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# CST Turns Into An Art Venue

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*Contemporary installations to linger over.*

In a city where art is still relegated to galleries and accessible to only a few, independent organisations like ArtOxygen are working towards bringing contemporary works into the mainstream. Through projects such as its annual arts festival [en]counters, it aims to get the public to engage with art and dispel preconceived notions about what does or doesn't constitute art.

## WHAT IS IT

The seventh edition of [en]counters, which runs till November 30, is titled Bori Bunder @ Platform 8 (<http://www.artoxygen.org/?p=2608>) and takes inspiration from Mumbai's first railway station. Once a storehouse for goods, the station became a passenger carrier in 1853, which marked the opening of the city's railway network, and was subsequently christened Victoria Terminus (VT). In 2004, it was renamed Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (CST) and declared a UNESCO Heritage Site.



As part of the exhibits, 11 Indian and international artists – including Andrea Caretto and Emilio Leofreddi, from Italy; Owais Husain, Pradeep L Mishra and Teja Gavankar, from India; and Wong Chun Hoi and Peggy Chan from Hong Kong – will exhibit artworks at CST, Jehangir Art Gallery and Palladium Mall on select weekends. Each installation is an interpretation and reflection on Mumbai's relationship with its ubiquitous and often chaotic railway network, an entity that teems with millions every day and often feels like a world in its own.

#### WHAT TO EXPECT



The festival opened with installations set up on platform 8. Mak-Ying Tung and Wong Ka-Ying created *Obstacle* – a contraption made from Chinese bubble wrap with bubbles that popped, releasing Chinese air as one passed by – an attempt to observe how commuters reacted when confronted by hindrances as well as a comment on Indo-Chinese relations. Over the next month, you can look forward to similar innovative offerings. Peggy Chan's playful contribution titled *Happy Birthday* includes a sound piece that plays wishes, blessings and songs from Indian immigrants in Hong Kong. Owais Hussain, son of the late modern master MF Hussain, will present a projection of objects and images that document the station's role as a place of transit and witness to modern-day migration. Also watch out for Emilio Leofreddi's *Flying Carpet* that deconstructs a train ticket by taking a digital print and then transposing each pixel into knots of a carpet.

The conclusion will include a seminar courtesy Avid Learning and Institute of Contemporary Art, which will explore the history and legacy of Bori Bunder, their implications on the evolution of the metropolis and its role in the present day context. The participating artists will also present a collection of works at the Institute of Contemporary Indian Art in Fort on November 26<sup>th</sup>.

When: On till November 30<sup>th</sup>

Where: CST, Jehangir Art Gallery (<http://www.whatshot.in/mumbai/jehangir-art-gallery-v-2320>), Palladium Mall (<http://www.whatshot.in/mumbai/palladium-mall-v-1168>)