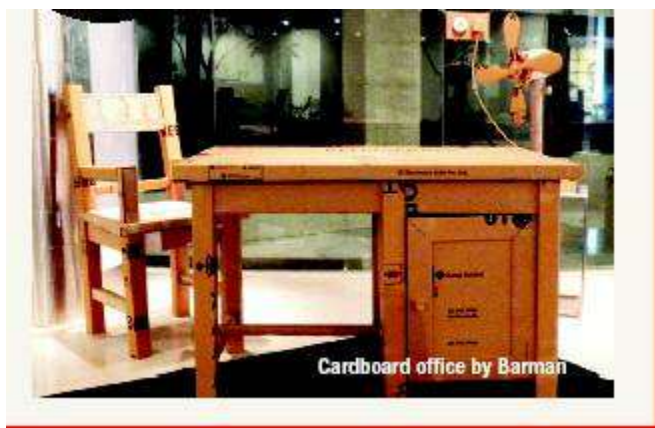


The WhyNot Place Residency Programme 2011 @ Religare Art, D-3, P3B, District Center, Saket, on till Aug 16, 10 am–11 pm

Afurnished space with all the necessary furniture in yellowish-brown shades, a rickety table fan, piles of files scattered on the table and a sketch of Gandhiji dangling from the wall. Look closer... hey, it is a cardboard office! Yes, Tripura-based artist Rathin Barman, who is part of the ongoing residency programme — 'The WhyNot Place' — at the Religare Art Gallery, has created this virtual office made of discarded cartons after a 10-day uphill struggle. In September, his artworks will be displayed at the inaugural show of the brand new Religare Art Gallery in Saket's plush District Centre. A new home for path-breaking art practices, the gallery, right now under construction, is spread over 20,000 sq ft (twice the space of their earlier premises in Delhi), with a well-thought-out parking lot and ample space for public art projects and installations in and around the premises. Barman, who is busy giving final touches to his creation, talks about another novel idea for an art show. Says he, "We plan to install microphones which will record the reactions of the visitors as soon as they enter the gallery and the recording will be heard live! My project depicts the ambience of a government office and its functioning. I have tried to establish a connect between the urban and the rural class." Barman is one of the nine resident artists working tirelessly round the clock, giving shape to their ideas, unaffected by the noise of drilling machines. Another artist, Jesse Bercowetz from New York, has been working intuitively with his sculptural forms. He creates sprawling installations with architectural concepts, street art and cartoons and uses material like soap, dhoop batti, wooden blocks, pottery and wires, to create some very exciting installations. Apart from the residency programme, artists get together every week for interactive sessions and talks, termed 'Direct Connect', at Religare to discuss innovation, technology and artistic and curatorial practices.



A giant T-rex at the Religare atrium



Cardboard office by Barman

Cardboard office by Barman