

BRYAN ANTHONY THOMAS



also help sustain artists and

The Mela has received immense

support from artists such as Maity,

who believes that it provides an ex-

cellent opportunity for young citi-

zens to collect genuine art at afford-

able prices. "Lines express the power

of an artist. I have offered some rare

line drawings from various phases

of my journey; they are unique," he

Similarly, artist Paramjit Singh-

he is the founding member of the

Delhi-based group of young paint-

ers and sculptors called The Un-

known, which was founded in 1960-

whose works depict mystic

landscapes and natural forms with

thick pigments and tactile textures,

has contributed to the Mela his oil

pastel works, a medium Singh rarely

works with. "CIMA Art Mela is an

attractive proposition for art collec-

tors, especially for the young and

In order to augment the cause of

art and heritage projects across re-

gions, the CIMA team has also set up

the Art & Heritage Foundation. To-

gether they have initiated the CIMA

Award Project in 2019 to recognise

and support young talent from the

length and breadth of the country.

beginners," says Singh.

Where art meets accessibility

English writer Virginia Woolf is regarded as one of the most important modernist literary figures of the 20th Century. Known for her novels including Mrs Dalloway (1925), Woolf died (on this day in 1941) by drowning herself in the River Ouse when she was 59.

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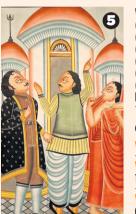


NEW DELHI









Works by artists (1) P Yogesh Naik; Satyaranjan Das; Jogen Chowdhury; Anwar Chitrakar. Madhubani art.) Visitors at CIMA Art Méla in Delhi.

CHECK IT OUT WHAT: CIMA Art Mela WHEN : Till March 30, 10:00am to 8:00pm **WHERE:** Visual Arts Gallery, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Estate

Mela," says Rakhi Sarkar, director, The Centre of International Modern Art (CIMA) Galthis time around. lery, Kolkata. Now an annual event,

CIMA Art Mela—it was launched in Kolkata in 2008—is nothing like the usual art fairs happening in the country. Its uniqueness lies in the display of works by both known and up-and-coming artists in what can be called a rather informal environment.

T was from the *parar addas* [local gatherings] in the

nooks and corners of Kolkata that I took the inspiration to start CIMA Art

Often touted as India's largest affordable art fair, the idea behind CIMA Art Mela, Sarkar acknowledges, was to create a platform for socialising, interacting, and learning about different art forms as well as artists, without it putting a dent in one's pocket. "Art became increasingly exclusive [over time], and the appreciation for it began to diminish. This motivated us to create the CIMA Art Mela, which promotes a deeper appreciation of art and encourages people to embrace it," CI-MA's director adds.

Sarkar is back in the capital with the CIMA Art Mela's third edition, which is here after a three-year hiatus—the event started on March 24 and will continue till March 30 at the India Habitat Centre's Visual Arts Gallery. The focus, as always, remains on affordability and making art accessible to one and all. So, whether you are a seasoned collector or just curious about the art world, this Mela—it offers a diverse range of works from established and emerging artists—will encourage you to invest in and value art.

Easy access

The USP of this year's Mela is that it has, on display, works of more than 80 artists across backgrounds and disciplines. Renowned artists Arpita Singh, Paramjit Singh, Jogen

> CIMA Art Mela promotes a deeper appreciation of art and encourages people to embrace it. RAKHI SARKAR, director, CIMA Gallery

This ongoing fair aims to showcase affordable art all while creating a platform for attendees to interact with works of renowned, emerging artists

creatives.

says

Chowdhury, Lalu Prasad Shaw, Paresh Maity, and Baiju Parthan are among those who have participated

BEYOND THE FRAME

When we visited the Visual Arts Gallery on Monday, it wasn't a full house. However, we were informed that the event witnessed an increased footfall especially over the weekend. Spectators are in for a visual treat of over 1,500 diverse contemporary and traditional paintings that highlight the beauty of art in different forms.

What was fascinating to see at CIMA was a variety of works from both homegrown and international artists. Not only does this curatorial process create a melting pot of cultures and ideas but the Mela also leaves attendees with a better understanding of the domain.

