

# **POST MODERN ART IN RAJASTHAN**

## **(NEW MEDIA, SITE SPECIFIC, INSTALLATION, PERFORMANCES, VIDEO ART ETC.)**

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The rich heritage of Rajasthan manifests itself in its unique art and culture. The contemporary art scenario in Rajasthan is now approaching towards new horizon not only in conventional art medium but in unconventional era also. Here my main concern is to focus on most contemporary art experiments such as Site specific art, Installations, Performances, Video art, Interactive art and New media art practices in Rajasthan.

The contemporary art practice in Rajasthan mainly focused in the city of Jaipur, Ajmer, Kota, Bikaner, Jodhpur etc. Because the art gallery and auditorium facility are there, and artists are involve in new experiments all the time ,their participation in National and International art events and the most important thing is art galleries promote them by giving them space and opportunity. Some artists are really doing so well. Kalaneri Art gallery, Samanvai art gallery, Juneja art gallery and Artchill Gallery have been like mentor for the young artist and senior artists also. But some artists still feel sad as the Administration does not understand their art practice. Chintan upadhyaya says- “local administration does not help and appreciate the experimental art practice of artists and there is no proper space for the artists to work and explore, so most of the artists migrated to abroad.”

So the art in Rajasthan is centralized in Jaipur and I must say that very few artists have dared to adopt the new media in their art and and boldly involved in setting new values for art.

The objectives of such “Interactive contemporary Art” forms are to:

1. Create meaningful connections and interactions between time and society.
2. Develop interrelationships among artists from different geographical locations having varied social, religious and cultural perspectives.
3. Develop contemporary art ideas using traditional materials and emerging techniques so that it could connect artists to the global art scenario.
4. Foster collaboration, encourage experimentation, exchanges and dialogues among practicing and emerging artists and audiences too.
5. Serve as a platform for regional and international exposure

These works in new media intents to forge meaningful connections and interactions between viewer and contemporary art and artists. Since the art world is rather conventional, artists aim to work on this media to raise awareness in rural and contemporary art.

Contemporary art can sometimes seem at odds with a public that does not feel that art and its institutions share its values. In Britain, in the 1990s, contemporary art became a part of popular culture, with artists becoming stars.

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Installation art, photography, conceptual art, video and other practices generally called post-modern as being too dependent on verbal explanations in the form of theoretical discourse.

## **ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAMS**

Artist-in-residence programs exist to invite artists, academicians, curators, and all manner of creative people for a time and space away from their usual environment and obligations. Hundreds of opportunities and organisations exist throughout the world and in Rajasthan also.

## **SANDARBHART RESIDENCY**

It was founded by renowned artist Chintan Upadhyay in 2003 as an artist's initiative. Sandarbh is a creative situation generated by & for Artists through site-specific, community & public art projects, performance, & environment art. Its aim is to explore new modes of art practices in the ever-changing cultural, historical, political, economic and environmental scenarios. It also aims to encourage artists to explore various new ideas by providing them with an environment that is in complete contrast to the more traditional museums and gallery systems. Sandarbh organises residency programmes, site-specific art projects and community-based interactions. It encourages the participation of local communities during these programmes thus making them involved in the current art practices and helping them understand and accept ideas from around the world.

### **Trio graph and Video art by Akash choyal-**

Akash is a painter, a printmaker, a photographer, a sculptor, a videographer, and a futurist. Most of his organic and inorganic images are involved in theatrical enactments and create metaphysical possibilities of the human mind.

In the Trio-graph medium, use of different layers of pen and ink drawings, interlacing the attenuated images create an illusionary 3D scene onto a 2D pictorial surface. This technique is yet to be confessed at the global art scenario which otherwise is not uncommon in the present commercial ad world. He believes he is the first one to employ and search this especial mode of technique and expression in the present scenario of contemporary Indian art. He says “I aim to draw my own state of dreams. Till date, my prime concern has been to restructure realities and to unveil the hidden truth lying beneath the surface of the objective reality. I have tried to grasp images of the unconscious depths of my mind and bring them to surface by expressing them in various forms and shapes with a suitable symbolic apparatus Till date, I have worked on different mediums like fiber constructions, etchings, paintings, paper mashie, paperboards, triograph, video art, sculpture etc. For the last few years, I have intensely explored the possibilities in computer.”

### **Video of AkashChoyal titled -'Zeero'- the echo of existence, part**

“I feel, as if I am the spirit and the whole of this universe with all its relations, with all its good and evil, is but a series of paintings- scenes on a canvas- of which I

am the witness. I am encircled by a happening - a happening that involves me in dancing. I go on dancing, multiplying my own aura. The various postures employed in the present film emboldens me of my own existence growing with the truth of detachment as well, as bridging my past, present and the future.”



