

Inauguration of

SANCHIT ART

on 20th March 2010 at ITC Hotel " The Mughal" AGRA

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>> On display: The gallery opened with works of several known artists



>> The art gallery: A bridge between artists and art lovers, what say!

NEW IN TOWN

Art is where the gallery is

HISTORICALLY AND ARTISTICALLY RICH AGRA HAS FINALLY GOT ITS VERY FIRST ART GALLERY. WELL, BETTER LATE THAN NEVER!

Kamran Farhat, All Ferozabad Road

It is official now. Agra finally has its own art gallery. In fact, with an artistic heritage so rich, it was actually troubling art lovers in the city not to have an art gallery here. But, not any more for now the artists in the city have a place to exhibit their creations. The very first art gallery devoted to fine art, Sanchit Art Gallery, is the brainchild of Anu Joshi, a prominent member of city's elite circles and well-known patron of fine art. Located at ITC Mughal, the gallery is a part of the hotel's newly opened Meena Bazaar shopping arcade. Opened with a show of India's best known painters and artists, it exhibited works by Satish Gujral, Shakti Burman, Maiti Burman, Laxma Gaud, Sanjay Bhattacharya, Paresh Maiti, Neeraj Goswami among others.

Having an artistic heritage that dates back to almost 100 years, Agra was the base for a major part of the Mughal rule and it was during this period that art flourished, in every aspect of life. Beginning with architectural features, calligraphy, inlay work, exquisite jewellery, embroidery, music, dance and miniatures, there was royal patronage to promote

them all. Painting in particular flourished during the rule of emperor Jehangir and the best miniature paintings were created during his reign. But with the advent of colonial rule, there was a major shift in styles and oil paintings, offering true to life images, especially portraits, gradually became the most popular art forms. With the opening of this gallery, art lovers can now follow various artists.

"There are about 70 artworks of 30 known artists which are currently on display at the gallery," says Kuldeep Bharate, general manager, ITC Mughal. Until now Agra lacked a destination to satisfy the creative urges of fine art lovers and patrons. Apart from that it is a big tourist hub and there is good scope of promoting Indian art and exposing it to both local and international diaspora and art lovers from across the world. What's more, now the city will be able to host art related activities.

"Having an art gallery would greatly boost the confidence of art patrons due to trust and surety of fair dealings. It would also help make art works of reputed artists easily accessible to them," shares Anu Joshi, owner, Sanchit Art Gallery.