

Vanishing into landscapes

Liu Bolin talks about the inspiration and thought behind his Hiding in the City series

NIKHIL VARMA



While blending into your surroundings might be considered an asset if you are a super spy, it is Liu Bolin's USP. The Chinese artist's skill in merging into his work has earned him the sobriquet of the invisible man.

The performance is part of his famous Hiding in the City series. Liu began the photographic works in 2005 and owes its genesis to the demolition of Suo Jia Cun, Asia's largest international artist village and his home by Chinese authorities. The series has been featured across the world. In the city for Art Bengaluru, Liu talks of his art and inspirations.

He is currently exploring Bangalore to find a place that he could exhibit his work.

"I convey my ideas by making my body disappear into various cultures and existential problems of the city. Consequently, the way I chose a place depends



WHO CAN SEE THE ARTIST *For the art?*

on what I want to show, whether it is a concept, a place, a political environment or a civilization."

He adds, "I grew up in an age of social and economic change in China. Through my work, I want to make a personal statement. Though development has changed many lives for the better, there are many matrices that are not fulfilled by development alone. There are many inequalities and issues that plague Chinese society. There are some sides to the development tale that must be show-

cased in a public space."

He says, "I do not like to typecast my art or work into any particular category. For me, good art is something that manages to touch the heart and make you think. Art is influenced by many factors. I came to age during the era when China opened up to the world. I believe every artist is influenced by the culture and traditions of the country they come from."

Bolin contends that India and China have much to learn from each other. "We share many aspects of our history and cultural

traditions. We are two societies in a state of change. Artists from both the countries have a lot to learn from each other and a multitude of experiences to share."

Bolin is heading to the United States for an independent art exhibition that will deal with themes of world peace. "The exhibition will be held on September 11 and I felt that a message of peace will be apt for the day."

Hiding in the City will be at The Sublime Galleria, 801, UB City, Vittal Mallya Road till August 30.