

Buzz



The India Art Fair

Born in the year 2008, the India Art Fair(formerly India Art Summit) is one event all lovers of art with the wish to look at [and pick up!] some great Indian and International Art, wait for!

The Fair this year is being spearheaded by a team of three, Sandy Angus, Neha Kirpal and Will Ramsay. Neha has been responsible for the management of this mammoth fair from its first steps, while Sandy and Will have come in to lend their experience in organising it this year onwards. Will Ramsey is the man behind the very well-known Affordable Art Fair while Sandy Angus is responsible for organising art fairs in Los Angeles and London and the famous Sony World Photography Awards. With such a bandwidth of experience we expect the Fair this year to create quite a mark in the history of its evolution!

The 2012 edition would be an equal mix of indian and international galleries putting up an eclectic mix of works of art, indian and global. For the viewer there is a lot to experience and digest over a period of five days! Prices of works of art would be competitive and the plethora of art works on view, large. If it is a lesson in art, a walk through it, cultivating a passionate interest or buying it, this year will find you running back to the booths for more with the sheer variety on offer! The stage is set at the NSIC Exhibition Grounds at Okhla, New Delhi.

The fair opens on the 25th with about 80 galleries showcasing some very interesting works in a variety of mediums. As far as the Indian Galleries are concerned, our top picks are Chatterjee and Lal who are showcasing Nikhil Chopra's works and join hands with Chemould Prescott to showcase Rashid Rana at the fair. Chemould's booth has an interesting line up of artists from the veteran Atul Dodiya to Hema Upadhyay and the abstractionist Meera Devidayal. Delhi Art gallery which is renowned for its impressive collection of modern indian art would be putting forth a very interesting exhibit of modernists along with Dhoomimal Art Gallery which will have its signature Souza's on display. Experimenter from Kolkata, would be a booth to look at

with some young contemporary 'cutting edge' art with the likes of Mehreen Murtaza, Naeem Moheimein, Sanchayan Ghosh and Bani Abidi, among others.

One of India's top most galleries, Nature Morte, would have a stunning exhibition of artists' works on display. A booth one must definitely take a look at with a powerhouse of talent in the likes of Subodh Gupta, Thukral & Tagra, L N Tallur, Ravinder Reddy, Aditya Pande, Anita Dube, Jagannath Panda, Dayanita Singh and (in a solo project booth in collaboration with Gallery SKE of Bangalore) Bharti Kher!

Vadehra Art Gallery would also be bringing out its best with Atuland Anju Dodiya, Arpita Singh, Atul Bhalla, Gulam mohammed Sheikh among others. Works of Praneet Soi, Yoko Ono and new works of Shipa Gupta are something we are very excited about! Stalwarts of photography which include Martin Parr, Richard and Pablo Bartholomew, Vivan Sundaram and Max Kondola can be seen and procured at Photoink. Some ground breaking work in photography can also be seen at Tasveer where works of TS Satyan stand tall with those of Norman Parkinson.

Of particular note are the works of Riyas Komu, Sumedh Rajendran and T.V. Santosh at The Guild booth which has fostered and honed some of the most ground breaking artists in Contemporary India.

Seven Art Limited, a gallery with young contemporary experimental art has a great display from some exceptionally talented artists like Saravanan Parasuraman, Asim Waqif, Suhasini Kejriwal and Aakash Nihalani. Another gallery display we find interesting, is at Art Musings where witty works on everyday life by Nilofer Suleman interplay with the refined delicate strokes of Sakti Burman's canvas and work their way through the dark, fantastic art of Gopi Krishna all at enviable values.

Volte will also offer a very interesting exhibit with Sheeba Chachi's 'trophy hunters', William Kendridge's 'Tapestry', Ranbir Kaleka's 'candles' and 'conference of birds and beasts', Wim Delvoe's Tourne Venezia scale model 1:4 and two new works from Sonia Khurana. Anita Dube's work at Lakeeren captures the imagination of those of you who are looking for impact, while for those wanting to appreciate and pick up art with delicate sensitivity, works by Karthik Sood, Deepjyoti Kalita and Bhupen Khakhar at Latitude 28 will keep you satisfied. Gallery Espace has a very interesting programme for the fair this year with Manjunath Kamath's new video work, Zarina Hashmi, G. R. Iranna, Mehli Gobhai, Vibha Galhotra's new sculptural work and some very unusual works from Chitra Ganesh.

