

# BEYOND THE BOX

Children are the most influential and influenceable. As innocent as blank canvases, they are the ones who go on to change the world. As someone who loves teaching, especially younger audiences, this was an incredible opportunity. I had already taken an art class at my martial arts class before, so this was the perfect opportunity to do so again. I, Maya Santhanakrishnan conducted this edition of the 'Beyond the Box' workshop to 18 participants on the 4 May 2024 at MLA Martial Arts Academy, Yelahanka, Bangalore.

I had aimed this workshop at talking about how society views and treats wildlife in India. From the way the Leopards in Bangalore were treated to why, we had discussions on the subject matter while also having fun drawing our favorite wildlife creatures. Most of the kids enjoyed the discussions and were actively participating. They had initially held the idea that leopards were not meant to be on the street because they were "invading" humans, but towards the end, they came to the consensus that it was in fact not in their control as their homes were being taken away by us. From pieces of elephants to fishes to giraffes, the kids created works of art brimming with color and life.

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I guided them on how we could interact with an idea as large as wildlife conservation with our own thoughtful contributions, much like 'Art for Conservation' (A4C) workshop had trained me with.

We often forget that pillars are inherently clean until caked with layers of dust by the environment around them. Compassion is our primal nature, why do we fight to deny and pollute it?

