

A fair deal

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Interesting works by Indian masters like Subodh Gupta, Jitesh Kalat and Sudarshan Shetty, displayed by international galleries, are a major draw at the ongoing India Art Fair. Team Viva reports

The three black coats getting soaked simultaneously in the huge water containers symbolise fake personalities to some. Others don't want to label this masterpiece by artist Sudarshan Shetty. To them "it is just another brilliant work" put up by one of the participating international galleries at the ongoing India Art Fair. The coat installation by Shetty was a part of the exhibition at Galerie Krinzinger, Vienna, Austria and is now being showcased at the fair. The spokesperson from the Galerie says, "It was one of the best works showcased at the gallery during last year and that is why it is here." Move further and you will meet more Indian masters — Subodh Gupta, Jitesh Kalat and Bharti Kher to name a few. But the works that you will witness here are not something that you would have heard or read commonly about. International galleries at the fair have chosen the best, different and unique for presentation at the art fair. That is why on the first day itself, when the fair was just open to VIP guests, stalls of international galleries were the most visited.

While some galleries like Galerie Krinzinger have just focussed on the contemporary works by Indian artists, there are others like Arndt from Germany who have brought a mix to the fair. Where on one hand a huge painting by Kalat adorns the wall of its stall, on the other there is an installation by artist Entang Wiharso. Even Sundaram Tagore Gallery from Beverly Hills, New York has a mix of Indian photographers and artists from across the globe. "As a gallery, we always have a thrust on artists who employ their creativity to different mediums and look at other cultures as well. The basic idea of selecting artworks for the fair was to give a glimpse of art from every corner of the world. It is the second time at the art fair and the change that we are noticing this year is, it has a lot of international visitors. And all they want is to know more about Indian art and artists. From the renowned to even the lesser-known-ones, great work are gaining a lot of attention," says Sundaram from the Sundaram Tagore Art Gallery.

One of the art collectors at the fair says that he is pleasantly surprised to find so many different works by Indian artists at the international stalls. "The works and concepts are out-of-the-world and there is such huge variety to choose from. It seems that Indian artists will be capturing the art market in the coming years," he says while commenting on the collection at the art fair.

Plastic base saris wrapped around wooden chairs — a sculpture by Paul McCarthy, Dalai Lama by Lee Waisler, Sari Blossom by Nathan Slate Joseph and some other huge sculptures at Hauser & Wirth, London, IXI Art Gallery Dubai and DIF Gallery, Germany are a huge draw. Besides that interesting collections by galleries from Greece and Italy are also being talked about.