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## Gallery Maskara Set to Close

By [Editors](#) | April 26, 2010 |



Memory Minus Me, 2010.

It is fitting that the current show at Gallery Maskara, located at Warehouse on 3rd Pasta, deals with the fragility of memory. Narendra Yadav's "Memory Minus Me" is the final show at the gallery which will close down next month, largely due to a lacklustre response from the public. Owner Abhay Maskara, a former marketing professional who worked for Microsoft in Seattle, opened the gallery in 2008 as a kind of avant garde riposte to the stuffier exhibition spaces in the city.

In its short life, the gallery, tucked away on 3rd Pasta Lane in Colaba, took a chance on a variety of talent, not always well known, displaying everything from giant inflatable dolls to dust sculptures. At times, the works bordered on the profane, and featured the kind of sexually explicit material that didn't always make for pretty or sellable art.

"Memory Minus Me" is a poignant exploration of memories and mementos, and their fleeting presence in our minds. They alter and change as we remember them, and ultimately, nothing is ever faithful to the original memory, Yadav seems to suggest. One work stands out in particular. The eponymous "Memory Minus Me" is an interactive installation where viewers are invited to shred stacks of old photos. Discarded by their original owners, these photos, dating from 1913 to 1970, range from wallet-sized images of gurgling babies to formal portraits of young women. A pasta maker is the shredder of choice, and by the scant pile, it is clear that not many were able to bring themselves to destroy these photos.

A projector and rotating camera display the shredded bits onto the wall, creating a kaleidoscopic design of this sad debris. Maskara has said that this is not necessarily the end of the gallery, and that it may yet return someday. There is the hope that till then, Gallery Maskara will be remembered for what it tried to change than for what it ultimately couldn't.