Giving us an insight into the Mela, Sarkar shares, "The CIMA Project is an unconventional way of showcasing art through informal exhibitions held in various cities, where art is displayed without frames or formalities, allowing visitors to touch and feel it." This idea, as per Sarkar, "was to help young artists sell their work and to bring affordable art to young collectors, includ-ing pensioners". For Sarkar, the project aims to embrace intelligence and bring knowledge to art so as to



This Art Mela is an attractive proposition for art collectors, especially for the young and beginners. PARAMJIT SINGH,



DIABLO IV IS ALMOST HERE!

S one amongst many action role-playing games, *Diablo IV* somehow holds a large captive audience (me included) who waited for up to two painfully-long hours on a login queue during the open beta—it is a test run for the developers to identify bugs and get some player feedback before its official releaselast weekend. Diablo IV releases in June. Why then, did a speculated million people crash the servers when a perfected

version of the game releases in two months? To answer this, we must travel back to 1997, when *Diablo* first released.

In the '90s, when both slot machines and Dungeons & Dragons were considered mainstream entertainment, we witnessed the entry of Diablorendering them obsolete ever since by tick-

ling the brain in precisely the right way. Set in a dark fan-

Diablo was just difficult enough to make it feel like finishing dungeons was a worthy accomplishment, and sufficiently rewarding at the end of it with loot boxes, to keep us playing. The passing years brought Diablo II and Diablo III, cursed with the burden of being the apex of dungeon crawler entertainment, as they were both hated and loved by fans.

with Diablo IV. The game intro-



duces itself with some fascinating visuals of my customised character walking across the dark lands haunted by Lilith. Even with the graphics settings set to low-medium, the game looks fantastic. Shiny

mud, crinkly snow,

and rotten dungeons-

so intricate, I could al-

most smell it. I chose

the 'Barbarian' of the

five available classes,

who now has a wellpruned skill-tree. The

level-ups happen quick

and easy, and this lets

me experiment with

some interesting com-

bat options. There's

also an endless slew of

good loot, and I fre-

quently found myself

hoarding rare 'bludg-

eoning axes' like I was

a squirrel saving up

ARE YOU GAME?

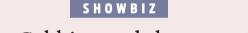
Anusha Ganapathi

> (This economics graduate spends her leisure time preparing for the zombie apocalypse)

> > While a little glitchy during the beta weekend, the co-operative multiplayer is probably one of the bigger pulls of playing this from June. Diablo IV scares me though—it has the potential to be one of the blackhole games that could make me forget every other game and commit to slashing at ghouls forever. It releases in June across the PC, Xbox, and PlayStation and will support cross-play.

for winter.





Wamiqa Gabbi reveals her prep for her upcoming film Jubilee



🈏 @quofles

tasy realm that involves hacking and slashing through a myriad of creatures,

I am so far very impressed

CTOR Wamiqa Gabbi, known for her work in the streaming anthology series Modern Love Mumbai, will be next seen in Jubilee in which she plays a nautch girl named Niloufer Qureshi. Directed by Vikramaditya Motwane, the first part featuring five episodes γ will start streaming on April 7 and the second part will release on April 14. Talking about her role, Wamiqa shared that she saw a few popular films of the 1950s and '60s to prepare for her role. According to IANS. Gabbi said. "I have always been a fan of period drama films, especially from the black-and-white era. There was a time when I used to enjoy such films with my entire family in Doordarshan. When Jubilee was offered to me, I jumped at the offer, it was like reminiscing about the good old days. I got into the skin of the character in Jubilee by watching popular films between the '50s and '60s to take references from the actresses of that time." She also added that she had taken references from yesteryear actors for sketching body language, facial expression, and dialogue delivery. The series also stars Aparshakti Khurana, Aditi Rao Hydari, Prosenjit Chatterjee, Sidhant Gupta, Nandish Sandhu, and Ram Kapoor in pivotal roles. -Express Features



A simple film on love and belief



ANUSHA SUNDAR

HERE is something about elephants and the cinema. It's always warm to see the pachyderms sway in and out of screens, and into the hearts of the audience. Close on the heels of the Indian documentary The Elephant Whisperers, which bagged an Oscar, Netflix is back with another film on the majestic beasts. The Magician's Elephant, an animated feature, teaches love, bonding, belonging, and how magic is just around the corner if you believe in it.

