

POST RELEASE

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THE SKODA PRIZE for Indian Contemporary Art

Marc Quinn Announces the Winner of The SKODA Prize 2011

New Delhi, Friday 28th January 2012: After the astounding success of The SKODA Prize 2010, SKODA Auto India and Seventy Event Media Group came together again to present the biggest and most prestigious award on the Indian visual arts scene, THE SKODA PRIZE for Indian Contemporary Art. The SKODA Prize is an annual celebration that recognizes outstanding work in Indian contemporary art.

The Shortlist comprised of artists from various genres. With solo shows in London, Berlin, Chicago in 2010 Jitish Kallat, one of India's most successful artists found his way into The SKODA Prize Shortlist. Navin Thomas hails from Bangalore and is known for mixing science and art in his creations. L.N. Tallur is known for his kinetic sculptures that combine a sharp wit along with a prodigious use of materials. "The Breakthrough Artist Award" nominees include upcoming names such as Srikanth Kolari, Madhuban Mitra & Manas Bhattacharya, Dhruv Malhotra and Prashant Pandey.

Navin Thomas was announced as the winner of the second edition of The SKODA Prize at a ceremony at the Taj Palace hotel. World-famous British artist Marc Quinn handed over the Trophy and a cheque for Rs.10, 00,000/- to Navin Thomas. The two Runners-up will be awarded Residencies, courtesy Pro Helvetia, Swiss Arts Council. The inaugural "The Breakthrough Artist Award" was won by **Madhuban Mitra & Manas Bhattacharya**. The winner received a cheque of Rs. 50,000/-, handed over by Mrs. Béatrice Latteier. The artworks of the top 20 artists are on display at the Lalit Kala Akademi till February 06, 2012.

The evening brought forth an eclectic mix of people from the world of art & culture and from the Delhi social circuit. Guests present at the evening were: Neville Tulli, Suhel Seth, Subodh Gupta, Jitish Kallat, LN Tallur, Navin Thomas, Mithu Sen, Rohit Gandhi, Nida Mahmood, Sumant Jayakrishnan, Vikram Baidyanath, Peter Nagy, Tasneem Mehta, Jiten Thukral and Sumir Tagra

The Jury was headed by **Mrs. Kiran Nadar**, Chairperson of Kiran Nadar Museum of Art. Other members included **Pooja Sood**, Director of KHOJ International Artists' Association, **Vivan Sundaram**, a renowned India contemporary artist, **Heike Munder**, Director and Curator of the Migros Museum für Gegenwartskunst, Zurich and **Martin Clark**, Artistic Director of Tate St Ives. Apart from the Jury Panel, there is also an advisory committee headed by renowned art critic, **Girish Shahane**, who is also 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.

"We are extremely proud of what The SKODA Prize has been able to achieve in its second year itself. And we are confident that from here on, it will grow stupendously in stature and popularity. The corner stone of success in second season for us has been to see more and more contemporary artists from beyond the metros became a part of The SKODA Prize. SKODA will continue to provide its whole hearted support to this incredible platform, as we aim towards taking it to much greater heights in years to come." – **Nitisha Agrawal, Head of PR & Corporate Communications, SKODA Auto India.**

Speaking on The SKODA Prize, Marc Quinn, Guest of Honor, said, *"It is an honour to be asked to present this year's SKODA Prize. Having visited India many times it is very exciting to be part of this prestigious event, which is now so integral to the Indian Contemporary Art scene".*

Martin da Costa, CEO, Seventy Event Media Group added *"We were amazed at the success and impact of The SKODA Prize last year. But this year we were able to lift the benchmark even higher. We are constantly aiming to strive towards a more holistic target base and recognize talent from all strata of the industry right from debutantes to established artists. The inauguration of "The Breakthrough Artist Award" and giving the The SKODA Prize Longlist a platform to showcase their artworks with the annual exhibition has helped us achieve just that. 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.**"*

About The SKODA Prize

The SKODA Prize is the largest and most prestigious award on the Indian visual arts scene. It 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. It is backed by jurors of impeccable credentials, renowned patron institutions, a dedicated group of advisors, and a management team of proven capability. The SKODA Prize is Seventy EMG's Arts Initiative.

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