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A Kolkata mansion becomes a stage for a dramatic art show

'Firelight', by artist and sculptor Narayan Sinha, is a mesmerising exhibition that plays with backdrop and light to great effect

The house at Queen's Park in Kolkata, which acts as the venue (and muse) for the on-site exhibition (Firelight)

By Shrabonti Bagchi

LAST PUBLISHED 09.04.2021 | 11:33 AM IST

A spectacular series of installations has taken over a decrepit mansion at Queens Park in Kolkata, transforming the spaces within (and a few without) into haunting and atmospheric arenas of memory and madness.

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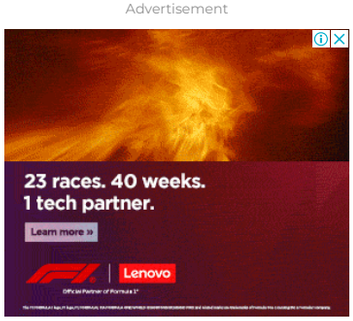

This is the on-site exhibition *Firelight* by Kolkata-based artist and sculptor Narayan Chandra

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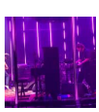

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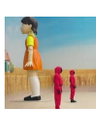

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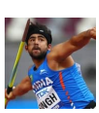

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Sinha; without a doubt, one of this season's finest. The artist uses both personal and collective experiences to great effect in his genre-defying sculptures made of found objects.

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The sculptural installations are not just large in a physical sense, they also create a sort of living presence in the spaces of the old house that acts as a platform for the artist's expression as well as his muse. Sinha uses lighting to great effect as well—there's a reason the exhibition hours are post sunset. "We negate the importance of nature, our source, and the organic ways through which each and every being is connected. *Firelight* explores these raw and intense emotions. The works have a disturbing quality, something uncomfortable-making, like all good art," says art curator Ina Puri who has helped Sinha put the show together.

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At one point a student of science, Sinha has held over 20 solo shows of his works since 2000, culminating in his most well known series 'Debi' in 2011, which was appreciated for Sinha's reinterpretation of spirituality and ritualism through the medium of metals.

Firelight can be viewed at 12 Queens Park, next to Birla Mandir, Kolkata between 5pm and 9pm till 16 June. A few images from the show:

Installation view of the grand staircase

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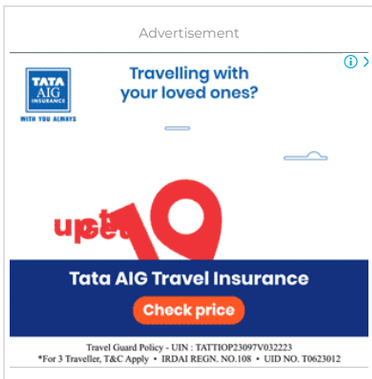

'Two Sides of a Saber'; Iron and Wood; 60 x 144 x 45 in (Firelight)

'Nature Reigns'; Brass, iron and wood; 50 x 60 x 26 in

'Machine'; Watercolour on paper; 27.5 x 27.5 in

Installation view in one of the rooms

'Engulf'; Iron; 126 x 132 x 78 in (Firelight)

'Boshonto'; Iron and Plastic; 41 x 65 x 50 in (Firelight)

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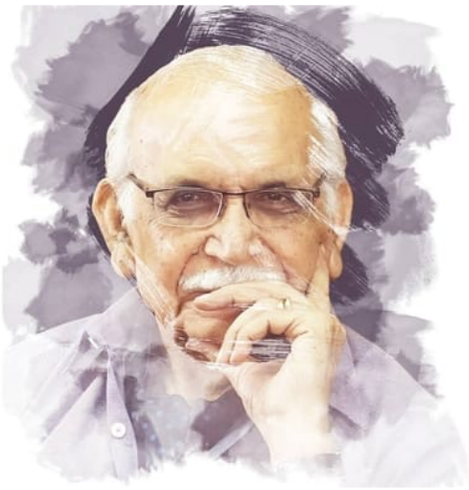
NEXT STORY

B.N. Goswamy: The interpreter of miniatures

A pioneer who brought out the poetry in art, B.N. Goswamy passed away last week. In this interview to Lounge, a few weeks after the publication of his last book and some weeks before his death, he reflected on his lifetime's work of putting names to Indian artists, and the role of the art historian



Original portrait of the author-art historian courtesy A Suitable Agency, which represented B.N. Goswamy for the book 'The Indian Cat'.

Avantika Bhuyan

LAST PUBLISHED 25.11.2023 | 8:03AM IST

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"May I call you by your first name?" asked B.N. Goswamy in his gentle voice during a phone conversation in late October this year. When I replied in the affirmative, he chuckled, "Given your name, you hail from Kalidasa's period, don't you?"

