

Local Kathmandu Artists Showcased in International Festival

6th December, 2018

15 local artists from across Kathmandu, along with over 30 international artists, were recently chosen to transform Patan into an open-air gallery, as part of global arts initiative Micro Galleries Kathmandu festival.

Renowned for its ancient artforms and rich tradition of artisans, Patan was the perfect canvas for international collective Micro Galleries, in collaboration with local arts collective Kaalo.101, to hold its first festival in Nepal. Taking advantage of its unique tunnels, lanes and courtyards, Micro Galleries brought together over 100 works to create an outdoor gallery of contemporary pieces, and highlight the exceptional talent coming out of Nepal.

Micro Galleries Artistic Director, Kat Roma Greer said: *"As an international community, we always see images of the beautiful Himalayas and religious icons of Nepal. It's time for the world to see the incredible contemporary artwork and ideas of its young artists. They are informed, dynamic, wonderful artists who are creating some amazing work – for communities and the industry alike."*

Over a 12-month period, the Micro Galleries team worked closely with the communities of Nagbahal, Swotha and Nakabahil, to showcase work that ranged from street art to fine art to installation to experimental and live performance art from countries such as Australia, Hong Kong, France, Spain, Austria, Indonesia and Finland, to name a few. Collectively, these artists created hundreds of artworks, from micro to large-scale murals, all within the theme: Empower!

And to celebrate, Micro Galleries threw an opening night party to thank the local Patan community. Live music, projection art, food and fairy lights were enjoyed by hundreds of local community members, artists and art lovers as the party moved from Nagbahal, featuring Didibahini and the Jazz Conservatory Improv Choir, to Nakabahil for an immersive installation, to Swotha. The celebration ended with a live concert surrounded by installations and mural work.

Kat Roma Greer believes this this was undoubtedly our best Live Weekend yet: *"The blending of the traditional with the contemporary, the local with the international, and the community with artists was truly amazing. To sit in the water spout and*

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listen to some of Nepal's best musicians, surrounded by contemporary installations and projection art, was truly magical."

Local artist, James Khati, stated: *"Being a part of Micro Galleries was a special moment for me. It helped local artists and international artists from around the globe to connect and learn from each other. I really think Micro Galleries has brought the contemporary scene very close to the doorstep of people in Patan, synchronising very well with the traditional local art forms."*

Micro Galleries is live until December 8th with some of the artworks remaining as a permanent artworks and featured by Street Art Cities online platform for future viewers to visit and discover. For more information or to download a DIY tour, visit www.microgalleries.org/kathmandu

Micro Galleries was made possible with the help of Jason Stephenson Meditation, The Australian Embassy, Nepal, and UNESCO Office Kathmandu.

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Media Kit:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/bkdpn4vftxs8p4a/AAB629dz2LISufwZBYJ8ryJKa?dl=0>

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About Micro Galleries

Micro Galleries: Changing the world...in small and creative ways is a not for profit global arts initiative that reclaims disused and forgotten public spaces and reactivates them as open-air galleries that are free and accessible to the local community. Micro Galleries uses art as a vehicle for positive change, social enquiry, and engaged disruption by temporarily inhabiting small pockets of public space and turning them into galleries. This outdoor arena is reactivated with a form of "urban acupuncture" through free art, workshops and talks, think-tanks and art tours to explore global and local issues between the global and local community.

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