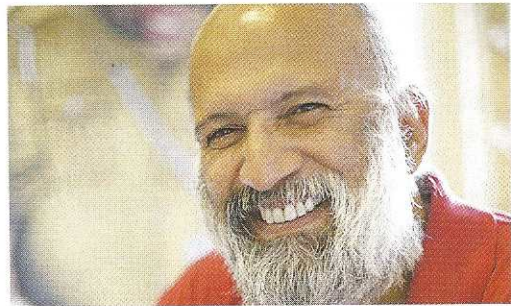


RETRO RIDE



Capturing the true character and the quiriness of Bengaluru, noted cartoonist Paul Fernandes has recently self-published a coffee table book, *Bangalore - Swinging in the 70s*. The book—comprising 70 watercolour illustrations—is nothing short of time travel to the city of yesteryears that went about at an idyllic pace; the paintings charmingly capture random and treasured moments from the lives of ordinary people. While for the old-timers, the book is a chance to relive memories, for newbies it is an opportunity to discover what the city had to offer before the IT boom. It's fun spotting favourite hangouts such as Koshy's Restaurant, Plaza Theatre and the Bangalore Club—every sketch packs a story with a humorous twist.

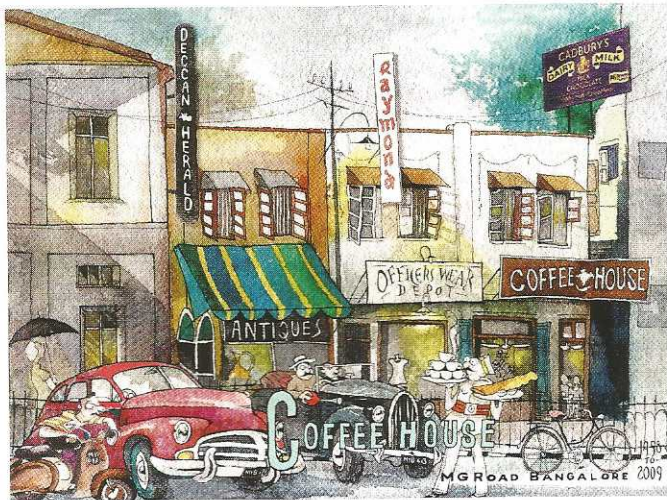
For 56 year-old Paul, the book was a natural progression to the exhibits in his gallery, aPaulogy, that he set up in Bengaluru in December 2011.

"Looking at my illustrations, visitors would spontaneously break into nostalgic stories, and interesting anecdotes emerged in the process," he reveals. "The book blends my illustrations with these lingering experiences."

ART His cosy gallery also carries his art in the form of knickknacks like coasters, coffee mugs, bookmarks and shine boards—a new stream of funny street signage art. "The process of coming up with a print that matches the look and shades of the original is a long, tiresome and technical process," he explains.

Paul's background as a cartoonist is evident as his colourful sketches are packed with comical characters and situations. He cites Mario Miranda as one of his key inspirations for "his general sense of spreading happiness around". Acknowledging that Bengaluru is no longer a pensioner's paradise, he quips, "Change is natural; we need to grow along. But I hope we also avoid things like cutting trees."

—Ramy Srinivasan



The chaps in Bangalore were always polite and pleasant.