Nasreen Mohamedi and Sheetal Gattani are artists we find of great interest at The Loft Booth along with the Raqs Media Collective display at Project 88, which is renowned for curating and putting together some of the most evolutionary 'young' art one sees in the country.

Gallery SKE is another booth well worth going into, for its intense conglomerate of exciting artists from Sheela Gowde, Abhishek Hazra, Bharti Kher, Sudarshan Shetty to Avinash Veeraraghavan and Krishnaraj Chonat.

Our list of picks from India would do no justice without adding Sakshi Gallery, where their booth is definitely a must watch with works by Sunil Gawde, N.S. Harsha, Surendran Nair, Rekha Rodwitty, Sudhir Patwardhan and El Anatsui which enthral you!

Mirchandani and Steinruecke's presentation of Kiki Smith and Varunika Saraf, Gigi Scaria and Anjum Singh at Palette, Parvathi Nayar at Gallery OED, Sachin George Sebastian at Exhibit 320, Jehangir Sabavala at Cymroza and Vivek Vilasini at Sumukhaare particular artists we are looking forward to seeing works of!

From the list of international galleries, we are excited to soak in all the art at the booths of Hauser and Wirth, White Cube, Arndt, Lisson Gallery, Green Cardamom, Thomas Erben Gallery, Die Galerie, Gallery Continua, Sundaram Tagore, Indigo Art, Galerie Krinzinger and Salwa Zeidan Gallery.

Salwa Zeidan gallery is introducing established artists from the middle east. Works include those of Reem al Faisal, Abdul Qader al Rais, Salwa Zaidan, Rose Hussaini and Arya Azadi along with some classic lithographs of the well-known western Modernists like Picasso, Chigall, Matisse, Andy Warhol which one may want to lay hands on!

While Sundaram Tagore has put together a dynamic selection of art work by bringing Kim Joon and Sebastian Selgado to India, Indigo Blue Art is showing Hussain, Souza, Ram Kumar and Bhupen Khakhar.

Lisson Gallery which was responsible for the much awaited Anish Kapoor exhibit in India last year, comes back with another stunning exhibition of performance based art by Marina Abramovic who deals with the nuances of pain, survival and the limits to which humanity can stretch itself while making some very significant comments on it. Another artist to watch for is Yamini Nayar at the Thomas Erben Gallery.

Gallery Krinzinger brings Sudarshan Shetty, Sakshi Gupta, Zenita Komad and Mithu Sen to the fair while Green Cardamom which deals in art from Pakistan is exhibiting works of Bani Abidi, Hamra Abbas and Zahoorul Akhlaq among others.

Damien Hirst is exhibited by Other Criteria and Gallery Continua is a booth which deserves mention for bringing in some great art with Anish Kapoor, Shilpa Gupta, Antony Gormley and Subodh Gupta. Die Galerie is interesting in its showcase of works by Marc Chigall, Salvador Dali and Pablo Picasso.

Last but not the very least, are the two heavy weights, Hauser and Wirth and White Cube whose booths are an absolute must see to complete the experience of the fair. Hauser and Wirth's artists' works include Louise Bourgeois, Martin Creed, Subodh Gupta, Mary Heilmann, Andy Hope, Roni Horn, Paul McCarthy, Henry Moore, Christopher Orr, Djordje Ozbolt and Jakub Julian Ziolkowski.

The White Cube shows some of the very best in art globally with Darren Almond, Tracey Emin, Gilbert & George, Antony Gormley, Damien Hirst, Gary Hume, Sarah Morris and Marc Quinn in this fourth edition of the fair.

Some notable openings centred around the fair which one should not miss out on are those of the Devi Art Foundation which showcases Iranian art, Outset India's site specific installation by Vishal K Dar and Gabriel Dunne, Gallery Talwar with its solo of A Balasubramaniam, Yoko Ono's show at the Vadehra [Okhla] Gallery and the show 'Narrative of the self' at Gallery Espace.

Whether it is the video lounge, booths, art walks, projects, gallery openings or just picking up some interesting art related publication and finery at the

book store, it is going to be difficult to escape the enthusiasm which encapsulates the pulse of the fair and fills the last days of January in your calendar this year!

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