

Inside India Art Fair 2026: Art, Heritage and Global Dialogue

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The **17th India Art Fair** opened at the **NSIC Exhibition Grounds in New Delhi** from **February 5–8, 2026**, spotlighting a vibrant mix of contemporary art, ancestral craft and boundary-pushing installations. The event attracted artists, collectors, curators and art enthusiasts from across India and around the world, underscoring the fair's evolution into one of South Asia's most dynamic cultural platforms.

Organised under the broad theme of *intersections and innovation*, this year's fair brought together established voices and emerging talents, with installations that bridged traditional methods and digital experimentation, underscoring the ongoing dialogue between past and present artistic practices.

Artistic Highlights and Global Connections

Among the standout features of India Art Fair 2026 were presentations that connected global and local perspectives. Internationally recognised artists such as **Marina Abramovic** were referenced alongside indigenous craft-based works that drew on centuries-old techniques — for example, textile installations and stitch art that traced ancestral heritage and embodied cultural memory.

The fair also included contemporary interventions like Korean art pavilions that captivated visitors with innovative pieces, highlighting cross-cultural collaboration and the merging of artistic practices from Asia and beyond.

Talks and Intellectual Exchange

India Art Fair 2026 didn't just focus on exhibitions; its **programme of talks and panels** offered deep dives into the challenges and possibilities facing the art world today. Discussions titled *Rising to Challenge* invited artists, curators and thinkers to explore questions of expression, representation and the future of art practices in a rapidly shifting cultural landscape.

Additional sessions such as *Centering the Local* and *Unpacking 'Originality' with A.I.* examined how indigenous traditions can coexist with technological innovation and how local voices can retain authenticity within global narratives.

Celebrating Craft and Design Innovation

An exciting dimension of this year's fair was the integration of design and craft dialogues into the art conversation. Exhibits and curated discussions focused on how traditional material practices — from embroidered textiles to reclaimed design elements — can shape contemporary aesthetics and sustainability narratives.

BMW Group India's decade-long partnership with the fair also brought attention to installations like *A Giant Sampler*, an interactive piece that united craft traditions with augmented reality, demonstrating the fair's embrace of hybrid artistic experiences.

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