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THE VARIETY SHOW

On completing 20 years, Neeta and Nidhi Deshpande of Banjaras will showcase drapes and accessories from 20 different regions to bring in the festive season

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Over the years we realised how our clientele would not have the time to spend hours looking at the drapes tucked in a shelf. So it was about time we opened up and let our guests see what we have. Also, we completed 20 years and we want Pune to see what the weavers from across India have to offer," smiles Neeta Deshpande.

Her daughter Nidhi has been helping her out for a while now and is equally excited about the exhibition.

"Over time, we have grown, learnt and evolved and it has been our relentless effort

to present fascinating and intense hand crafted art forms in fabrics from India. To stretch our endeavour further we have a showcase of drapes (stoles, duppattas and sarees) and accessories from 20 different regions of India to bring in the festive season."

The exhibition is titled *Alaya* which in Sanskrit means 'eternal substance'. "It is all about the weavers' passion and heart felt attitude. With this it is our effort to bring to you the core essence of the magic of these master craftsmen and to display the very nature of their supreme talent," says Neeta.

She adds that people have started to sensitise to handcrafted working and utility art.

"It is art on fabric which we want people to

see and appreciate."

The regions and the works displayed are as follows: Ikats, Magalirisi, Hand Painted Kalamkaris duppattas, sarees, blouse pieces and handcrafted gift artefacts from Andhra Pradesh, Bhagalpur silks from Bihar, Bastar duppattas, hand embroidered duppattas, Bandhani, block printed sarees from Gujarat, Maheshwari tissues and maheshwari Duppattas from Madhya Pradesh, Kanjivarams, cotton silk and thread border woven sarees from Tamil Nadu, hand crafted jewelry from Garhwal, Uttaranchal and much more.

The exhibition is on at Ebenos, Deccan Rendezvous, Apte Road on October 13 and 14, 11 AM - 8 PM."