

INTERNATIONAL ART CONCLAVE

He painted the town pink!



Creative muse: Peter Fink. Photo: S Chandan

Artist Peter Fink, famous for The Pink Square in Italy, does not bother to put up his works in galleries, for he prefers entering the public spaces and touching the lives in a more meaningful way

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When acclaimed artist Peter Fink took on himself to revive the Old Renaissance Square in Bergamo, Italy, newspapers had another scoop running parallel. A bridezilla, due to have a fairytale wedding with guests to fly in from all over the world in the church bang opposite the square, cried foul—"He is out to ruin my wedding by colouring the square pink!"

The world media gathered on the opening of the Pink Square, on a Saturday morning, and it was that very bride who paid the best compliment to Peter, by colouring her white wedding gown pink overnight for her Sunday wedding.

Just finished working on a playground for physically challenged children in London, Peter Fink has never bothered to put up his works in galleries and why would he when he could enter the public spaces and touch lives in a more meaningful way!

In Chandigarh, for the International Art Conclave organised by the Chandigarh Lalit Kala Akademi, it is Peter's fourth trip to the country that he is out to make most of. From a generation post World War II, when their parents were leading a quiet life to compensate for the nuclear tragedy, Peter was looking for excitement and art seemed to provide that. He did engineering when he was keen to know how to build things; followed philosophy when he wanted to find the meaning of life and of course did visual arts. He has continued to do projects combining art, architecture, lighting and ecology that got him recognition.

"Looking for name and riches is no valid reason to be an artist," says Peter, sipping black coffee in the museum lawn as feeding a dog some Britannia Marie's biscuit. "Look at these art students, they are too busy perfecting their drawing while it's the intellectual query that feeds an artist more than anything," he observes.

Happy to be in India, on an International Art Enclave, his first visit was some 35 years back in Patiala. The scene hasn't changed much, he observes. "Delhi is still the centre of arts and it still is too regimented. We need bit of anarchy to be in creative fields."

UK-based Peter is as well versed in Indian art, cultural and social scene, he talks as eloquently about Balwant Gargi's The Naked Triangle as about Chandigarh's architecture.

As for upcoming artists here is his take, "I see the youngsters today caught up in generation gap. It's all right to respect your elders but not at the cost of your aspirations," signs off the man in his bright attire and equally bright frame!