Boom and bust

The ephemeral installations in Yamini Nayar’s photographs speak of the decay of modernist ideas and architecture, finds Zeenat Nagree.

Yamini Nayar’s photographs aren’t just photographs. Each frame captures an ephemeral sculptural installation that Nayar crafts for the picture and disassembles after it has been shot. “My practice centres on the intersection of sculpture and photography and thinks about the photograph as both a record and an object,” Nayar told Time Out in a phone interview from New York. “I am interested in the relationship photography can have to constructed reality.” For over a decade, Nayar’s photographs have featured collages along with fragments of found objects and sculpted materials. This fortnight, her new work will be showcased in a solo exhibition at Amrita Jhaveri Projects. The show marks the artist’s debut in India and follows her first solo exhibition at New York’s Thomas Erben Gallery last year. Nayar will also discuss her practice in a lecture at Jnanapravaha.

The forthcoming exhibition captures the recent developments in Nayar’s practice. The artist has moved away from the narrative tone of her earlier work, which featured constructed interiors and domestic spaces, towards oblique, open-ended references to modernist architecture. “I’ve very interested in some of the ideas that have come from modernism and modernist architecture and how they have disintegrated over time,” explained Nayar. “But my work doesn’t make a literal connection to architecture. It explores the emotional underpinnings around the ideas that were associated with that kind of idealism, the nostalgia, the failure and then the transition.” Nayar uses bits of glass, thread, metal wire, concrete and photographic images to construct her table-top sculptural installations. There is Memorious, in which Nayar presents a concrete pit littered with scraps of red flowers are placed, celebrates A gudi or Brahma’s flag, consisting of a bright green or yellow cloth tied to the tip of a long bamboo which neem and mango leaves and a garland of red flowers are placed, celebrates

Register now

Maya Kamath Memorial Awards

The Indian Institute of Cartoonists invite entries for the annual awards for cartooning. Categories include best political cartoon (Rs25,000, regional language or English), and a best budding cartoonist award (Rs10,000), to be adjudged by a jury comprising playwright Girish Karnad, the artist VG Vasudev and the cartoonist BG Gujjarappa. Deadline: Sat Mar 31. Visit www.cartoonistsindia.com for submission guidelines.

Walks, tours and treks

Hill trail This trek, organised by the BNHS on Sun Mar 25, takes you through the dense Muhund forest. The last date to register is Thur Mar 22. The meeting point is the Muhund forest gate of the Sanjay Gandhi National Park. Call Amandeep Kaur Giran on 95949-53425 for details. No children below 10 years.

Byculla zoo walk Grab your binoculars and go birdwatching to mark World Sparrow Day on Tue Mar 20. The walk will be conducted by Sprouts founder Anand Pendharkar. See other preview on page 63. Veermata Jijabai Bhosle Udyan (Byculla Zoo), Ambikabai Road, Byculla (E). Call Anand Pendharkar on 98201-40254 or Nanmeet Rathod on 2878-4889 to register.

Yamini Nayar opens at Amrita Jhaveri Projects on Wed Mar 28. Nayar will deliver a lecture on Tue Mar 27.

Page 15 of 24