is a conceptual artist based in Bangalore for the past seven years. She is from the Netherlands and of German-Indian parentage. Elena's yearning to explore her Indian roots and its culture, made her stay back here. With a background in fashion and textile design, Elena's sculptures flaunt great aesthetic sensibility. From flowers to metal, all make for raw material for her sculptures.

Elena is participating in this year's



edition of Art Bengaluru and her series *Reflections* comprises chandeliers made from chains and spoons, sculptures made from jewellery and an artwork depicting life that has been created by butterflies captured in Epoxy. On her inspiration, she says, "Whenever I walked alone on the streets, I would catch myself on reflective surfaces. It incited a meditative response in me. This series is also a search for myself."

Elena initially started

working with the human body as a theme for her art works and eventually progressed to her current obsession with artefacts that represent everyday objects but have no real

function like the chandeliers. She says, "I wanted to create a conversation between the organic and the non-organic, because I discovered that working with only one element was not

satisfying. I have been doing this for the past 4-5 years."

Elena's collection at Art Bengaluru will showcase 19 objects which took her a month and a half to create. She



Pieces from Elena Pereira's series *Reflections Someday, The Urban Bird and Wildflowers*

says, "The preparatory work started months ago on a road-trip across India when I picked up interesting metals and material. I use aged material as I feel they have a unique touch and shine to them."

There are a lot of gold tones in her series. Elena says, "I like the colour gold, it's not quite yellow but then it is."

I also use enamel paint which makes ordinary material precious and gives more body to structure, especially for flowers. I also use lot of resins." Elena will exhibit her works from August 16 to 23 at Art Bengaluru.

— Rachele Chandraan