

lecture by journalist Sathya Saran on Guru Dutt, a show by stand-up comic Vipul Goyal, a live tattoo demonstration by Savio D'Silva and a lecture by nutritionist Shweta Bhatia. There will also be a nature walk for kids and workshops on puppet-making, cooking, clay art and painting. Highlights include a short-film workshop conducted by Imtiaz Ali and Anurag Kashyap and a food workshop by Ranveer Brar, the head chef at BanQ restaurant in Boston. Also, browse through the photography, painting and installation art exhibitions and sample the goodies at the food stalls. See Noise in the hood on page 63. Until Sun Mar 18. *Garden No 2, Lokhandwala Complex, opposite Celebration Sports Club, Andheri (W). The schedule wasn't decided at the time of publication. See [www.facebook.com/wassupandheri](http://www.facebook.com/wassupandheri) for updates.*

### Fri Mar 23

**Gudi Padwa** The first day of Chaitra marks the beginning of spring and is celebrated as New Year's Day by Maharashtrians and Hindu Konkanis. A gudi or Brahma's flag, consisting of a bright green or yellow cloth tied to the tip of a long bamboo over which neem and mango leaves and a garland of red flowers are placed, celebrates Rama's victorious return to Ayodhya. It's an auspicious day for big purchases so look out for discounts at jewellery and electronics stores. *Across the city.*

## Register now

### Maya Kamath Memorial Awards

The Indian Institute of Cartoonists invite entries for the annual awards for cartooning. Categories include best political cartoon (₹25,000, regional language or English), and a best budding cartoonist award (₹10,000), to be adjudged by a jury comprising playwright Girish Karnad, the artist SG Vasudev and the cartoonist BG Gujarappa. Deadline: Sat Mar 31. *Visit [www.cartoonistsindia.com](http://www.cartoonistsindia.com) for submission guidelines.*

### Walks, tours and treks

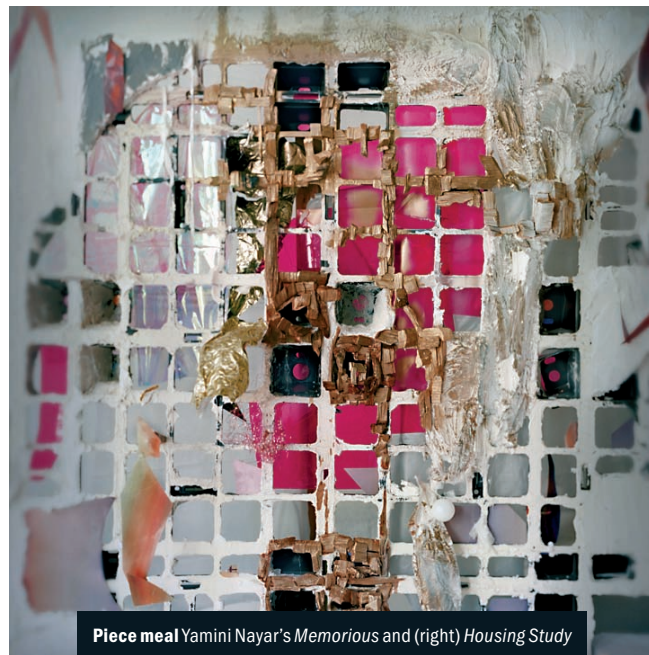
**Hill trail** This trek, organised by the BNHS on Sun Mar 25, takes you through the dense Mulund forest. The last date to register is Thur Mar 22. The meeting point is the Mulund forest gate of the Sanjay Gandhi National Park.

*Call Amandeep Kaur Giran on 95949-53425. 7.30-10.30am. ₹60 for adults and ₹10 for children below 10 years.*

**Byculla zoo walk** Grab your binoculars and go birdwatching to mark World Sparrow Day on Tue Mar 20. The walk will be conducted by Sprouts founder Anand Pendharkar. See other preview on page 63.

*Veer mata Jijabai Bhonsle Udyan (Byculla Zoo), Ambedkar Road, Byculla (E). Call Anand Pendharkar on 98201-40254 or Navneet Rathod on 2878-4889 to register. 📍 Byculla (CR Main). 🕒 Jijamata Udyan. 9am-1pm. ₹125.*

## Art



Piece meal Yamini Nayar's *Memorious* and (right) *Housing Study*

# Boom and bust

The ephemeral installations in Yamini Nayar's photographs speak of the decay of modernist ideas and architecture, finds **Zeenat Nagree**.

**Y**amini Nayar's photographs aren't just photographs.

Each frame captures an ephemeral sculptural installation that Nayar crafts for the picture and disassembles after it has been shot. "My practice centres on the intersection of sculpture and photography and thinks about the photograph as both a record and an object," Nayar told *Time Out* in a phone interview from New York. "I am interested in the relationship photography can have to constructed reality." For over a decade, Nayar's photographs have featured collages along with fragments of found objects and sculpted materials. This fortnight, her new work will be showcased in a solo exhibition at Amrita Jhaveri Projects. The show marks the artist's debut in India and follows her first solo exhibition at New York's Thomas Erben Gallery last year. Nayar will also discuss her practice in a lecture at Jnanapravaha.

The forthcoming exhibition captures the recent developments in Nayar's practice. The artist has moved away from the narrative tone of her earlier work, which featured constructed interiors and domestic spaces, towards oblique, open-ended references to

modernist architecture. "I'm very interested in some of the ideas that have come from modernism and modernist architecture and how they have disintegrated over time," explained Nayar. "But my work doesn't make a literal connection to architecture. It explores the emotional underpinnings around the ideas that were associated with that kind of idealism, the nostalgia, the failure and then the transition."

Nayar uses bits of glass, thread, metal wire, concrete and photographic images to construct her table-top sculptural installations. There is *Memorious*, in which Nayar presents a concrete pit littered with scraps and strips of photographs of the pit itself. The show also features *Housing Study*, a wire grid covered in white, behind which bits of pink glass peek through. In their state of decay, Nayar's dense environments appear to be abandoned sites on the verge of a transformation: there are traces of a presence and its destructive impact on the surroundings. "I've grown into thinking about architecture and the way in which it shapes us and we shape it," she said. Disintegration has been a feature of Nayar's work from the

start. The artist has brought this characteristic of her sculptural installations to the fore to highlight not only the temporariness of their existence but also to bring to notice the disorienting nature of their scaled-down construction.

The hallmark of Nayar's images is the unease they evoke. What makes the experience of looking at them destabilising is not only the two-dimensional representation of a three-dimensional structure but also the mingling of sculptural objects with photographic collage in which the proportion of all the elements in relation to each other doesn't quite seem right. Nayar honed this technique in past works that featured domestic environments to achieve the puzzling effect of the intermingling of memory and fantasy. "When anything is a bit unsettling, it tends to draw you in," she said. "If it is too familiar it doesn't do that."

Like Nayar's previous work, which drew from personal recollections, the new photos are a reflection of her own life. The artist, who has been living in New York for the last 12 years, grew up in Detroit where her father worked in the once-booming automobile industry. "Detroit is in a complete state of transition," she said. "Seeing what's happened to the places that I have a personal connection with has definitely informed my work."

**Yamini Nayar** opens at Amrita Jhaveri Projects on **Wed Mar 28**. Nayar will deliver a lecture on **Tue Mar 27**.