

MUMBAI'S MUSEUMS SHOULD BE A REPOSITORY OF CITY'S STORED PAST (excerpt)

By Deepanajana Ray



Bhau Daji Lad Museum

I went back to see 'Evoking the Pause' four times. On later visits, I'd lounge around and watch people spot art works amidst the museum's permanent exhibits. The widened eyes, the disbelief, the exclamations, the giggles — it was as much fun seeing people discover *Evoking the Pause* as it was to see the show.

Over 2011, Bhau Daji Lad Museum has hosted some superb exhibitions and established itself as the new five-star hotel (if not home) for contemporary art in Mumbai. The beautifully-restored building is a spectacular setting and it has a steady stream of visitors, much to the joy of artists. But it's worth keeping in mind that few of the ticket-buyers are even remotely interested in contemporary art. As much as I may love the work of artists like Sheba Chhachhi and L.N. Tallur, few of the art shows "showcase the history and culture of Mumbai city", which is what exhibits at Bhau Daji Lad Museum are meant to do.