Based on a book by two-time Newbery Award winner Kate Di-Camillo, the story is about a

young orphan Peter (Noah Jupe), who is raised by a bitter but caring soldier who believes that his ward must learn of the hardships of the real world.

One day, a chance meeting with a fortune-teller-who's the narrator of the story-changes Peter's life. He finds himself in the midst of a mission—looking for his long-lost sister, Adele, who he was told had died. But in doing so, he first has to find an elephant, a rarity in the king-

dom of Baltese. The pursuit leads to Peter being challenged to complete three seemingly impossible tasks. While one may think that these chores are easy-peasy for an adult, it is a child's world that



VOICE CAST: Noah Jupe, Benedict Wong, Pixie Davies, Aasif Mandvi, and others **DIRECTOR:** Wendy Rogers **STREAMING ON:** Netflix RATING

debut director Wendy Rogers creates, and hence the tasks appear difficult, to say the least.

The film is mounted through Peter's eyes, though at times the story is also shown through the eyes of the elephant—literally, as the frame takes the shape of its eye. Both these lend a certain sense of innocence and wonder to the narrative. Aware of its target audience, the film also doles out life lessons like the importance of believing in oneself, love and faith, not to mention the connection one forges with

other living beings. The animation keeps you enthralled, and the runtime of under 100 minutes is enough to butter the hearts of even the most cynical of watchers. The Magician's Elephant is a rather safe watch, but perhaps a little more of fantasy would have turned it into the perfect warm and fuzzy film.

HANGE

It is time to bring nature home

As we move to embracing sustainable choices, our homes must also reflect similar ideas. Shubhra Dahiya (inset), partner at the multi-disciplinary architectural firm Team3, shares that 2023 is all about bringing nature into our homes. "Using

materials in their natural form and highlighting their inherent texture is one way to achieve this. Locally-available stones, woods are great options."

Tech corner

Here's our round-up of the latest

gadgets that are a perfect addition

to your shopping list

Is there a shinv

like to tell us

about? Mail

gmail.com

new gadget you'd

ashokpandian@

Another affordable way is to incorporate this in your existing interior schemes. "Use soft furnishings and colours inspired by nature. Even indoor plants can dramatically improve the quality of space while also establishing a connection with the outdoors," she concludes.

CHANGE THE WAY YOU SEE

Rekkie's smart snow goggles combine tech and style to provide a great experience in the snow. It 🛥 sports a transparent HUD (heads-up display) to find friends, control music, check ₹29,000 notifications, view stats, and answer

calls. These also come with swappable lenses depending on usage. rekkie.com

Keep it luxe, keep it max Sachin Gupta and Neha Gupta (L-R, inset), who co-founded interior design firm Beyond Designs, mention that "the comfort, warmth, and

Simi Kuriakose speaks to city-based designers to

Aesthetes have hinted that post-pandemic homes will include an amalgamation of luxe and cosy elements.

identify 2023 interior trends that work for your abode.

grandness of maximal design that continues to offer solace to people" is going to be a constant this year as well. "The degree may vary," they say, continuing, "but



people love surrounding themselves with layers of art. antiques, and craft to feel a sense of comfort and luxury. They love the element of glamour and edginess this approach brings to their spaces." The duo also adds that with a renewed interest in art and crafts, especially handmade artisanal objects, people will continue to accentuate their homes with such products. "However, they will look for sophistication, not the run-of-the-mill stuff," Sachin and Neha sign off.

> Itel's A60 is an excellent smartphone for its price point. Coming in at 6.6", it has a massive 5000mAh battery that lasts for a day-and-a-half plus with heavy usage. It has dual security advantages in the form of fingerprint + face unlock. Photos taken by the rear and



front cams are bright and vivid. Itel A60 is great for daily use and comes with Android 12 and a one-time screen replacement in case of any eventuality. Great value phone. itel-india.com







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