

New contemporary arts week fills a gap in Delhi's 'scene'

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Delhi was once a city which boasted of artists from across the world. From royal poets of the Mughal courts, to the frantic, politically charged art milieu of the tumultuous seventies, Delhi has long been at the forefront of artistic revelations and revolutions. But over the years, the arts scene in the city seems to have lost



Kritika Thakur belly-dancing | PHOTO: Abhishek Shukla

much of its vibrancy, transforming itself into a disjointed pastiche of its former glory days. The Delhi Contemporary Arts Week, organised for the first time this year, hopes to fill this gap in the arts scene in Delhi. As far as the organisers are concerned, the problem with arts in the city is not a lack of production, but one of direction.

"We are attempting to bring a broad spectrum of arts together within one space. This is a platform for budding talents, in the field of contemporary dance, music, photography and short films. Next year, we'll try and rope in theatre too. The endeavour is to initiate a week dedicated to the arts, not just a singular field but to create one space for all kinds of art forms," said the organisers.

Spread across ten venues, the festival kicked things off with dance performances by Deepa Bajaj, Riya Mandal, Jaskaran Anand and Rachnika Goyal at Zorba The Buddha on Monday. On Wednesday, Alliance Francaise hosted two short film screenings along with a photo exhibition by photographers like Barry Goldberg, Diraj Bhatia and Soumitra Ghosh and several dance performances including a belly dance performance by Kritika Thakur.

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