



Religare Arts Initiative Limited



Religare Arts Initiative

Presents

“The Transforming State”

An exhibition showcasing works created by the resident artists of the 2010 Connaught Place: The WhyNot Place residency programme during the months of June and July, 2010

Exhibition Dates: Tuesday, 10th August, 2010 to Tuesday, 31st August, 2010

Curated by: Sumakshi Singh & Paola Cabal

Artists: Purnna Behera , Brad Biancardi, Becky Brown, Rebecca Carter, Raffaella Della Olga, Garima Jayadevan, Greg Jones, Kavita Singh Kale, Megha Katyal, Nidhi Khurana, Jitesh Malik, Kustav Nag, Rajesh Kumar Prasad, Vishwa Shroff, Rajesh KR Singh and Onishi Yasuaki

‘The WhyNot Place’ residency program is a unique art residency organized by Religare arts.initiative, a New Delhi based arts organization. Held within the gallery space at Religare arts.i gallery, the first art hub of Religare arts.initiative, this residency brings together a select group of emerging and mid-career artists ranging across different media and sensibilities. The residency is intended as a process studio that enables each artist to further their own conceptual and aesthetic sensibilities within a broad thematic framework suggested by a mentor. The program was launched in the summer of 2009. Sixteen artists from five nations were selected by the jury for the 2010 residency programme.

THE WHYNOT PLACE Summer 2010 - THE TRANSFORMING STATE:

India in the last decade has been a keen example of both: macro and micro changes. With the approaching Commonwealth Games, the face of Delhi is undergoing rapid transformation.

Personal and Cultural identity blur and reform boundaries. The Natural and the Urban form new compromises with each other. Indian and Western values clash and shake hands. Architecture chooses historic renovation or completely denies its past in favor of modernization. And Connaught Place is at the heart of this incredible upheaval.

In this exciting and alive transition several questions are being thrown up in the air. Questions about “What do these changes say about us? Who are we, who were we, who are we becoming - visually, socially, and psychologically? What are our values? What is worth keeping and what is worth changing?”

Using the armature of the shifting nature of our capital, this residency aimed to create a dialogue around these questions. Based on their own independent interests and practices, resident artists were asked to process, critique and digest their impressions of the external and internal landscape in very open ended ways (including optional exercises, dialogues, slideshows, field trips, critiques and studio visits). The work produced in this intense period is being exhibited for a month at arts.i in this exhibition.

Conducted right at the tail end of the flux in Delhi being caused by the Commonwealth games, artists will be given the opportunity to explore these issues from a personal and environmental standpoint in ways best suited to their pre-existing practice.

the *WHYNOT* idea

The genesis of The WhyNot Place residency program at Religare arts.i lies in the WHYNOT idea. It all began one summer evening as members of the arts.i team debated the pros and cons of holding art shows at the arts.i gallery during the scorching summer months ahead. It is fortuitous that at the same time, Connaught Place, home to Religare arts.i, began to wear braces and its pores began to fill up with cement and migrant labour. It did not take much to realize that the Religare arts.i gallery was inadvertently caught within the rapidly growing vibrations of a transforming state. Surrounded by an impending storm of transformative activity, it had become an island of calm, a meditative zone, a space for reflection, an observatory. If the purpose of art is to be both a mirror and a window, then this was the space where its practitioners could unleash its power to expand our mindscape to observe, understand and reflect upon these transformations at both a physical and a spiritual level. Within and without.

And we said, why not.

About Religare Arts Initiative

Today's complex market structures have spun art out of the cocoon of mere aestheticism into a more rooted role as a recognized financial asset, a derivative with immense powers of wealth generation, equal to those of any brick and mortar industry. Given this base, it is now for the greater public-driven organizations concerned with the well being of art, to ensure that all the diverse dimensions of art are nurtured and given the right exposure, so that art permeates completely into the societal fabric and enriches a wider consciousness.

Religare Enterprises Limited ("REL") launched Religare Arts Initiative Limited ("**Religare Arts.i**"), a wholly owned subsidiary in 2007. While most galleries, auction houses and art funds operate art businesses, Religare Arts.i will conversely leverage the business for art.

Religare Arts.i is committed to the business of arts and promoting art as an alternate investment option. The gallery is the first physical manifestation of this initiative.

To nurture talent, Religare Arts.i proposes to establish gallery space(s) for shows and exhibitions of works of artists across the board. These gallery spaces shall double-up as venues for seminars, symposia, workshops and other interactions on art issues. Art – Artist - public interactions in these spaces will be documented to improve public consciousness. The first has been launched in New Delhi.

About Religare Arts.i Gallery, New Delhi

Religare Arts.i is committed to creating holistic arts initiative. In furtherance of this commitment, we shall provide a platform for artists of all ages, genres and statures. The gallery in New Delhi has been created as a platform that will help in promoting young artists as well as the art market in India.

Spread over an expanse of nearly 12,000 sq ft. and housed in the heart of the city of New Delhi - Connaught Place, the art hub seamlessly integrates two Galleries, a Cafeteria, a curio Store, a Resource Center and ancillary transitional spaces that can double up to accommodate seminars, symposia, workshops and other art activities. Religare Arts.i also aspires to create and rejuvenate a space that enables art-artist-public interactions through a multiplicity of experiences and activities.

Some of the exhibitions that have taken place at the gallery since its opening in October 2008 are: Outer Circle, 16 contemporary and emerging artists; Phaneng: A Journey into Personal Engagement, 12 large scale black and white portrait photographs – Samar Jodha; Tribute Wall - three French graffiti artists – Dezer, Migwel and Keflione; Zip Files (group show, Edited By Ranjit Hoskote), Connaught Place-The Whynot Place, a day residency culminating into an exhibition of 24 artists etc. "The Decorated Cow" by Sidharth, "The Major Arcana" by Baba Anand amongst many others.



Religare Arts Initiative Limited



For more information, please log on to www.religarearts.com

“Religare Enterprises Limited proposes, subject to receipt of requisite approvals, market conditions and other considerations, to make a rights issue of its equity shares to its existing shareholders and has filed a draft letter of offer (“DLOF”) with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (“SEBI”). The DLOF is available on the website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in as well as on the websites of the lead manager at www.enam.com. Investment in equity shares involves a high degree of risk and for details relating to the same, please refer to the section titled “Risk Factors” of the DLOF.”

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