

Source

This week, the Lounge edit of cool textile innovations to mark National Handloom Day on 7 August

MUSLIN MATTERS

Handwoven Cotton Jamdani Stole by Weavers Studio

This monochromatic scarf is crafted from Bengal's Jamdani fabric. With a fine thread count, it's the perfect accessory for balmy afternoons. Available at Weaversstudio.in; ₹9,000

POLKA PARTY

Hand-block printed long shirt by Indigene

This *siyahi* dyed shirt features the brand's unique *rai-daana* block print and fabric buttons on a relaxed silhouette. Available at Indigene.com; ₹4,250

MOOD INDIGO

Indigo accessories from 11.11/eleven eleven

Add a Khadi-cool spin to your accessories. This backpack, which is encased in a reclaimed bamboo shell, and pair of shoes are crafted from handwoven cotton and dyed in natural indigo. Available at 11-11.in; ₹22,900 for the backpack and 4,900 for the shoes.

LIFE JACKET

Tilfi Isosceles Beige Handwoven Silk Button-Down Jacket Dress

With a classic silhouette and chevron patterns in pastel colours, this jacket is quite the statement-maker. Available at Tilfi.com; ₹44,000



GRAB A SEAT

Yogi folding chair by Sihasn

The Yogi chair, in its orange Naga shawl upholstery, can brighten up any corner of the room, is easily foldable and great for the outdoors. Available at Sihasn.com; ₹18,000

YOU'VE GOT IT COVERED

Handwoven cotton cushion covers by HummingHaus

Featuring geometric patterns and monochromatic colours, these cushion covers can make for a failsafe addition to any living room. Available at Humminghaus.com; ₹1,100



STATE OF THE ART

Stroll through Buenos Aires

Argentine writer Jorge Luis Borges had once said, "Without the streets or dusks of Buenos Aires, a tango cannot be written."

Argentine-German fine art photographer Gerardo Korn seems to have met Borges halfway on that thought. Last month, the photographer presented his solo series *Behind The Scene—Buenos Aires*. The Cosmic Heart Gallery and consulate general & promotion centre of the Argentine Republic in Mumbai presented the exhibition.

Borges' belief was that the world is an illusion and can only be perceived by a few dreamers when everyone else sleeps. Inspired by this, Korn began to capture the city void of people, either during late

nights or the early hours. He says on email, "My photographs are the result of my inner urge to portray my hometown off-guard and for me to be its only witness. For me, it is no less than a revelation, almost as if it were a spiritual journey." He has been shooting since 2011-16, and uses his 30-year-old camera with Kodak's classic Tri-X black and white film to achieve nostalgic depth. One can see the cityscape in various moods—drenched and diffused with streetlights or rising out of the fog.

At the unveiling of the exhibition, Italy-based Argentine tango dancer and teacher Gladys Fernandez performed a Libertango with Indian tango dancer Santosh Avatramani. Acting consul general



The Alsina Bridge in the Nueva Pompeya neighbourhood, shot by Gerardo Korn.

Alejandro Zothner Meyer, who was hosting the event, said that the photographs "capture the essence and the emotion associated with every plaza, street, bridge and

building."—SL

Behind The Scene—Buenos Aires will be on display till 31 August at the Cosmic Heart Gallery, Mumbai

JUST ARRIVED

Everyday sparkle

The ethos of jewellery brand Irasva is encapsulated in its name, which translates to self-love, and its products—delightfully light yet intricate pieces. The e-commerce brand recently opened its first brick-and-mortar store in Mumbai. Founder and creative director Leshna Shah's emphasis on shape and symmetry is evident in the fun facets and motifs of the brand's 11 collections—crafted with diamonds and enamelled gold—which are great for dailywear. Quite like the jewellery, the two-tiered space is done up in the brand's signature pastel-pink and navy-blue hues. —SL

The Irasva flagship store is located at 67, Hughes Road, Gamdevi, Mumbai



FLASH SALE

Take it slow

Planning a closet upgrade for the festive season? If you are in Delhi, head to The Wishlist. In its fourth year, the pop-up is taking the slow fashion route to style. "In my journeys across India, I met weavers, artisans and craftsmen, and saw how they create masterpieces," says founder and curator Sadhana Mehta. "I also (found) designers who support weaver clusters. Discovering the makers behind the creations is the essence of slow fashion and of The Wishlist." This edition's highlight is Sonam Dubal, who will showcase designs from his label Sanskar. Itr by Khyati Pandey, Meekhalio by Somya Tambi, Sanjeev Kumar of Hastkargha, and Ekam Jewels are other labels to watch out for. The sale also includes furnishings and décor items. —SD
The Wishlist is on 3 August, Taj Mahal Hotel, 1, Mansingh Road, 10am-6pm

Compiled by Sohini Dey and Shubham Ladha.



STREAM OF STORIES

RAJA SEN

The minister of silly talks



Jerry Seinfeld (right) with Eddie Murphy in 'Comedians In Cars Getting Coffee'.

What's the deal with Jerry Seinfeld? That's the kind of thing Seinfeld, the stand-up comedian who typified observational humour, would have wondered about in the 1990s, with subjects as banal as airline peanuts and "rhinoplasty" — he called the term a particularly galling job at those getting a nose job.

