

Awantika Bawa's show, *Mathesis: dub, dub, dub* is on view at Warehouse at 3rd Pasta Lane



The exhibition is on view at Warehouse at 3rd Pasta Lane, Gallery Maskara, till December 3.

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These days everybody wants to look at art that is about something. My art is about nothingness. It's non-objective," says Awantika Bawa.

Enter Warehouse at 3rd Pasta Lane through the crowded humdrum of Colaba and one experiences a transformation of the gallery into its history — that of being a warehouse. Part of the site-specific installations are white bricks lined in a row, blueprint drawings framed on one wall, on the other wall is a linear design made in orange and black, and an area where gray boxes are piled up. Stroll amidst the boxes and sneak a look at the video projection while you listen to sounds that are interrupted by silence.

On the edge

Ambiguous and abstract in minimalism, Bawa likes her work to be on the edge and contradictory. "The in-between space is what interests me," says the artist based in the US and India who has been creating site-specific work since a decade now.

For this show, for few weeks Bawa went around collecting empty boxes — wooden and cardboard, bricks, tin sheets and metal grills from the neighbourhood, from Navy Nagar that was home to her when she used to live in

Bombay, from art galleries in the area and local shops.

She then spent three weeks to paint the boxes in gray and bricks in white and amassed them in a manner to play with the structure, aligning and misaligning, stressing on asymmetry. "Four heavy boxes on top of a light box makes no sense and so I find it interesting," explains Bawa, adding, "Contradictions and differences intrigue me."

Creating a dialogue

Bawa usually first finds architectural situations and makes involvements to disrupt the perfection of the space that she is working in. Her work tries to adapt itself to the space and create a dialogue with the architecture or is self-contained. The intuitive gesture as well as the incidental is important in her art. "It's about the fewest gestures that can make a lot of movement," she says.

She hesitates to call her work installations and rather prefers to call them interventions. "My work is both an engrossing and a disjointed experience," she says.

The exhibition is a fresh idiom for the art audience in the city, amidst the many shows that are showcasing painting, sculpture, photography or video art. "This kind of non-objective art is still rare in India and that itself will open up new dialogues," says Bawa.

Artfully stacked

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