



Photograph by SUMANTH KUMAR

SECRET IN THE CITY

## *A Collector's Paradise*

Murray & Co, an auction house dating back to as early as 1927 is an antique-lover's haven.

✦ By **Prachi Sibal**

It is fairly easy to drive past this partly dilapidated building on a regular day which houses Murray & Co, an auction house dating back to as early as 1927. But not on a Sunday morning. Antique collectors, scrap dealers and those with a keen eye for furniture have flocked at its doors since time immemorial. However, right from the time it was established, Murray & Co has held on to a weekly Sunday auction tradition attended by at least 100 to 150 people. "We have probably missed no more than 20 Sunday auctions from the time we first began," says Hemant Srivatsa, partner, Murrays & Co.

### Past Perfect

Get yourself registered at their makeshift desk and you'll be briefed about the auction immediately. A list of items is available and you can

### AT A GLANCE

Every three to four months, Murray and Co. hosts an exclusive antique auction that spans three days and is attended by nearly 300 people.

mark the ones you're ready to bid for. The leaflet explains all auction rules so as to avoid interruptions during the proceedings and the staff swiftly holds up the items for buyers to see, while Srivatsa himself throws the bid open. Raise your hand to bid; once sealed, pay an advance to lock your item.

### Changing Times

Srivatsa, who joined Murray & Co in 1992, has seen times change through the eye of the auction house. While the format has been retained, the profile of the attendees and the auction list is constantly revamped. "People are more aware of the prices today. Earlier it was the shiny things they were after," he says.

**At** Ground Floor, Gemini Towers, No 601, Anna Salai **On** Every Sunday, 10.30 a.m.



Feature

NO CELL PHONES!

Photograph by SUMANTH KUMAR

SECRET IN THE CITY

# A Collector's Paradise

Murray & Co, an auction house dating back to as early as 1927 is an antique-lover's haven.

By Prachi Sibal

It is fairly easy to drive past this partly dilapidated building on a regular day which houses Murray & Co, an auction house dating back to as early as 1927. But not on a Sunday morning. Antique collectors, scrap dealers and those with a keen eye for furniture have flocked at its doors since time immemorial. However, right from the time it was established, Murray & Co has held on to a weekly Sunday auction tradition attended by at least 100 to 150 people. "We have probably missed no more than 20 Sunday auctions from the time we first began," says Hemant Srivatsa, partner, Murrays & Co.

### Past Perfect

Get yourself registered at their makeshift desk and you'll be briefed about the auction immediately. A list of items is available and you can

### AT A GLANCE

Every three to four months, Murray and Co. hosts an exclusive antique auction that spans three days and is attended by nearly 300 people.

mark the ones you're ready to bid for. The leaflet explains all auction rules so as to avoid interruptions during the proceedings and the staff swiftly holds up the items for buyers to see, while Srivatsa himself throws the bid open. Raise your hand to bid; once sealed, pay an advance to lock your item.

### Changing Times

Srivatsa, who joined Murray & Co in 1992, has seen times change through the eye of the auction house. While the format has been retained, the profile of the attendees and the auction list is constantly revamped. "People are more aware of the prices today. Earlier it was the shiny things they were after," he says.

At Ground Floor, Gemini Towers, No 601, Anna Salai On Every Sunday, 10.30 a.m.



JULY 2017



# Chennai

A MONTHLY CITY MAGAZINE

MURRAY & CO,  
AN ANTIQUE  
COLLECTOR'S  
PARADISE



ALSO  
OUR PICK OF  
THE MONTH

## THE POWER OF TWO

EIGHT DUOS WHO  
HAVE MADE IT BIG IN  
THE CITY

HARI MADHAVAN AND  
RAMYA HARI MADHAVAN  
OF HYDES STUDIO