

Young blood, fresh paint

Mumbai's annual art-filled weekend this month is all geared up to put the spotlight on a wave of budding collectors and artists who are the focus of this show

ELA DAS

OVER the past couple of years, there has been a clear growth in the number of art collectors aged between 30 and 45 years," says Farah Siddiqui, co-director of the Young Collectors' Weekend. Built to create a single space for anyone interested in the arts—be it a seasoned collector or simply the curious—the approachable platform engages enthusiasts through an evolving discourse with contemporary artists and the world around them.

Showcasing for the first time at the Mumbai Gallery Weekend, the unifying theme is the word 'flux'.

"The art world is constantly evolving and changing," muses

Siddiqui. "In response to this, each artist's work showcases their interpretation of what they see happening around them."

Artists and photographers selected for the show—Tara Anand, Hashim Badani, Shailesh BR, Tito Stanley SJ, Digbijayee Khatua and Akshita Gandhi, among others—display a determined consciousness in their practice to express themselves. "There's also a common humanistic theme, which society can collectively relate to," says Siddiqui, adding, "These artists have gone beyond aesthetics to create work that represents their own unique vocabulary, which resonates deeply with and inspires a diverse audience."

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Light on movement

Performed in pitch darkness with some torches among select members of the audience, this conceptual dance by performance artiste, filmmaker, somatic practitioner and educator Gia Singh Arora viscerally plays with the elusive nature of comfort and belonging, echoing the familiarity of home. Reflecting on the human body in darkness, the interpretive dance questions what we truly see and infer in the dark—does one also feel movement instead of simply seeing it? This is an immersive experience where the audience puts the spotlight on the performer's body to bring it into the light.

WHAT: Bhooteer Naach / The Ghost Dance by Gia Singh Arora

WHERE: Art and Charlie, 71 A Pali Hill, Bandra West

WHEN: January 12 to 15, 11 AM to 8 PM

CALL: 9913568686



Tilia Quartet, formed in 2005, is celebrating their orchestra Staatskapelle Berlin's 450th birthday. PIC/BARBARA GLÜCKSMANN

Setting the tune for art

A German strings quartet that collaborated with Anoushka Shankar and Zubin Mehta, is set to perform at Tao Art gallery

NIDHI LODAYA

NAMED after the Berlin State Opera, Staatsoper Unter den Linden, Tilia Quartet is a string quartet from Staatskapelle Berlin orchestra in Germany. Tilia is Latin for the linden tree. The quartet was formed by the then young musicians of the Staatskapelle Berlin Orchestra in 2005, and it currently comprises violinists Eva Römisch and Andreas Jentzsch, cellist Rebekka Markowski and Wolfgang Hinzpeter on the viola. "We have played many great classics as well as unknown works and premiered several works composed for us in over a 100 concerts," says Hinzpeter, the founder. "We try to perform music by composers with a direct connection to our opera and its 450-year tradition."

While their "home" the Berlin State Opera house was being renovated, the quartet played at art galleries, museums and even construction sites. This is their first time in India and so far they only have Mumbai on their agen-

da. As part of Mumbai gallery weekend, they are performing at the Tao Art Gallery, which is showing works by Rajesh Wankhade and Smita Kinkale. "Our concerts in galleries have always been inspiring: audiences and musicians become more intensely immersed in a space dominated by visual art, they become attuned to an art experience," says Hinzpeter.

Their visit to India comes just as their parent orchestra celebrates its 450th birthday. "String quartet is the supreme discipline of chamber music," says Hinzpeter in an email interview. "We are attracted by the challenge: playing in a string quartet requires virtuosity and the highest team discipline and sensitivity; only through the greatest trust in each other can music resound as if from one's soul." They will be performing works by Franz Schubert, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, & Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy.

Besides playing an immersive concert with Anoushka Shankar in 2011, and with the Staatskapelle orchestra under Zubin Mehta, the quartet has not had any contact or experiences with Indian musicians. They admit that they only know India from literature and films but are "curious about culture and spirituality, but also about everyday life in Mumbai".

"We hope to take away impressions of Indian culture and spirituality and to enter into a dialogue with it... in the footsteps of Hermann Hesse to George Harrison," concludes Hinzpeter, who hopes to bring the entire Berlin Staatskapelle orchestra on an India tour in the future.

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WHAT: Young Collectors' Weekend

WHERE: IFBE, 10-12 Calicut Road, Ballard Estate

WHEN: January 12 to 15, 11 AM to 8 PM

CALL: 9619024000

Of heirlooms and iconic furniture

Unique pieces of period furniture, silver, glassware, ceramics, rugs, lights, jewellery and objets d'art make it to Pundole's Decorative Arts Sale. The collection of mid-century

modern furniture includes two pairs of American woodworker and architect George Nakashima's iconic grass seated chairs, which were manufactured in the National Institute of Design in Ahmedabad in the 1960s, and a Hans Olsen (Danish furniture designer) modular bench from the 1970s. Also included in the sale is a small jewellery ensemble from the collection of the late Dr Jamshed Jehangir Bhabha, which includes pieces by Cartier and Asprey bearing original hand-written notes by members of his family celebrating special occasions.

Beginner's guide to collecting art

● Define motivation or goals: This will have a huge impact on the kind of collection you'll end up building. A good approach is to buy what you love and brings you joy. You will have to live with the art you purchase, so it is better to invest in something that you enjoy looking at every day.
● Soak in as much as you can: Visit galleries and art

fairs, and research online to know more about the subject, medium, style or art that truly speaks to you.
● Set a budget: Start small, and gradually increase your budget as you grow your collection, confidence, and understanding. You can even invest in prints or certain editions of works.
● Research well before committing: Explore the market and speak to

experts to gauge what you should invest in.

● Do not chase trends: It is always better to have a collection that defines you and echoes your own taste and style.

