

ART IN PUBLIC SPACES

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In the busy (ness) of the everyday in the fevered rush of getting from one place to the other, it is the public art which can exponentially increase the mental health of the village, town, city, and the country. It is for the same reason that we at the Visual Arts Gallery, India Habitat Centre, decided to devote our current Visual Arts Journal (2016) to the *Art in Public Spaces*. Moving away from the discrete value associated with the art objects in a gallery, the work of art at a public space is a continual reappraisal of the relationship shared between the artist, art object, and public. The changing aesthetic traditions demand audience's active participation instead of passive appreciation. The essays contributed by cross section of creative minds – Larissa Buchholz, Ulf Wuggenig, Dave Colangelo, Maggie Baxter, Amita Sinha, Suresh Jayaram, Asim Waqif Giulia Ambrogi, Amitabh Kumar, Alex Davis, KLATSCH Collective, and Shraddha Borawake - highlight the trends of public art at different geographical locations, the interdependence with artistic aesthetic and technology, along with emerging popularity with the art in public domain. The 30 exhibitions cherry-picked for the publication of this year reinforce the wide range of artist mediums – visual, performance, public art, festivals, biennales – showcased at the galleries and open spaces across the Indian Habitat Centre.

Essays

Constructing Audiences, Defining Art: The Field Experiment of the Open Public Library
Ulf Wuggenig and Larissa Buchholz

Public Art in an Age of Massive Media
Dave Colangelo

On the Edge: Public Art in Isolation
Maggie Baxter

The Enacted Landscape of Varanasi Ghats: Beyond the Picturesque
Amita Sinha

Art in Public and Public Art
Giulia Ambrogi

Two Sites in the City
Asim Waqif

Element of Luxury in Public Art
Alex Davis

Field Notes
Amitabh Kumar

Mapping Initiatives of Artists' and Collectives in Bangalore

Suresh Jayaram

Myself Mohan 1909
KLATSCH Collective

A Pilgrimage of an Image
Shraddha Borawake