

## Story Home with a View

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Picturing the Body Exhibition | Curated by José Abad Lorente

There is a new art space in the Capital and it is Spanish photographer Jose Abad's house. Jose Abad bounds up the stairs to show me dancer Anusha Lall's interactive video installation in one of the bedrooms on the first floor. "There's a camera that transmits your reactions to the wall on the landing outside. You become part of the installation as well," says Abad, delighting in my surprised face. There is a new space in town for artists, photographers, videographers and audio storytellers — and it is not a gallery. It's a two-storey building in Vasant Vihar that is home to the Spaniard Abad, the Brit Billy Stewart and their indie collective, Abadi Art. The name has been taken from the Hindi and Urdu word "abadi" which means people, and the organisation aims to bring together artists and audiences to explore social and environmental issues.

Abad and Stewart started Abadi Art in November 2008 with "Picturing the Body", an ongoing exhibition that explores the encounters and experiences of the body in a narrative representation. Abad came up with the concept in the summer of 2008 and researched artists from across India and beyond who would be interested to participate. The response has been nothing short of fantastic, he says. "Artists from India and abroad have sent powerful works for the exhibition," says Abad.

While the TV room on the lower level is inhabited by a video installation by Sonali Gulati and photographs by Tejal Shah, Johnston and Valarezo; the second floor holds much promise with The Great Wall of Vagina, a wall-full of representations of the vagina as drawn by people involved in health and HIV prevention. “The drawings are from all over, including China, India, Kenya, Nepal, Sri Lanka and even Burkina Faso,” says Abad.

The surprise is FLTR, Sumit Baudh’s sound sculpture with light frame, which is located in the bathroom. “In such a private space, Baudh talks to the listener about what they might like to hear about themselves and their bodies,” smiles Abad.

It’s not a gallery, but Abadi Art is still a commercial venture, with prices ranging from Rs 5,000 to Rs 1 lakh. The future is bright with Stewart and Abad filling their calendars with more work with socially engaged artists and organisations. “We want to bring more international art to India and in different but accessible locations, such as our home and other venues as well,” says Abad. If charity begins at home, why not exhibitions?

The exhibition is on till February 28 at 42 Paschimi Marg, Vasant Vihar Daily from noon to 6 pm. By appointment only Contact 46016737 or log on to [www.abadiartspace.com](http://www.abadiartspace.com)



FTLR You Now | Sound Installation by Sumit Baudh



Waiting I & II | Artworks by Tejal Shah



The Vagina Wall | by The Pleasure Project