

Colliding canvases

The Chennai Biennial spotlights 50 Indian and Korean artists



A coming together Timing Game_Checkmate by Song Yujin.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

“The works on display are a homage to the artists’ perceptions and how their empirical experiences are at the heart of their work. Twenty-five different artists were selected from across India, and their works are a reflection of the vibrancy of the country, and all the culture, tradition and heritage it brings alive,” says Ashrafi S Bhagat, art historian and critic, who has curated the paintings of Indian artists. The Korean paintings have been curated by Kim Injun, an artist and critic, who says that the works of the Korean artists are filled with emotion and spirit that reflect their individuality.

“I am always in a romantic relationship with Nature, and this is my interpretation – a surrealistic one. I have always been fascinated with nightscapes and I connect whatever I see to the human emotion,” says Vidya Sundar, about her painting Autumn Serenade. Vasuki Lakshminarayanan’s painting Togetherness In Harmony, has a gathering of women of all ages, and an elephant and a tiger set against hues of blue and green.

“We are treating Nature with ease, and are slowly forgetting to harmonise with it,” says Song Yujin, whose work Timing Game_Checkmate, tells

the story of Jeju island and its relationship with the palm trees there, which are being affected by the changing climate and environs. It is hard to miss the myriad styles from the two countries, and yet how effortlessly all the art comes together.

Chennai Biennial 2024 is on at Lalit Kala Akademi, Greams Road, till March 26. Visit inkocentre.org/chennai_biennial2024.html for information.

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There is a sprawling field of yellow against a strip of blue sky – all on canvas in a painting titled Spring in Jeju by Son Ilsam at the Lalit Kala Akademi. Not too far away, a herd of deer stands majestically against a starry sky painted in hues of green and black in Magesh Ramachandran’s A Placid Dream.

At Confluence, the fifth edition of the Chennai Biennial organised by InKo Centre and K-Art International Exchange Association, the works of 50 artists from South Korea and India are on display, chronicling a range of perceptions – Nature, people, and the world around them. While the Biennial usually showcases the works of contemporary Korean artists, this edition has contemporary artists from India displaying their work to mark the 50th year of Indo-Korean relations. After making a stop in Jeju and Busan, the exhibition is now in Chennai.

Korean art on display till March 26

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Chennai Biennial 2024 showcases diverse Indian and Korean artworks at Lalit Kala Akademi, highlighting unique techniques and cultural perspectives. The exhibition features ... [Read More](#)



The art exhibition is till Mar 26

CHENNAI: In one part of the hall, you see vegetable sellers, children playing cricket and even a goddess, in vibrant red and yellow. In the other, dragons, a surreal 'forest fish' and flowers made of wire. But in terms of colours and technique, it's not easy to distinguish the Indian and Korean artworks at the Chennai Biennial 2024, a series of curated bi-annual exhibitions presented to showcase contemporary Korean art.

Twenty-five of the works are by Korean artists, but for the first time, 25 works by Indian artists from across the country have been added in mediums that range from hanji (paper in Korean), yarn and digital print to even elephant dung paper.

"Artists are the same all over the world, the only difference is with their experiences, their education process and the way they think, which is in terms of their culture," says Ashrafi S Bhagat, curator of the Indian exhibition, 'Confluence', which is on at Lalit Kala Akademi on Grems Road.

Alamu Kumaresan's work, 'Countryside', has been created with yarn, thread, stones and shells, while Aneehs Kalode Rajan's mosaic work features a series of snippets from Kutch — a visual spectacle. Aishwaryan K's mixed media work on elephant dung paper — Offer — features a series of open palms in various colours.

'A mysterious landscape — Sinchon Seashore Road' by Baek Sungwon is painted in oil on linen, and features a dystopian structure in the middle of nowhere.

Yujin Song from Jeju, one of the artists from Korea, feels that the Indian art works have stronger colours than theirs. "There is energy in the works, which seems to come from the artist's soul. We can see our differences and our similarities as well." Her work, 'Timing game — Checkmate' in acrylic, is a fantastical depiction of a chessboard.

The last edition was held online during the pandemic, so it's a delight to be back in the physical space, says Rathi Jafer, director of InKo centre. "The works are mostly by emerging artists. Artist and critic Kim Injun has curated the Korean works. Though there is no particular theme, there is a connect with nature and nostalgia in many of the works." The exhibition will be on till March 26.

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