

Sonam Dubal's Banjaran: A Global Gypsy Dance of Textiles

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From Ikat to Bandhini: Sonam Dubal's Banjaran Weaves Global Craft Narratives

The wandering spirit of the *banjaran*—collecting textiles, colours, jewellery, tattoos, and fragments of memory—finds new life in **Sonam Dubal's Banjaran (Gypsy): Dance of Textiles – Transeasonal 25/26**. Known for his label **Sanskar**, Dubal once again bridges cultures and centuries through his signature Indo-Asian silhouettes, rooted in mindful design.

"This is a tribute to Gulabi, the banjaran, and Shady Zappa, my two gypsy muses who opened my eyes to craft magic, storytelling, and the spirit of travel," shares Sonam, who unveiled the collection in Chennai.

Sustainability with soul

Since founding Sanskar in 1999, Dubal has been a pioneer of sustainable fashion—upcycling brocades, recycling weaves, and reviving handwoven textiles such as ikat and eri silk long before sustainability became a buzzword. "Each collection reflects compassion and respect for craft communities, creating employment while regenerating without waste," he notes.

The Dance of Textiles

The new collection is a vibrant interplay of **ikat, bandhini, eri silk, and tribal embroidery**, envisioned as a stage performance in colour and craft. Spanish *azul* blue ikat tunics, Central Asian-inspired embroideries with turquoise stones, and fluid kimonos and kaftans highlight the global yet local story.

"The *Bird of Paradise* is a central motif — representing hope and protection for the gypsy spirit, a reminder of our duty to protect nature and all sentient beings," says Sonam.

A global journey

From Lakmé Fashion Week to Paris, Sydney, New York, and Vancouver, Dubal has taken Indian craft to the world, even designing for actress Isabella Rossellini in Hulu's *Shut Eye*. His Banjaran edit continues that global dialogue, where "routes become your roots, and simplicity becomes your global language."

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