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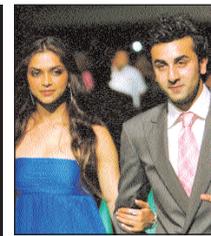
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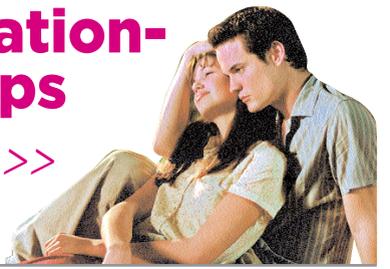
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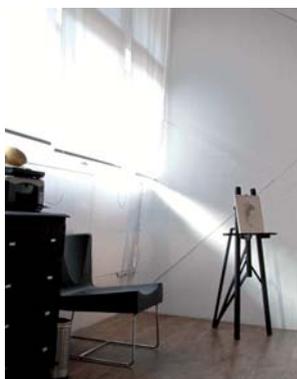
Artists stay 'at home'

Young artists enjoy the comforts of a living and working space in Mumbai – free of charge – as opportunities for residency programmes in the city increase, finds *Rohini Nair*

Minutes away from the bustle of South Mumbai, is a tiny oasis of calm. Set amidst trees and potted plants, a low sprawling structure houses four studios. You'll find at least four artists working in these rent-free studios, two in what is the kitchen and one out in the open. Space 118, as this Mazgaon facility is called, is the brain-child of art connoisseur Saloni Doshi, and it is one among the many opportunities that are available to young artists, both from the country and abroad, to live and work in Mumbai and contribute to its art scene – without having to spend more than a token amount.

From artists offering the use of private premises for a pittance (like "Shut Up" by Karthikeya Ramachandran — ₹300 a day for food and lodging at the artist's lake-fronting Kamshet property) to established art spaces throwing open their doors (The Art Loft, The Loft and Julius Macwan's Last Ship), there are opportunities for those looking to avail of art residencies in (and around) Mumbai.

"There is a lot of interest among international artists to come to India, especially Mumbai, to discover the art scene here," says Eve



(Above) Saloni at the Space 118 studios in Mazgaon; (top left) Anupa Mehta at the restaging of The Loft in Worli as a studio apartment; (below, left and right) the living space for resident artists at The Loft

Lemesle, of the art management firm What About Art. Eve collaborates with artist Julius Macwan on the residency programme at Last Ship, and has brought down artists from Europe and America to India, as well as helped Indian artists avail of residencies in places like Montreal. "The residency at Last Ship is a wonderful opportunity for artists from India and abroad to interact with fellow artists and discover their work. Due to our location in Bandra, close to the fishing

village, we encourage the artists to create work in conjunction to the local community," she says.

Other residencies have their own advantages — like the proximity to the hub of the city's art scene, Kala Ghoda, which Saloni Doshi says is the USP of Space 118. "All the important galleries are just minutes away," says Saloni. "Artists have the opportunity to meet other artists, curators, critics and gallery owners."

This give and take is essential for a residency to be successful.

As artist and curator Bose Krsnamachari points out, "Someone coming from a small town where gallery support doesn't exist, or an artist coming from abroad could benefit from such an experience," says Bose.

Delhi-based artist Remen Chopra has pleasant memories of her residency at Space 118. "Anything to do with real estate in Mumbai is so difficult, and so to have a space to work in was really helpful," she says.

The Loft has recently been restaged as a studio apartment for a yearlong residency. Says Anupa Mehta, director, The Loft: "A residency lets an artist work independent of commercial considerations," she says.

RESIDENT ARTISTS

- Space 118, Mazgaon, provides studios for 3-6 months. A residency is also available at Lonavla. The "price" is any one piece of art you create. Call on 65222235 or write to kerplwh@gmail.com.
- The Last Ship website (www.jmilastship.com) gives guidelines on deadlines and application procedures. Write to jmilastship@gmail.com or call 9833066276.
- A panel of senior artists and critics determine the beneficiaries of The Loft's art programmes. Write to info@theloft.in or call on 30400166 for additional information.
- Karthikeya Ramachandran can be contacted at karthik@xtrathin.in.

Who's PeeCee's new friend?

See more on matinee

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Priyanka Chopra's "bury the hatchet" spree continues. This time, it is Bipasha Basu who has benefitted from PeeCee's apologetic mood. PeeCee and Bips had earlier shared cold vibes, but now, a friendship between B'town's sexiest women is blossoming.

