

ŠkodaAuto India and Seventy Event Media Group

THE ŠKODA PRIZE for Indian Contemporary Art

The Announcement of the Winner of The Skoda Prize 2010 – 2011 by Anish Kapoor

New Delhi, Friday, 21 January 2011: ŠkodaAuto India and Seventy Event Media Group have come together to create and present the biggest and most prestigious award on the Indian visual arts scene, The Skoda Prize. Today, the first winner of The Škoda Prize will be announced at a ceremony at the Taj Palace hotel. A team of five experts, three Indian and two international, will scrutinize the work and discuss its merits before coming to a decision. World-famous sculptor Anish Kapoor will hand over The Skoda Prize Trophy and a cheque for a million rupees to one artist chosen from a shortlist of three. The creations of the three shortlisted artists are on display at Max Mueller Bhavan.

Mithu Sen from Delhi, Alwar Balasubramaniam from Bangalore, and Kiran Subbaiah, also from Bangalore, are the three Shortlists for the prize. Their work represents a new generation of artists pushing the envelope of creativity, innovation and skill. Conceived by Seventy EMG, The Škoda Prize recognises cutting-edge work demonstrating vision, innovation, and a mature understanding of material and form.

The Prize brings to public notice exciting trends in contemporary art, highlighting the output of established mid-career artists as well as new voices. Backed by jurors of impeccable credentials, renowned patron institutions, a dedicated group of advisors, and a management team of proven capability, The Škoda Prize promises to be one of the most eagerly awaited events in the annual arts calendar.

The jury panel for the award is chaired by one of India's most prominent art experts, **Mrs. Tasneem Zakaria Mehta**, who is the **Managing Trustee and Honorary Director of the Dr Bhau Daji Lad Museum**. Other Jury members include Mrs. Rajshree Pathy and Dr. Kavita Singh. **Dr. Kavita Singh** is a well-known art historian. She is **Associate Professor at the School of Arts and Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University**, New Delhi. Her publications include *New Insights into Sikh Art* (2002) and essays in several international and national journals and edited volumes. **Rajshree Pathy** is **founder of Contemplate**, an arts initiative that will collaborate with artists and art organizations. She is also **Chairperson and Managing Director of the Rajshree Group of Companies**. Apart from the Jury Panel, we also have an advisory committee which includes renowned art critic, **Girish Shahane**. Girish is an **Independent Writer** based out of Mumbai. His articles on art, film and cultural politics have been published in leading newspapers and journals in India and abroad. He writes a fortnightly column for Yahoo! India.

The Jury panel will be joined by two international jurors Ms Andrea Rose, Director, Visual Arts – British Council and Ms Marianne Burki, Head of Visual Arts – Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia

Speaking on Škoda Prize, Thomas Kuehl, Board Member and Director Sales & Marketing, ŠkodaAuto India, said *“It gives us great pleasure to associate with a platform that provides recognition to contemporary Indian artists that have significantly contributed to the global art scene. Given the successful journey that the Skoda prize has been a part of, it is with much anticipation and excitement that we await the final result.”*

Martin da Costa, CEO, Seventy Event Media Group added *“We are delighted to be a part of this exciting journey that will soon be coming to a close – with the announcement of the winner of The Skoda Prize for Indian Contemporary Art. The underlying objective of The Škoda Prize is to provide a platform for many more young artists and encourage them to create original works of art and reach new heights.”*

The works of the three shortlisted artists are going to be displayed at Siddharth Hall, Max Mueller Bhavan, from 20 to 22 January 2011.

For further information:

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