Rapping the Indian way...

Hip hop, one of the very famous genres of music in the world was introduced by the African-Americans, by which they used to express the problems and pain faced by them. Hip hop which is also known as Rap is a style that has spread across the world and was liked by everyone, which was evident from the fact that it was on the chartbusters. While majority of the Indians were not so familiar with this kind of music, Bha Sehgal decided to come up with his private album in 1992 called “Thanda thanda pari” which became the trendsetter. For years, he has ruled the Indi rap world till some of his toughest competitors like Apache Indian and Devang Patel came in. Apache came in with Punjabi English Rap in the year 1993 with his album “No Reservation.” What Devang did was almost similar to Baba. One great thing that Devang did was that he introduced Rap in bollywood by the song “Stop that” in the Govinda starrer ‘Gazillion’ in the year 1995. Later he switched to Indi Pop. But it was not Devang who rapped for the first time in a Hindi movie. Can you guess who did it first? It was none other than “Dadamoni” popularly known as “Ashok Kumar” who sang the song “Rail gadi” in the movie “Aashirwad” in the year 1968. Then again in the year 1995 came the movie “Humse hai maqboola” starring Prabhu Deva in which A R Rahman composed the song “Patli Rap”. Almost after a decade in the year 2005, rap re-emerged in three movies - “Bunty Aur Babli”, “Ek Ajnabee” and “Bluffmaster” and all of them adapted Rap in the promotional songs which were “B n B Rap”, “Hip-Hop MC” and “Right here, Right now” consecutively. In 2007 we had “Jaan bhi de (the hip hop mix)” from Hey baby and the Bhool Bhulaiya’s “Teri ankhe, bhool bhulaiya”. Now, we have a new trend that is regional language rap songs like Gujarati – English rap by the US based band called “Karmacy” for the album “Blood brothers” in the year 2006 and the latest one is the Kannad-English Rap by the Bangalore based band named “Urban Lads” for their album called “Explosion-1”. So, don’t get surprised, if in future you encounter a “Marathi or Bhojpur Rai” album because it’s in the trend.

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Artistic Ink

"Art completes what nature cannot finish. Art carries out Nature’s unrealized ends."
- Aristotle

Think art, and for most of us, the Sun Temple or painting of Monet comes to our mind. What we often tend to forget is the fact that apart from getting fame, the most important aspect for a piece to be considered truly artistic, is the creativity behind it. "Think out of the box", is the most often used phrase everywhere from an ad agency to an MBA course. That is because being creative today is not just something you do in your spare time; you in fact survive on it. The more creative you are, the more it sells. Tattoo industry is one such industry which completely survives on creativity. This industry is a perfect blend of how creativity when used in a proper manner, results in a perfect piece of Art. Colorful flying dragons, Ganeshas, soaring Garudas, complex zodiac designs, Shivas mystical forms, Japanese characters and many abstract patterns are now decorating bodies of young Mumbaikars.

They’ve penetrated pop culture in India through music videos, high fashion and media hype, but is the tattoo just a graffiti art form? Many beg to differ. As most artistic pieces, the creativity behind a tattoo is what makes it an Art. A tattoo on your body may not be world famous, but the creativity put behind it, makes it an Art.

"Making a tattoo needs a perfect blend of creativity as well as technicalities” says Joe, who owns a tattoo parlour in the suburbs. “You have to make sure the design you come up with is something that the client connects to.” A tattoo is an art form and the body a canvas. But a tattoo is not just an abstract piece of art; it is more or less a statement. A way of telling the world this is what you think and you totally connect with it. So be it a band on your ankle or the Gayatri Mantra on your shoulder, doing it creatively will classify it as an Art! And as far as Art is concerned, you don’t have to be Picasso to create it. Just be as creative as you can. You might not get the fame, but the personal satisfaction of creating something different will be amazing.

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