

Cause and effect

Photo: Vinay Malik



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Now that's what we call Fusion in its true spirit...real element. When was the last time artists from Punjab and Sweden came together? The invite to Fusion, a group show by Swedish and Punjabi artists in collaboration with the Chandigarh Museum and Art Gallery, lived up to its name, literally, figuratively, even metaphorically speaking!

So, there's fusion for sure - of art, artists, culture and causes. Yes causes too! "Tellus Art, a Sweden based NGO, bring artists together for a cause. We first put up the show in Delhi and now

on March 4 there's going to be a workshop on global warming for kids," Namrata Tandon, the organiser briefs the initial queries. The works of 11 Indian and 12 Swedish artists must have gone through some screening before being taken to places. Right? Answers Namrata, "We identified some good artists and then invited them for discussions, also kept in mind the criterion of cause. We picked up only those artists who wanted to bring about a change, give a message through their works."

When it's art, logistics can wait. One look around the gallery and the diversity and richness of displays strikes,

almost engulfs. Starting from the one shining brightest in the centre, a man and an animal almost intertwined into abstract shapes. Explains Madan Lal, the artist, "The man stands for the human soul, the human and the animal represents the bull within residing in each one of us. Symbolising pure, raw energy." There's oil on canvas, acrylic, water colours in every conceivable size, shape and dimension. Now that leads straight to geometrical patterns, there's another set of eye-catcher. Two works in oil on canvas, suggesting a complex pattern of meandering lines, almost web of atoms and nucle-

Whoever accuses us of swarming visitors with the 'How did you find Chandigarh questions'? For a change, the conversation originated from the other side and at a speed that made it impossible to scribble down all her exclamations! Gushes Charlotte Ronnlund, "I was in Delhi earlier, Chandigarh is amazing. Compared to Delhi, it's very clean and green, though I have been here only for a day. Also I love Punjabi artists, their ways and everything about them. Their hospitality too, I am being treated like an empress, I feel like a goddess, because they consider guests like God." Our pleasure!

us. Its creator, Tomas Mayer, sensing wonder and amazement, simplifies, "It represents the chaos clouding our mind, everyday. It could be a day in your life or mine, but we have several options and we have to make choices. So, from making choices we move on and make some more." Even we make a choice, drift to his other work, just a step to the right. "That's relatively clutter-free, as there are days in our lives that are a bit sorted. The one shape in the centre representing something good that happened during the day," he says. Surely must have taken him long to finish? He says, "If I don't finish it in one day, then I put it aside and it might take even months. So, I try to be done with it all in one go without hampering my thought process."

Resuming the spell-binding stroll, there's a shadow painting with neon-bright edges depicting a man and a woman. There's a dilapidated fort building with a strange haunting enigma, and there's also one signifying greenery, bushes, shrub, sand and beach. Another with button beans as if shipped from the garden of Alice in Wonderland. It's almost a quarter of an hour before the anti-

clock-wise round of around 30 paintings is about to be over when there's another meriting a stopover. A colour and casual, careless strokes lending itself to some meaning unconsciously. Perhaps, the artist's interpretation would make things fall in place. "I just start with colour and without any idea in mind, it's exciting and I have no idea what's going to come next, till it finally gives itself to something. At times it's abstract," says Charlotte Ronnlund. Did she paint art itself? *On till March 5 at Chandigarh Museum and Art Gallery-10.*

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TellusArt, a non-profit organization, is committed towards highlighting through the power of art, issues that need collective human attention and endeavours. "We'll next bring together artists from India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka together on a world platform," says Ajmer Sandhu, core committee member, TellusArt. He adds, "Our current project, 'Young thoughts about Tellus' brings to fore the issue of global warming, through works and paintings by children and young people from across the globe."