

Art from abroad

Aakriti Sawhney, Hindustan Times New Delhi, December 18, 2012

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Foreign artists and their artworks seem to be the flavour of the season ahead of the India Art fair (IAF) in the Capital.

Delhi galleries are exhibiting a plethora of overseas artists who are now more open to exhibiting their works at local galleries in the city rather than only being part of major art fairs here.

"Artistic exchange between India and other countries has now become a two way street.

IAF's success in Delhi has made it clear to foreign galleries and artists that India is a new, burgeoning market," says Shefali Somani, director of Shrine Empire gallery, who is currently running a show of Indian and South Korean artists titled, *Whose History? Which Stories?*

Highlighting the history of politics and social customs in both the countries, the show has on display paintings, videos and installations. Somani adds, "We are exhibiting works of five South Korean artists. All of them belong to the Gwangju area which has seen a dramatic change post war. Their art reflects how technology has transformed Gwangju and nature has taken a backseat."

Another show — *Subliminal Metropolis* — at Latitude 28 till December 26 has works of a French artist, Julien Segard on display besides the works of two Indian artists.



Butadiene, an artwork by French artist Julien Segard, exhibited at gallery Latitude 28

The exhibition explores the different ways of representing architectural spaces — urban, ancient, or psychological. Segard has created huge city-scape drawings made out from diverse recycled materials.

"Segard, though French, has been living and working from Delhi for a while now and art enthusiasts from the city are able to respond to his works. This is because the art industry here has grown to a point where such exchange becomes pronounced because of the increasing number of global avenues within the country," says Bhavna Kakar of Latitude 28.

Another such collaboration that the city will see today is between Australian's Margaret Lawrence Gallery and Delhi's Seven Art Limited. Curated by Vikki McInnes, Director of the Margaret Lawrence Gallery, the show, titled '*Sleep on the left side*' has works of three contemporary Australian artists. The exhibition comprises paintings, sculpture, text, sound and video.