



## The Monalisa of Greenways road and the Da Vinci of Miami

When there's a will there's a way. Axel void from Miami is a person of will and virtue. On the giant empty walls of Greenways Railway Station, he gave birth to beautiful mural which portrays the life of an old women residing on the floors of the station. Every day I saw the lady sitting in front of the station but she was left behind along with millions like her. At last someone from a different country gave her what nobody can even possibly think about, it's called compassion. Yes, Axel Void gave her attention, but she cannot eat fame. Axel Void is an example to the world out there who lost our values with the blink of an eye.

Henry David Thoreau once said "Rather than love, than money, than fame, than fairness, give me truth". Axel opened his eyes along with his soul when we were passing with out even noticing the the work in progress. Now, you can't leave Green Ways with out a tiny glimpse of Kishnaveni. For me, it's not just a mural, it is a mural painted on our hearts so that we will never forget to be compassionate.

Axel Says, his "intention is not to have a decorative mural but to have a challenging one". "The Monalisa of Greenways Station" is setting example to all of us, it's questioning our hearts everytime we reach the station, seeing the giant mural and the helpless old lady together. A guy from Miami opened his eyes and soul to the helpless and homeless people of Chennai. What if some of us can open our eyes to see what's happening around us? There starts the tranformation of process from humanimals to human beings.

Knowingly or unknowingly I saw this lady on a daily basis but one day, I was stunned to see the Mural of the old lady on the giant walls of Greenways Railway station. We're on the path of a transformation, we loosing our virtues. We're transforming into barbarians. I never knew this guy who plays football with the local guys from the slum is the one behind the painting. The devil in mind thought; he's another freak who's just passing his time with the innocent children from the slums.

I reach Greenways station everyday at around 6:30 PM. I often see Axel playing football with the children and interacting with them. All I know is, they love him for what he did for the Old lady who's one among a million shelterless people in our country. Axel Void (Alejandro Hugo Dorda Mevs) was born in 1986 in Miami to a Haitian mother and a Spanish father. From the age of three onward, he was raised in Spain.

I'm not going to dscurage those who still offers helping hands and supporting shoulders to many of them, all day long. I've seen the paintings during exhibitions and auctions which will decorate your walls but if you're ready to sponsor an artist like Axel, you are in the process of creating a new world where there will be compassion, love and it will be nothing short of a heaven. You can contact Axel via his website. You can also write to him at axelvoid@axelvoid.com

Axel's instagram post about this work:

This wall is part of the “Mediocre” series. This mural is situated in the main entrance of the Greenways Train Station. It shows the portrait of Krishnaveni, an old lady that sleeps and lives right next to the wall. This station is a very live and particular place. It has the train tracks crossing over a very polluted and dirty canal, a corner where alcoholics often hang out; a small temple directly on the side of the river and vendors along the street that sell food and flowers.

It also conforms the entrance to one of the slums, in which the wall is the first thing they see when they come out to the street. Even though this may seem like an ominous scenario, it is quite the opposite. In the week that I’ve been working here, I’ve learned that it’s a very charming and warm space, where every person has clear and honest intentions.

This mural is not about poverty. Often in Chennai, it’s traditional to paint the figures of politicians and actors, in order to idealize them. But this mural is about people, and how we all share space and time. How we interact and coexist with each other.

From the homeless, to people waiting to catch their train, to the taxi drivers that wait there for endless hours, to the kids coming and going to school on their way to catch the train to go back to their houses, to Krishnaveni, who passes her days sitting in the same corner and watching life pass by, apparently oblivious on the outside but quite present inside. It seems like they are all watching time pass through a different perspective, with on common denominator, which is Greenways Station.

*Athulkumar*

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