

Man Against Machine

A new gallery, Volte, opens at Colaba with a show of Mukul Deora's creative act of destruction

How hard is it to destroy a car with a sledgehammer? The answer: much harder than you would imagine. A new gallery called Volte has opened in Colaba, and their second exhibition, Break, by musician and artist Mukul Deora, opens Friday night. It is actually the second part of the first exhibition—deliberately hushed up by the gallery—which “wasn't ready”, according to Jiwarajka.

Three weeks ago, Deora decided to demolish a 1974 white Contessa in the name of art, and the wreck, a sculptural mass of twisted steel, will be displayed along with photographs and videos documenting its destruction. Or creation, depending on your perspective. Deora led baffled gallery-goers away from the posh space overlooking Arthur Bunder Road to a derelict mill at the edge of the sea. It's a creepy place, hardly suited to an art exhibition. And there lay the car, recounts Deora, like “a giant UFO that landed, with sledge hammers spread all around it”.