ART PROJECTS 2009

Purple Wall Project
Curated by *Gayatri Sinha*
Supported by Camlin & Art Flute

The Purple Wall Project spreads over three or four interconnected spaces. Distributed over the central foyer and the outer fringes of the display sites of the India Art Summit, it involves mainly sculptural installations and photographs which allow the viewer a palpable difference in the way the works are experienced.

The work selected reflects on the chosen site, Pragati Maidan as a bourse for trade and the city as a site of colossal human traffic. The nature of this movement invokes industry, migration and the speedy transactional nature of urban markets. Pragati Maidan which translates loosely as the "field or arena of progress" invokes the socialist ideal of the nation on the move. Progressivism within pre 1990's socialist India was tied in with a number of art and literacy movements, and carries with it the echo of a Nehruvian value system. In the current context, however it reflects on the shifting role of the site as witness to the capitalist system of exchange in world art markets.

The selected art works reflect on the state of the city and the movement of societies within the metropolitan space. Central to these movements is the quest for a utopia; issues of class and individualism, when they do appear develop on the poetics of the everyday. India with its massive building projects, appetite for consumption, as well as a shifting social polity defies easy categorization.

As roads and buildings penetrate the peripheries to create a metropolis of incalculable proportions, the city creates awe and alienation. The artists in this project mimic the effects of the city, its hard and soft materials, its shifting ideologies and its gargantuan waste. The breakdown of old neighbourhoods and the melding of fields with colonies has also meant a displacement, and a re-routing of entire communities. The space then becomes the landscape of contesting aspirations, economies and loci. The principal actors of the city remain its people, vast, unknown and aspiring, moving in a constant search for utopian privilege.

Artists Exhibited in the Purple Art Project
Asma Mundrawalla
Bharat Sikka
Manjunath Kamath
Mithu Sen
Nataraj Sharma
Neha Choksi
Ravi Agarwal
Ranbir Kaleka
Richard Bartholomew
Riyas Komu
Subba Ghosh
Subodh Gupta
TV Santhosh