



METROPOLIS

5/05/2016 – 24/05/2016

Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Mumbai City Museum presents *Metropolis*, an exhibition of photographs by Martin Roemers in collaboration with The Consulate General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands on 5th of May 2016. The exhibition is on view till 24th of May 2016.

About the Exhibition

The largest cities in the world are now to be found in India and the Far East, with Tokyo – home to 38 million people – at the top. The next biggest are Delhi (25 million), Shanghai (23 million) and Mumbai (21 million). Globally, one in eight of us now lives in a megacity. Intrigued by this process of urbanisation, between 2007 and 2015 Martin Roemers travelled to no fewer than 22 megacities across five continents to photograph life there.

Apart from its population size the modern megacity is difficult to typify, as the conventional image of the modern, originally European or North American city has long been superseded. Today's megacities each have their own character, in which a massive infrastructure is pervaded by small communities, colourful rituals, and rural customs. The photographs that Martin Roemers made of Guangzhou, Lagos and Mumbai, for example, show an enormous diversity of factors, in which traditional street trades, ancient customs and old vehicles against a backdrop of modern roads, subway stations and railways depict, almost literally, today's migration from the countryside to the city. "The differences between the photos result from the specific character of the city," says Roemers; "the similarities result from the informal economies in which the inhabitants take part, for instance. Newcomers to a city often end up at the edges of society, and those look the same everywhere."

Years ago, in Mumbai, Martin Roemers first wondered how he might capture the experience of all that energy, chaos, movement and activity in a single image. This idea would become the seed of *Metropolis*. Roemers found his photographic form when he chose a high vantage point at one of the most hectic locations in the city.

Martin Roemers does not focus on the architectural silhouette of the city, on its all-too-familiar tourist spots or monuments. His focus is on the streams of human energy that make the city what it is. Roemers does not merge with the crowd but captures its movement from above, using slow shutter speeds.



Martin Roemers (1962, Oldehove) lives and works in Delft, the Netherlands. He studied photography at the AKI Academy of Fine Arts in Enschede. His work has been exhibited in Europe, the US, Asia and Australia. Roemers has twice won a World Press Photo Award, in 2006 and again in 2011 for *Metropolis*. In 2015 he was given the LensCulture Street Photography Award for *Metropolis*.

<http://www.martinroemers.com/>

The Consulate General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands will be exhibiting the works of Dutch photographer Martin Roemer's project 'Metropolis' at Dr. Bhaui Daji Lad Museum from 3rd May 2016 to 24th May 2016. Inauguration of the exhibition will be on 3rd May at 18:00. Metropolis project concerns 22 megacities spanning all continents but this exhibition will focus on the Asian region.



Mohammed Ali Road, Kumbharwada, Mumbai, India (2007) by Martin Roemers



Saifee Jubilee Street, Kumbharwada, Mumbai, India (2007) by Martin Roemers



Madan Street and Lenin Sarani, Chandni Chowk, Kolkata, India (2008) by Martin Roemers



About Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Mumbai City Museum

The Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum opened to the public in 1857 as the erstwhile Victoria and Albert Museum, Bombay. As Mumbai's oldest Museum, it showcases the city's cultural heritage and history through a rare collection of Fine and Decorative Arts that highlight Early Modern Art practices as well as the craftsmanship of various communities of the Bombay Presidency. The permanent collection includes miniature clay models, dioramas, maps, lithographs, photographs, and rare books that document the life of the people of Mumbai and the history of the city from the late eighteenth to early-twentieth centuries.

The Museum, once in a derelict condition, underwent a comprehensive five-year restoration by INTACH supported by the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai and the Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation. The project won UNESCO's international Award of Excellence for cultural conservation in 2005. The Museum re-opened in 2008 with an extensive exhibition programme and is committed to promoting contemporary art and culture. The Museum hosts an extensive exhibitions programme which explores the importance of the collection and includes a strong focus on contemporary art and culture.

The Museum has partnered with international institutions to showcase artists and exhibitions including the Victoria and Albert Museum, British Council, British Library, Dresden State Art Collections, Solomon R Guggenheim Museum, Museum of Modern Art, Ermenegildo Zegna Group and Guild of the Dome Association in an effort to facilitate international cultural exchange. The Museum has expanded its curatorial initiative to invite external curators, institutions and organisations to present exhibitions related to the focus areas of the collections.

The Museum's education and outreach programme aims to build and diversify the Museum's audiences, encouraging repeat visits and engaged participation with its permanent collections, contemporary exhibitions and activities. On offer is a rich selection of programmes including film, music and courses and lectures on history of art focused on providing stimulating, participatory experiences that respond to different age, interest and language groups, and recognize a diversity of backgrounds. These experiences are aimed at encouraging critical engagement with Mumbai's history, and artistic and cultural developments.

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For Listings:

Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum presents

Metropolis

In collaboration with The Consulate General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands



Exhibition Dates: 5th May, 2016- 24th May 2016

Exhibition Venue:

Museum Plaza

Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum
91A Rani Baug, Veer Mata Jijabai Bhonsle Udyan
Dr Baba Saheb Ambedkar Marg,
Byculla East, Mumbai 400027

Timings:

10:00 am to 6:00 pm | last entry 5:30 pm
Closed on Wednesdays and certain public holidays

For further details, please contact:

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