### Installation and Light in Painting by Vinay Sharma

Vinay Sharma is now a days working in his new studio space surrounded by his old memories in the form of Installations with objects, old written papers, old transistors, typewriters, oldest small or big objects are just spread hither and thither in a mismanaged manner. He says that as time spent that object automatically create a place for itself, as keep it properly or unconsciously, He says “I owe a lot to my village home where I grew up amongst festivals, rituals, tradition and of course, astrology. My father, grandfather and great grandfathers were pundits, well-versed astrologers. Astrology, as one knows, deals with planets, their movements, days and minutes and time as a whole. The impressions I inculcated as a child are indelible. They surface in my work as symbols.



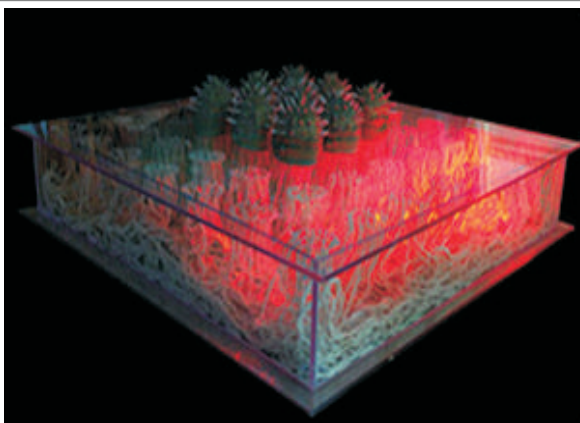
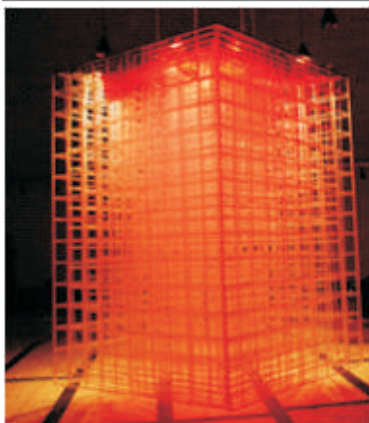
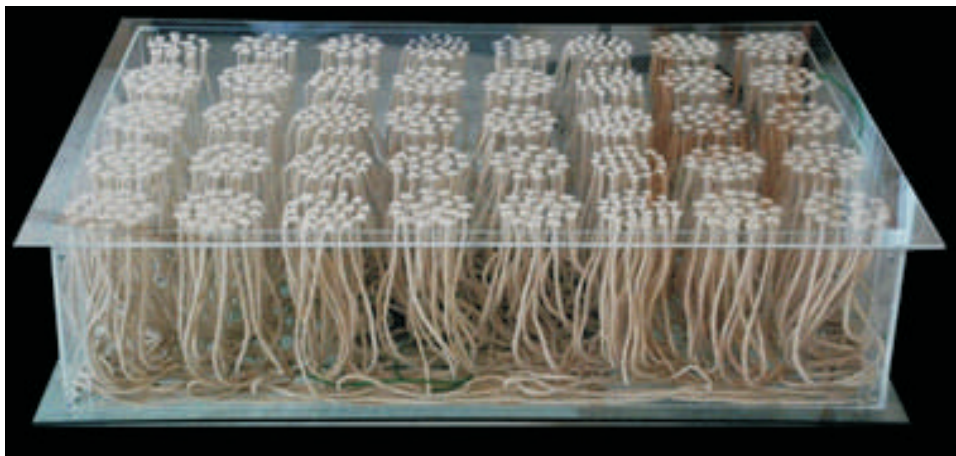
My recent series, Scenic Times Bygone, is about time which holds an important place in Indian culture, religion, philosophy and literature. I like to use several media and paint on handmade old paper and materials. My whole life, the past, the ancestry, the handwriting of my father and grandfather are assimilated in my work. My canvas is old paper used for astrological scrolls and book keeping by my ancestors. To create multi-layered images, I use collage, print and traditional miniature painting in oil and watercolours. These merge well with handwritten calligraphy and markings on my paper. While making this series, I had a sense of being a witness to my own ancestry and continue to bring in different images, techniques and combinations in my paintings to infuse them with a new life.



## Installations by SURENDRA PAL JOSHI

A muralist in essence, Surendra Pal Joshi has been equally passionate in contributing to the world Installations.

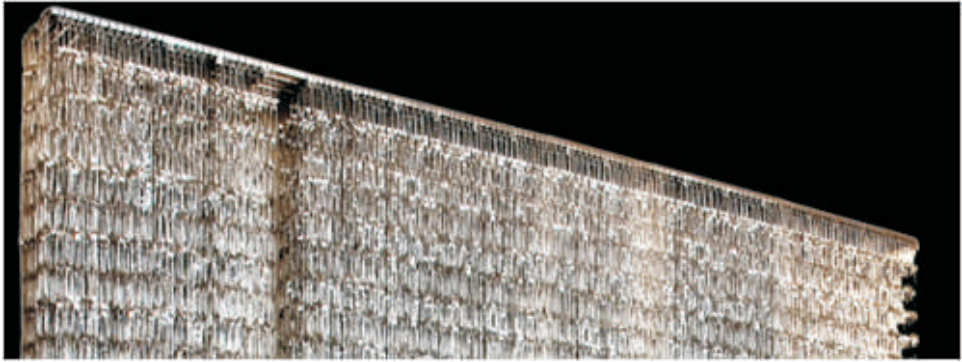
“My art is born out of early associations. I think culture becomes a context in an artist's evolution, because we use elements from culture according to our inner responses. That is when the true individual emerges. But now I also see that individuals are becoming institutions because of their sense of adventure and what they create in many years of a single evolution. I believe as an artist that through art, the imagination re-worlds the world, generating itself as material presence.



