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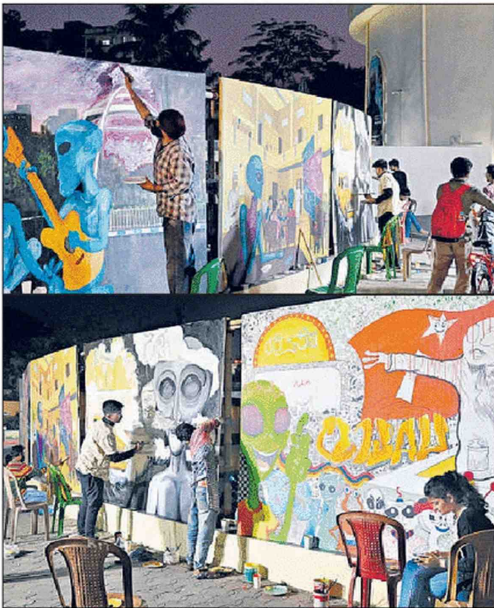
ART

KCC'S AMI ARTS FESTIVAL WAS ALL ABOUT SOAKING IN THE VARIOUS DYNAMICS OF ART

From a one-day festival that was confined to a room, AMI Arts Festival metamorphosed into a nine-day extravaganza and celebrated art and

its different facets at Rabindra Tirtha in New Town. In its third year, the multi-disciplinary art festival celebrated the amalgamation of cutting-edge contemporary art and traditional crafts that

aim to influence life with hope and positivity. Over the nine days, the venue came alive with exhibitions, performing arts, film screening and workshops. The highlights...



Graffiti artists showcased their creativity by exploring the theme of 'Aliens In Kolkata'. The competition was led by mentor-curator Sanatan Dinda, renowned contemporary visual artist, body painter, installation artist as well as the convener of the Behala Art Festival.



Homegrown talents in the sphere of comedy displayed their acumen in tickling funny bones with their short acts.



One of the most striking features of the festival was Photography Over The Years, which was a stellar display of vintage cameras. Organised in collaboration with Museo Camera Museum, a never-before-seen display of cameras from the visual archives of Kulwant Roy attracted photography enthusiasts.



The evening also saw a beautiful kathak performance by Madhuka Dutta and Aeshia Rosaleen.



AMI Arts Festival witnessed many talk shows virtually and also on ground. The discussion on indigenous food by Boro Baski on traditional food of the Santhals and their cooking process was enriching.



The festival had invited visual artists to submit their artwork for a fundraiser exhibition on the theme of landscapes. Titled Divergent Terrains, the competition saw an overwhelming response and the entries were a beautiful display of the Indian landscapes captured by the artists.



"AMI Arts Festival 2022 has been a resounding success thanks to all the hard work and dedication put in by KCC and the support of our partners. The festival, a unique mix of diverse art forms, brought together people irrespective of their socio-economic or educational backgrounds and paved the way for overwhelming participation from all. We hope that we only keep growing from strength to strength and continue providing such platforms to celebrate the arts and bring people together," said Richa Agarwal, CEO, Emami Art.



AMI Arts Festival promoted local crafts and the display of sustainable fashion and lifestyle exhibition by homegrown artists was a great draw.



"This was very much needed in Eastern India and I am so glad we did it in an open space like Rabindra Tirtha. It's about making art more accessible to people. We wanted to build curiosity among people and they can engage here with multidisciplinary art coming together under one roof," said Reena Diwan, director Kolkata Centre for Creativity.



The Afterlife of Performance ft Nikhil Chopra stood out for its free-flowing movements. The exhibition seeks to be approachable to one and all through exhaustive notes on the works themselves and on Chopra's practice in general. Performers from visual and performing arts interacted and responded to Chopra's work.



The evening soiree was a soulful one with Mehfil-e-Qawwali comprising a live rendition of age-old compositions by Danish Hussain Badayuni.

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Pictures: B. Halder