

India Art Fair and its attendees

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From Mahatma Gandhi to Vidya Balan, many celebrities were the inspiration behind various artworks at the recently concluded India Art Fair in Delhi.

Artists from all around the globe who participated in the recent India Art Fair found inspiration in iconic figures like Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela, Dalai Lama, Bill Gates and even Hollywood actress Scarlett Johansson and Bollywood actress Vidya Balan.



These works, inspired by famous faces, were among the most popular exhibits at the fair.

Mahatma Gandhi

Inspired by his non-violent ways, artist Gines Serran from the Spanish Neilson gallery created four miniatures of Gandhi. He sold three pieces in the past year and is now left with the last one, which is priced at 3,000 dollars. According to him, the bronze miniature depicts how humble and simple the man was, and Gines feels he is an inspiration not only for Indians but for people from all around the globe. "It is my way of paying respect to the great man," he says.

Nelson Mandela

A group of eight women chronicled his journey from his younger days to political prominence, in a 12-panel beaded painting. It was made by a group called Impumelelo. Monique Howse from the South African gallery Everard Read explained, "He is such an iconic figure that people from all around the world can relate to him."

Vidya Balan

It seemed the audience couldn't get enough of the actress in "The Dirty Picture", as Indian artist Viveek Sharma from the Zurich-based gallery Fabian Claude Walter painted her in that avatar. In one work, she is wearing a skimpy blouse and showing that now-famous cleavage, and in the another, she is holding a cigar, oozing confidence. Sharma had liked the movie as it was based on the life of an actress who meets a tragic end.

Scarlett Johansson

Berlin-based artist Jannis Markopoulos took inspiration from the 2003 film "Girl With A Pearl Earring" that featured the actress. In the painting, the actress is lying on a couch with polythene shopping bags lined up next to her. The idea was to showcase how things in those bags want to come out of the sophisticated world. Scalett is one of the painter's favourite muses, as in his previous paintings, he has painted actors like Leonardo DiCaprio and Angelina Jolie.

Apart from this, the Hong Kong-based gallery Sundaram Tagore displayed photographs and portraits of famous personalities like the Dalai Lama, Hillary Clinton, Bill Gates and Marilyn Monroe.

As Sundara Tagore, president of the gallery, pointed out, all these faces are popular and have an Indian connect, so a bond is established between the audience and the artist. "You simply can't ignore these faces," he says.