This is based on the famous couplet of Kabir, I tried to play with the same symbolism. He lifted the ordinary artisan to higher realms. The idea of spaces and the weave of the materiality into the shades of rhythm is what I wanted to create. The simplicity of Kabir and the depth of that feeling is vanishing. I wanted to reflect upon those thoughts.

On a larger scale we can look at Surendra's installation that he creates with unusual materials like stainless steel and garware film. This work, with its broad,





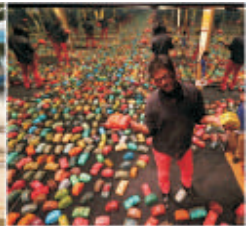
transparent muscularity, reminds you of a perfectly balanced composition, even at its most off-kilter, there are thickets of dense colour intonations alternating between darting, grass-like lines and luscious zones of delicate color, contributed in definitive ways to just how expansive and expressive abstract intonations in an installation could be.

### **Designer Babies and Installations by Chintan Upadhyay**

The subject of Upadhyay's work is often babies, animated and stylized against a bold solid background, they are stripped of the simplicity of their vulnerable nature. From blank slate to something slightly more affected, the imagery of culture is impressed upon them visually in tattoo like designs.



The artist began as a painter, but now creates sculptures and installations of which he paints the surface. His most popular sculpture project is perhaps the “Pet Shop” project, which is an ongoing production of a “model baby” for every season. It's a social critique on consumer society. Transforming painting and sculpture into a pop art hybrid, the painted imagery is often sourced from traditional Indian miniature painting, so on the whole the pieces tend to look forward and look back at the same time.



## Photographic digital prints by Kapil Sharma

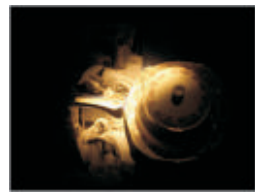
Kapil Sharma's work is experimental as well, it comprises of lenticular prints, a technology that conjures the illusion of movement within the picture. Conceptually drawing from the tradition of miniature paintings, Kapil specifically chooses motifs such as the auspicious banana kaner tree that are obibiquitous . his most favrite subject is miniature paintings with which he createted some works in digital prints.



## live sculptures and Site Specific Performance by Rajendra Panchal

Rajendra panchal an NSD alumnus is now a days working on nonverbal elements in theatre as well as site specific works and installations.

Object based Performance "When i Was A Child" . In this performance he says "Objects provide an important method of communication in theatre. This performance is a marriage of imagery, mime and body movement in association with real day to day objects intended to create a new tool of communication for theatre people and to encourage the development of a new theatrical experience, Performance

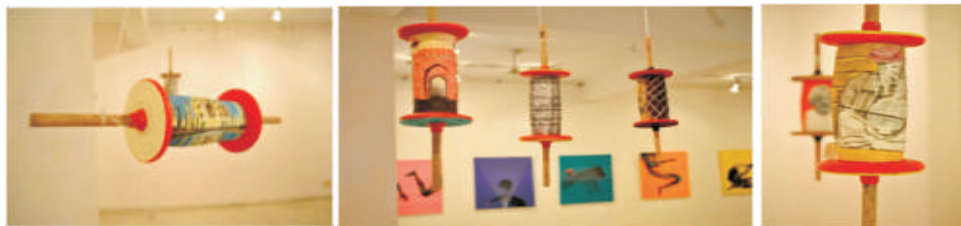


'thelawala- Every living organism or a dead object is a creative art piece in itself. It is a kind of performance. Human being is one such thing. 'thelawala' is exhibition of one such performance in a theatrical manner. It is devised with keeping the cart vendor/pusher as the central object of concentration. It involves photography, real object.

One of his earlier works is an exhibition in which he displayed some photographs put on the table along with some day to day objects similar to the concept of the same photograph showed. And some interesting spotlight on the whole display.

## Creative works by Lakhan Singh Jat

Lakhan 's recent exhibition titled "Dor" is very interesting as he used the devices to paint on. The device is "Charkhi" on which he painted. The concept is



very different. He made some Video also with the same concept exhibited in the show.

I would also like to mention here about Shri Harshiv Kumar Sharma's Installation based on Kawad and Suneet Ghildial Creative works on wood.

Conclusion- Artists of Rajasthan also got fame on international platform as their art works have capacity to represent contemporary time and environment. Now New media is required and essential for upcoming artist in Rajasthan to show their concerns towards a sincere art practice. Thus we can say that Artist from Rajasthan are now aware of New Media Art very well but still miles to go and it will take years to understand the requirement of new mediums in art. Let the time decide. but I can say the future of new kind of art in Rajasthan in bright.

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