In the *Seinfeld* episode "The Checks" (season 8, episode 7, Amazon Prime), the comedian is beset by royalty cheques of tiny amounts from a one-time appearance on a Japanese variety show called "Super Terrific Happy Hour". Today, with what his sitcom brings in streaming deals and syndication, million-dollar residual cheques must feel small since they come in all the time.

Seinfeld reruns have made Jerry Seinfeld the "world's wealthiest actor", with an estimated net worth of \$950 million (around ₹6,523 crore)—though you would hardly call him an actor. These days, he hasn't seemed like much of a comedian either. The current material, where he talks about men getting too old to wear jeans, is fine but unspectacular. In the landscape of 40-second Facebook clips guiding us to pick our next comedy special, Seinfeld isn't the one whose routines we are quoting. He seems too much of a traditionalist, fed up with ideas of political correctness and censorship in comedy, but not provocative enough to take an actual stand.

As a fiction creator, he's no Larry David. David, as Billy Eichner quipped on the cruel and clever sitcom *Difficult People*, had indeed captured "lightning in a bottle, twice: with both *Seinfeld* and *Curb Your Enthusiasm*". Unlike that illustrious co-creator (and inspiration for the ever-at-sea George Costanza), Seinfeld has found no such second coming—but has he really wanted to return?

He runs a little show called *Comedians In Cars Getting Coffee*, a web-series that was acquired by Netflix. His guest list isn't modest—Barack Obama was on while he was US president—but the style is immensely relaxed and free-flowing. Seinfeld showcases a nifty car, calls up a comedian and drives around with them, before and after getting coffee. There are many, many close-up shots of espressos being tamped and beans being ground.

Getting guests out of a studio makes a massive difference. In a 2015 episode filmed from inside a Lamborghini Countach, Jim Carrey raps his fingers on one of the show's ubiquitous Go-Pro cameras. "Just knocking on the fourth wall there. Amazing, it really is real." The other difference comes from Seinfeld's complete lack of trying too hard. Unlike talk show hosts who charm guests and audiences, he has nothing to prove.

This results in unpredictable riffs on joke-telling, cars, comedy idols, mortality and coffee itself. The new 2019 collection is particularly great, with fantastic conversations with actors Eddie Murphy, Martin Short and Seth Rogen. The highlight is a two-part episode with Ricky Gervais, where the two stand around marvelling at someone else's joke.

Gervais tells it: "A holocaust survivor eventually dies of old age and goes to heaven. He meets God, and he tells God a holocaust joke. And God goes, 'That's not funny.' And he says, 'I guess you had to be there.'"

"That's like a novel in a joke," gasps Seinfeld. Here are two ludicrously successful comedians, awed not by a particular legend, but by a joke one of them heard somewhere.

There is, by the way, no fathomable reason for the Gervais episode to be in two parts—the two parts together make 30 minutes, while the Murphy episode is a 41-minute solo—save for Gervais and Seinfeld debating a politically incorrect joke, and, storytelling-wise, that debate works better with a pause. Some gags need a long pause, and this show will gladly break format to provide it.

Seinfeld's observations dazzle on occasion—Hassan Minhaj doesn't "get" cars but worships high-end sneakers, so Seinfeld tells him a supercar is simply the ultimate sneaker—and with this loose structure and love for digressions, *Comedians In Cars Getting Coffee* eventually tells us more about the host than the guests. Seinfeld, we learn, can be as curmudgeonly as the fictional Larry David from *Curb*—launching into a tirade when a waitress interrupts, to ask him about dessert—and the bits of his personality add up.

He appears genuinely curious about modern approaches to comedy, while it's interesting to see younger comics react to the 65-year-old: Rogen calls him Sir, and mimic Melissa Villaseñor giggles through her car ride, looking like she's pinching herself. Seinfeld himself is eager to laugh, and when truly, truly tickled, elbows the person next to him in the car, as with Murphy, or the late great Garry Shandling. Broadcast two months before Shandling's passing, that episode was eerily, heartbreakingly titled "It's Great That Garry Shandling Is Still Alive".

After a hilarious time with close friend and writer Barry Marder, Seinfeld walks him to his porch. Marder, going in, asks him what he's going to do now, and Seinfeld replies, "Nothing." Then, as melancholy music plays, Seinfeld sits on his friend's porch and eats Twinkies by himself. Evening falls, day breaks. Marder comes out to pick up the paper, tells Seinfeld that they are done, and goes inside shaking his head. It's a terrific bit.

What do you do when you have peaked? When too many people consider a show you made the greatest comedy in television history? What do you do with so many Porsches you lost count? What would motivate you to even repeat success when you don't need the money, and when reruns ensure your fame endures? What do you do when it's always Super Terrific Happy Hour? Jerry Seinfeld chooses not to answer. Instead, he phones a friend.

Stream of Stories is a column on what to watch online. Raja Sen is a film critic and the author of *The Best Baker In The World (2017)*, a children's adaptation of *The Godfather*.

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STREAMING TIP OF THE WEEK

For a double-shot of the creators of *Seinfeld*, I recommend watching the Larry David episode of *Comedians In Cars Getting Coffee* right after episode 6, season 7 of *Curb Your Enthusiasm* (Hotstar), where a fictionalized David and Seinfeld feel an awful lot like the real thing.