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Dimple Kapadia handing over trophies to the award winners

The Promising Artist Award 2007

New Delhi: A jury comprising eminent artists, art connoisseurs, and art historians met in Mumbai on October 18, 2007 to decide on the winner of The Promising Artist Award 2007. For the first time since the inception of The Promising Artist Award, the jury decided to have two-joint winners of the award. This years winners are Baptist Coelho and Chinmoy Pramanick.

The Promising Artist Award has been instituted by *ART India*, the premier art magazine in the country, in collaboration with the Visual Arts Gallery, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. It is now in its third year. The aim of the award is to encourage young artists to develop independent ways of addressing social issues through their work. The award hopes to facilitate a public interface with developments in contemporary Indian art. The competition is open to Indian nationals below the age of 40 who are exploring practices like painting, sculpture, installation art, new media art, photography, and graphic design.

The Promising Artist Award 2007 includes a citation, a certificate, and a cash prize of Rs 200,000 for each of our two winning artists, Baptist Coelho and Chinmoy Pramanick. Works by the two winning artists as well as those by last year's winner, Shiv Kumar Verma, was showcased at the Visual Arts Gallery, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, on November 1, 2007.

The recipients of the award in 2006 were Shiv Kumar Verma and the two runners-up were Vishal Dar and Abhishek Hazra. The recipient of the award in 2005 was Delhi-based artist George Martin. Following the award, these artists have earned many accolades and are poised to pursue successful careers.

With reference to the spirit of the award, Abhay Sardesai, Editor, *ART India* magazine, maintains that, "The competition that leads to the award is an opportunity for artists, especially those who do not have access to funding and infrastructural support, to prove themselves."

This year, there were over 250 entries from all over the country for the award. 18 of these made the short-list for the Jury Meet. The jury comprised: Sangita Jindal, Gulammohamed Sheikh, Baiju Parthan, Namita Saraf, Urmila Kanoria; Shireen Gandhi, Raj Liberhan, Dr Alka Pande and Abhay Sardesai.

The awards were presented on the November 1, 2007 at an Award Ceremony at the India Habitat Center, New Delhi, by chief guest, Dimple Kapadia.