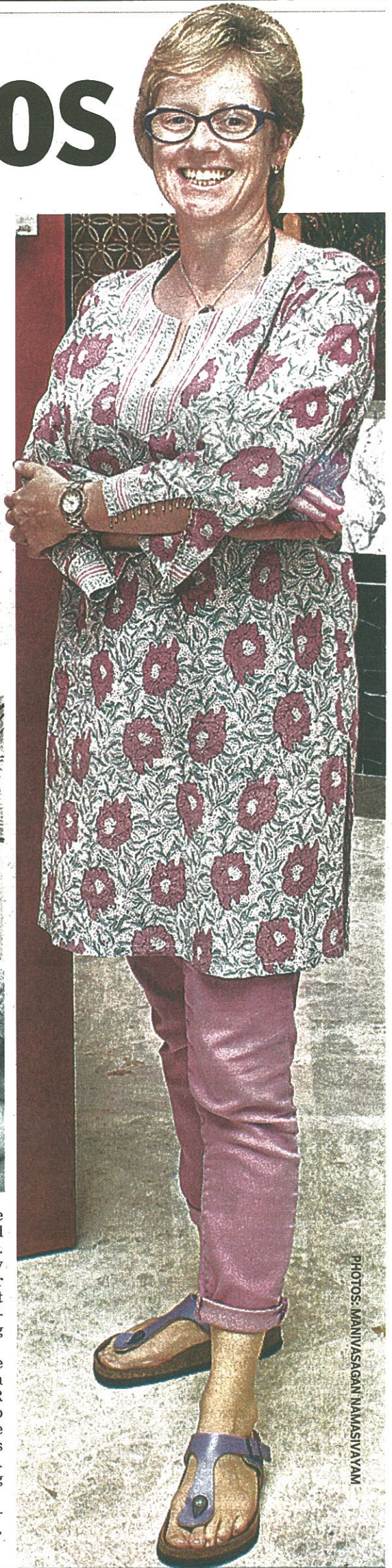


# Colour and chaos

Belgian photographer Virginie Vlamincq, who will be showcasing her series *One, No One and One Lakh* in the city, reveals that she enjoys walking down the streets of Chennai, capturing life as it passes by her

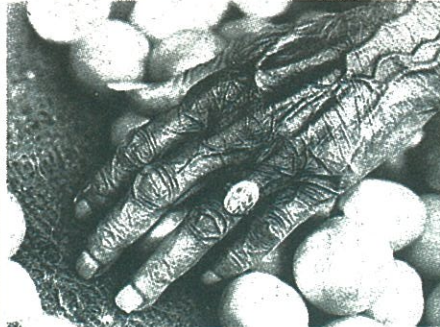
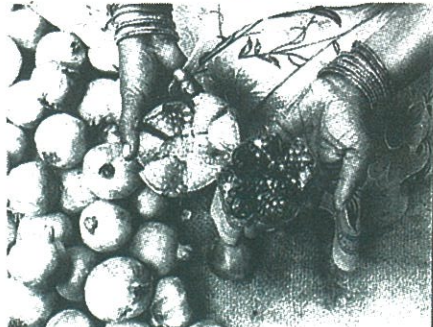


TUBA RAQSHAN  
Deccan Chronicle

Street photographer, Virginie Vlamincq, loves the colourful chaos of Chennai. "I love walking down the streets of Chennai, documenting the small things that are often overlooked. Small things can be interesting too and my series, *One, No One and One Lakh*, revolves around that. The daily scenes, which most people just pass by, are really interesting. These pictures tell the stories of people," reveals this photographer, who has been in the city for the past three years.

Virginie confesses that she wanted to come to India. "We lived in Africa for some time and met a lot of Indians. They inspired me to come here from the tales they told us of their country, especially Chennai. I preferred this city because it isn't as well known as Mumbai or Delhi. That quaint charm attracted me to this city. I'm very comfortable here and I find the people very friendly," says this photographer, who loves to visit Mamallapuram early in the morning and explore the temples, streets and parks and of course, take some photographs.

Originally from Ghent, Belgium, Virginie studied photography at the Arts and Design College of Bournemouth (UK). Speaking about her hometown, she says



**The city's quaint charm attracted me to Chennai. I find the people here very friendly too**

that an urge to travel was the starting point of her adventures. "I grew up in Ghent and when I got engaged at 21, my husband and I wanted to go out and explore the world. So, we did just that," she says, adding that she quite loves the chaos in the city. "Back home, everything is organised. It is nice to have a bit of a chaotic life, though it can get difficult at times," she points out.

This photographer also admits that her teenage daughters are quite at home in the city. "My daughters Asha and Saran go to

school here and are well adjusted to the system. Filiep De Zutter, my husband works in the city and we love living here. My parents do visit us occasionally. My father loves to sit in the front in the car and enjoy all the activity around him. But my mother still finds it all a bit overwhelming, especially while traveling around the city," she says.

However, Virginie's most memorable moment was during the Ganesha Chaturthi festival. "We lived on the ECR and a big statue of Ganesha was carried to the sea and submerged. We followed the procession on foot and loved the way it was put together. It was a very nice experience. Things like these, like people welcoming you, make my day," she says, in parting.

*One, No One and One Lakh will be on display till May 21 at the Hilton, Chennai, from 9 am to 10 pm.*

PHOTOS: MANIVASAGAN NAMASIVAYAM