

# ART ATTACK

The recently concluded Unboxing BLR Habba shone the spotlight on the city's vibrant art scene revealing its many unexplored layers

Bindu Gopal Rao

In a spectacular debut, Unboxing BLR Habba 2023 effortlessly rekindled the spotlight on Bangalore's dynamic art scene.

Weaving diverse art forms through the city's numerous galleries, the festival intricately stitched the ornate layers of artistic freedom into a warm and immersive experience for all to revel in.

The process of selecting the art events for the Habba was a careful and thorough one.

The team at Unboxing BLR Habba (UBH) searched for visually stunning art events, such as the ones at MAP, Gallery Sumukha, and the showcase by Paul Fernandes at BIC that not only matched the UBH schedule but also had a unique and captivating essence to offer.

Each of these events was selected based on its distinct appeal, be it its thematic relevance, artistic prowess, or potential to engage the audience.

One of the highlights was the Indian Institute of World Culture (IIWC) in Basavanagudi hosted the Basavanagudi Rare Photo exhibition that showcased 300 years of heritage, culture, traditions, and iconic landmarks through photos collected from various institutions, individual collections, and reference books.

Folkloru aimed to bring back traditional heritage through various forms of art, such as music, handmade crafts, and varied cuisine. The selection aimed to create a programme that offer an unforgettable experience for all art lovers attending the UBH 2023.

"Bangalore is a city that boasts a deep and intimate connection with the world

of art. The city's art scene is an essential part of its cultural fabric, reflecting its rich history of nurturing creativity and innovation. Bangalore's artistic expression is a beautiful blend of tradition and modernity, featuring a diverse range of art forms across

various mediums. The bustling streets of the city are a canvas for colourful murals that showcase the city's vibrant spirit. At the same time, the city's sophisticated galleries and performance spaces exhibit the works of talented artists from both India and around the world. Art breathes life into the very soul of Bangalore," says V Ravichandar, Festival Facilitator, Unboxing BLR Habba.

## Bangalore calling

At the Bengaluru International Centre (BIC), several art shows were held as



part of the Habba 2023. These included Bangalore Then and Now: An exhibition of drawings and illustrations by Paul Fernandes.

"The Paul Fernandes exhibition attracted close to 1000 attendees over the weekend. We have been wanting to do the Paul Fernandes exhibition for a long time. Given his recent book - The Great Bangalore Morph: From Kempegowda to Covid - the UBH 2023 schedule, we thought it fit to showcase it during the Habba," says Sandhya Kannan, Programming Team, BIC.

B-LORE by BIC, and by extension the B-LORE Short Film Festival, also brought unique, original short films about the city by amateur, emerging, and established filmmakers. They presented new voices and fresh perspectives about the city.

The film screenings had 30 and 60 people respectively. "The film screenings were a one-time offering at BIC. The B-LORE films will be uploaded to and available on, our YouTube channel as part of our archive. We wanted to capture the spirit of Bangalore through the crowdsourced films on the city, during the Habba," says Sandhya Kannan, Programming Team, BIC.

## Sculpting tales

Gallery Sumukha on the other hand is exhibiting sculptures by Artist Arunkumar H. G. through "OVERSHOOT" that have been made from repurposed and upcycled wood, cement, terracotta, plastic waste, electronic waste, steel, old toys, dried leaves, and the like.

"The response has been very interesting, engaging and an eye-opener to a lot of our audience as the works convey a very powerful message that the artist has been emphasising in his art since long. The show continues till January 6, (Monday to Saturday between 10:30 am to 6:00 pm)," says a spokesperson.

The exhibition captures critical moments of human history when unreasonable demands, far exceeding her capacity to produce and regenerate, are heaped on Mother Earth.

"It also pays homage to the often-overlooked frontline eco-warriors for bravely guarding the residues of biodiversity and preserving indigenous knowledge systems for the

sake of future generations," says eminent artist Giridhar Khasnis.

## "What the camera didn't see"

As part of the Habba 2023, the Museum of Art and Photography (MAP) hosted the three-day festival, Art is Life: Old Threads, New Stories, at MAP.

This event was a heartfelt celebration of art, culture, and dialogue, offering a platform for artists, storytellers, and visitors to dive into a world of reimagined historical narratives.

One of the highlights of Art is Life 2023 was the launch of the exhibition, "What The Camera Didn't See by Alexander Gorlizki/Pink City Studio".

"Alexander Gorlizki skilfully blended contemporary elements with traditional miniature painting, inviting viewers on a vibrant journey through history. The collaboration with Pink City Studio led by master miniature painter Riyaz Uddin injected a burst of colour and intricate patterns, transforming scenes of royalty, everyday life, architecture, and nature into whimsical narratives that challenge conventional interpretations," says a MAP spokesperson.

The plethora of events and the crowds that thronged them are an example of how the city is enjoying its art shows and this is just the beginning.



Courtesy Unbox BLR

A Bird from the Lost Forest Gallery Sumukha | Consumed Gallery Sumukha