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The conversation—like all his lectures and books—was revelatory not just about aspects of art history but also about the workings of his mind. Brijinder Nath Goswamy—born in Sargodha, now in Pakistan, in 1933, and based in Chandigarh till his death on 17 November at the age of 90—believed that his practice was shaped by happenstance and extraordinary moments that took place in the everyday, rather than a rigorous plan. His mind soaked up moments, conversations, poetry and visuals which had settled in his subconscious for years—often brewing quietly without him even realising it. Eventually, a trigger would bring those moments to the forefront, taking the form of a book, a catalogue or an exhibition.

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Goswamy was best known for shining the spotlight on the figure of the painter, presenting him as a creative intellectual. Until the publication of his book *Nainsukh Of Guler* in 1997, miniature paintings had been viewed purely from the lens of the patron, often sifted into broad heads such as Pahari, Rajput or Kangra, essentially markers of geographies that the patrons belonged to. The painter remained in the shadows, a hazy, anonymous figure.

I used to be in the Indian Administrative Service but didn't stay for too long. I got a bit tired of it, resigned in 1958 and started to work on a PhD. I was a student of history, as there wasn't a dedicated art history department in our country at that time. I wanted to focus on the social aspects of history rather than the economic or the political. I had once read an introduction to Kangra painting (by M.S. Randhawa, a senior Punjabi civil servant) and decided to work on the social background of the same. What kind of society threw up art like that? What were the relationships between class, caste, patron and painter? Art was in the background to it all. Then, when I went abroad to teach, I decided to focus on art history. Slowly what was in the

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Cash, card or 7 Ring: Tap to pay meets an exciting form factor

The 7 Ring is a passive smart wearable finger ring that leverages NFC technology for safe, contactless payments

Unlike other smart rings, the 7 Ring, which can be worn on any finger, is not about fitness and health metrics but making payments easier. It doesn't require a power source and works on NFC.7 Ring

Nitin Sreedhar

LAST PUBLISHED 24.11.2023 | 4:00PM IST

You are shopping in your favourite grocery store, and now it's time to pay. But instead of reaching for your wallet, pulling out your credit card, entering your PIN or positioning your smartphone camera to scan a QR code, you place your fist on the point-of-sale (POS) machine, touch the POS machine with the middle joint of your finger. That's it. Your payment's done—thanks to a ring on your finger.

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"The ring is an identifier. It's like a card but in a different form factor," says Vijay Khubchandani, founder and CEO, Sevenring Innovations Pvt. Ltd, the makers of 7 Ring, a smart passive wearable finger ring for contactless payments.

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Diversity Gt 1.1 Puffer Jacket from Huemn

Team Lounge

LAST PUBLISHED 25.11.2023 | 11:00AM IST

Red Riding Hood

This Huemn red puffer jacket screams style with its funnel neck and contrasting black, all-over screen print. *Available on huemn.in; Rs.24,000.*

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Black acetate shield sunglasses from Rick Owens featuring shield frame, oversize arms, curved tips and UV-protective lenses. *Available on farfetch.com; Rs. 90,812.*

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Apple Watch Ultra 2 review: Bigger, brighter, better and outdoorsy

The Apple Watch Ultra 2 is more ‘smartwatch’ for the money, though there’s little to tell it apart from the first Watch Ultra

By tapping the index finger and thumb of the watch hand together twice, users can perform many of the most common actions on the Apple Watch Ultra 2.Apple

Tushar Kanwar

LAST PUBLISHED 24.11.2023 | 12:00PM IST

It’s an Apple Watch – on steroids. That’s how the Apple Watch Ultra was first launched last year: strapped onto the wrists of daring adventurers trekking up snow-capped peaks, plunging to the depths of the ocean and everywhere in between – in essence, taking the everyday Apple Watch to depths and heights yet unseen by the average consumer grade smartwatch.

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A year down, we have the Apple Watch Ultra 2 (₹89,900), an iterative upgrade with some welcome specs upgrades, a few new features, all just a bit better than before (first-gen Ultra owners needn't apply). Yet, what is the Apple Watch Ultra 2 like for a first-time buyer, whether you're an intrepid explorer or even if you're not? We try and answer the biggest questions about Apple's biggest Watch yet.

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After the ramp or the red carpet, where do designer clothes go?

Celebrities wearing loaned designer clothes for big events is an open secret. But where do these clothes go?

Actor Kareena Kapoor Khan in a Manish Malhotra ensemble.Courtesy Instagram/Manish Malhotra

Pooja Singh

LAST PUBLISHED 24.11.2023 | 9:31AM IST

Earlier this week, director-choreographer Farah Khan said something that got social media muttering.

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"Manish (Malhotra) *ki* party main Manish *ne kapde diye the*," she told Bharti TV, explaining that one of the country's top designers had loaned clothes to celebrity guests at his highly publicised Diwali house party. "*Woh humne* next day return *kar diye* (*we returned them the day after*)... It is almost like a fashion show with A-listers wearing his clothes... people are able to see his designs."

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