

A weekend worth a million words: Kaladarshan 2008

Kaladarshan is the annual art exhibition organised by the institute fine arts club, *Rang* and its digital counterpart, *Pixels*. The naïve faces on their posters (their theme for publicity was innocence) seem to have charmed many a campus-dweller to make the trip to the Gulmohar Banquet hall over this weekend to get in touch with their artistic sensibilities.



The exhibition consisted of three distinct parts: photos, handicrafts and animation.

Since I do not have the liberty of many a thousand words for describing how it felt to view the art works, I shall briefly relate a typical journey through KD '08:

As you enter, you are drawn to the high-quality photographs that are aesthetically arranged on black chart paper in the form of film rolls, and simple geometric patterns. The selection covered a variety of interesting topics, from nature to emotions. Near by, the National Award winning short film on *Arjuna* by Ajay Singh (IDC) played to a captivated audience through the weekend. Prekshu Ajmera's (5th year, CSE) magnum opus - Rajasthani art on an enormous canvas - wows you as you enter the painting section. The almost animate PoP ballerina (by freshies: Joyjeet and Megha) lures you deeper into KD. The 3D rangoli of Aishwarya Rai in sparkling powders by Tejashree and Rajashree was



one of the star attractions there. Wherever you turned, you could spot an excellent piece by Bharat Nagarkar of the IITB Printing press. Over 30 paintings and sketches of his were on display. The cartoons were another eye-catching aspect of the exhibition; with contributions from Prof. AB Inamdar of CSRE, Shaunak from IDC and many others. Freshman Jaideep Joshi's cartoon strips were also well appreciated and he hopes to make a



video game out of it. A peppering of imaginative *origami* (Japanese art of paper folding) added flavour to the setting.

Walking around, one notices how the KD team has inventively worked around the constraints of having to organise an art exhibition where not a single painting was to be nailed or pasted on the walls: Creatively arranged chairs made cosy coves for the pieces of art to nestle in and the metal

frame-work borrowed from IDC for displaying the photos added their own classy touch.



Behind the canvas:

The call for entries began in December 2007 and the organisers were overwhelmed by the response. Out of the 500 photos received, 230 were selected for display, and around 120 of the 250 sketches and paintings. Working with considerably less money than last year, the organisers had meticulously laminated almost all of the pieces and managed to frame a few. This time round, the organising team felt that KD had reached out to more people on campus, with nearly 40% of the entries from non-students. There



was also increased PG representation in both participation and organisation.

Kaladarshan coordinators take pride in it being a "non-glamorous" event. They do not have any concept of hierarchy in the organisation, except for two Overall Coordinators (Akshay and Mukund, 3rd year). In the final days running up to KD, revered fourthies and fifties were also carrying around frames, cutting chart paper and gluing cardboard along with the freshies. The seniors were all praise for their juniors' perpetual enthusiasm, stamina and attention to detail.

The success of *Kaladarshan* 2008 was evident from the over 300 brightly coloured feedbacks - all glowing with praise and requests for the exhibition to be held for a longer period. The KD team felt that the organisation of the exhibition is best as it is; they see no reason for overdoing the publicity or making it grow larger in size. A smaller, more appreciative crowd is far more rewarding than a large unappreciative one. Personally, it was great to see Art for Art's sake.



The jubilant *Kaladarshan* '08 team