

theorists, thinkers, artists, curators and private sector philanthropists discussed topics from collecting, the paucity of arts policy and funding in India as well as shifting curatorial practices. Some awkwardly mismatched panels of market-driven speakers (Sotheby's and Haunch of Venison) alongside scholars was offset by adept moderation especially Kavita Singh's animated summation and probing. Presentation styles varied from completely scripted talks (Sheena Wagstaff, Tate Modern) to conversational (Hou Hanru). Regional nuances could have been more fully explored as there were no speakers from South-East Asia, North Asia or Australia. At a pivotal moment in the local/global nexus, these voices would have been a welcome addition.



Spencer St Subway in 1996.

### INDIA ON OVERDRIVE

A cross-art form delegation led by Asialink's Lesley Alway and Natalie King were in India to attend India Art Summit and Jaipur Literature Festival culminating in roundtable workshops at Lalit Kala Akademi and the Australian High Commission.

The third edition of India Art Summit which opened in New Delhi (just after the closing of Arts Stage Singapore in January) was three days of intensely programmed and lavishly catered events. Asia has become a hub for biennales, triennials and art fairs and the Summit presented an impressive line-up: VIP programme, sculpture park, video lounge, curated walks and a speakers' forum. Visits to leading Indian galleries and not-for-profit spaces including a walk-through of Anish Kapoor's majestically erotic sculptures at the National Gallery of Modern Art were rewarded by a party announcing Mithu Sen as the inaugural winner of the Skoda Prize.

Natalie commented: "The Speakers' Forum was presented in a bunker auditorium in the vast grounds of central Pragati Maidan. Indian and international

"Hans Ulrich Obrist's spectacle of over eight hours of interviews with Indian intellectuals in an outdoor amphitheatre in Lodi Gardens was orchestrated by Pooja Sood from Khoj. The sound of horns, birds and Obrist's twenty minutes of questions was an ambient experience. Geeta Kapur cheekily inversed Obrist's questions while activist, Dilip Simeon, entranced audiences with his work to reduce violent conflict. Endurance set the scene for Delhi with Raqs Media Collective and Subodh Gupta finishing the marathon."

Asialink is facilitating partnerships and programs for the Australia India friendship year in 2012. Bala Starr, Senior Curator of Ian Potter Museum of Art and Vikki McInnes, Director of VCA Gallery joined the delegation, which received support from Arts Victoria and the Australia India Institute.

**SB**