



PEOPLE & CULTURE

6 things to know about the Mumbai Urban Art Festival

*The ongoing festival promises events and
installations that will regale the young and the
old*

BY CONDÉ NAST

The Mumbai Urban Art Festival (MUAF) that kicked off in December is offering refreshing insights into the city's coastal and urban culture. Apart from murals and installations, visitors can expect workshops, talks, performances, concerts, dance events, and much more. Co-organized by St+art India and Asian Paints, the festival is taking over multiple locations across the **city**, the main project being hosted at the famous Sassoon Docks. Here's what to catch at Mumbai Urban Art Festival 2022-23:

Soak in the complexities of the sea and the city unlike never before

'Between the sea and the city' is the reigning theme of artworks at the Sassoon Docks this year. Watch out for auto-ethnographer Parag Tandel's 'Vitamin Sea,' a series of resin sculptures that are a commentary on marine pollution and the **dangers** of urbanisation. Not to miss either is graphic designer Khyati Trehan's 'The Texture Tourist,' a digital media piece that was actually a crowdsourced catalogue of Instagram submissions. Another popular attraction is French artist Rero's 'Water Speaks,' which features a juxtaposition of mirrors and fishnets interspersed with wordplay that invites viewers to rethink their consumption habits.





An installation at The Sassoon Docks Art Project

Look for installations in surprising places

The festival seems intent on taking art out of formal settings and into public spaces, even the most unlikely ones. At the Sassoon Docks Art Project, aesthetics will follow you even into the **washrooms**. The men's toilet features Nikita Rana's aptly titled mixed media piece 'This Is A Photo Dump.' In the women's washroom, you will find Brahmatmaj's 'What Beauty?' Gaysi Family's 'Mirror Mirror, On The Wall, Do You See Us All?' adorns a gender-neutral washroom.

You can opt for guided walking tours

Let's face it—contemporary art is not everyone's cup of tea—without context, you may be left feeling a bit lost. If you wish to develop a deeper appreciation of the installations, you can sign up for one of the walking tours conducted by Art & Wonderment at Sassoon Docks. Slots are available on Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays. Register [here](#).





An installation at The Sassoon Docks Art Project

Do this if you're overwhelmed by the smell at the Docks

The fishy odour at Sassoon Docks can definitely be off-putting. While the organisers prefer to label it as 'part of the experience,' visitors need to be prepared for smelly surroundings. See if you can track down one of these white boxes with a purple sticker (pictured below), with the word "Smell." The pleasant fragrance inside provides some temporary, yet much-needed

relief.



Don't limit yourself to Sassoon Docks

Events are also set to take place at other locations in the city, including The AP Art House in Colaba, Mahim East Art District, and Carter Road in Bandra. For more details, keep an eye out for the weekly schedules posted on [Sta+rt India's Instagram page](#).

Kids and pets are welcome, but accessibility can be an issue

The festival is open to everyone including your [furry friends](#) and little

ones. However, if you are someone who is carrying a pram or using a wheelchair, note that ramps are not available in all places. Hence, you may not be able to access certain installations. At Sassoon Docks, only the ground floor of each venue is wheelchair accessible.

Timings: 12pm to 10pm Wednesday-Friday; 11am to 10pm on weekends. Entry closes at 9.15pm on all days. The festival will be on till 22 February 2023.