



# Wanna have a dekkho at Arakkal's first car?

Art Bengaluru features a series of events including a childrens' art contest, an art workshop, speaker sessions, a film screening and culminates with an art and luxury auction

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**A**rt Bengaluru 2011 is back with a bang. Organised jointly by Art Chutney, The Collection at UB City and Sublime Galleria, this festival celebrating contemporary art is on its second year and promises to offer plenty of new features to art connoisseurs and buyers as compared to the 2010 edition. "Art Bengaluru has a three fold mission; one, to reach out to a wider range of people, two, to have an auction that will connect art, luxury and charity and to educate people about art," says Raj Bagaria of Art Chutney. The highlight of the festival is that there are several outside galleries participating in the festival right from Kanpur, Gurgaon to Kolkata, Mumbai and Chennai.

## SOME STANDOUTS OF THE FESTIVAL

The inauguration on June 17 will see the unveiling of Yusuf Arakkal's art installation-cum-sculpture which happens to be his first car, a 1956 Millicento that had been retired after years of service. According to the artist, "Most of the time the car was in the garage. It began showing its age. And, soon talk of disposing it off began to be heard at home. It was at this that I decided to give it — in a writer's word — a new avatar. Why not transform it into a work of art?"

Apart from the 17 participating

galleries, there are eminent artists and designers who will be involved with the festival. Artists Arpana Caur and Krishna Mehta will talk of art as practiced by them. These speaker sessions promise to delight and educate art lovers.

According to Bagaria, it is the auction that is easily the most awaited event with almost 60 to 70 lots under the hammer. Conducted by noted auctioneer Angira Ariya, the proceeds from the auction is earmarked for the HCG Foundation that is dedicated to providing free cancer treatment to poor patients. Several prominent art



Shipra Bhattacharya's painting titled *Desire* (above) and Arpana Caur's painting titled *Compassion*

## Art Bengaluru will adopt QR technology to help network with a wider section of art enthusiasts

enthusiasts supporting the cause this year includes artists Murali Cheeroth and Yusuf Arakkal, gallerists Renu George, Manu Dosaj and Raja Kamal and art consultant Franck Barthelemy.

The week-long art festival this year will feature an art exhibition and a series of events including a childrens' art contest, an art workshop and film screening by Johnny ML, art critic and filmmaker.

This year, Art Bengaluru will adopt QR technology to help network with a wider section of art enthusiasts. With this technology guests will be able to connect with the festival website, access programme schedules, after-event party information, and the auction details — all from their mobile. The QR codes will be placed strategically throughout the festival zone and interconnected with social media sites.

Art Bengaluru will be at the UB City from June 17 to 25.