



Speaking of issues visually

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KATHMANDU: Readers' memory is ephemeral! You mention burning issues about global warming and domestic violence in writing and it is soon forgotten. But if you project the same visually, the impact stays like an imprint. And what can be better than art, that too installation art.

Giving that perspective, Kathmandu Contemporary Arts Centre (KCAC) presented creations by Michelle Hall titled 'We May all End up in the Same Boat' at Patan Museum on June 5. Numerous art enthusiasts gathered to see Hall's expression and were eager for the opening of the exhibition which was done by John Tucknott, British ambassador to Nepal.

The first installation that mesmerised the spectators included an array of boats and it was anything but usual. The boats placed were in different states — from totally ruined to a colourful one with glitters. One could view the whole installation in two ways. You could either begin observing from the one in a dilapidated state, which represented the end of any possibility, then slowly move on to the glittery structure that represented hope. When viewed the other way, you could see what would happen if human beings did not act on time concerning environment — everything could be shattered. Materials assembled were canes, newspaper, glue, beads, feathers and glitters.

Wondering why the usage of glitter? Hall explains, "When there is hope, everything is exemplified as beautiful." Furthermore, Hall's projection of uncertainty of environment was done through boats "because it is unstable and if unmanaged, there are chances of collapsing. Nonetheless, there is hope and we still have time to fix it".

Another creation that made the crowd think was 'If she isn't free neither are we', which was a mixed media installation. Immediate attention is grasped by the intertwined threads displaying a woman trapped in violence at home and with the red colour of the thread representing blood.

Sharing about her work Hall adds, "Home is supposedly to be a safe place for women, but not for those who are victims of domestic violence." According to Sangeeta Thapa, director of KCAC, this installation piece would be on exhibition only on the opening day.

Moreover, a symphony of cello especially composed for the exhibition by The Kathmandu Chamber Society added to the contemplation that Hall crafted.

This exhibition will continue until June 12.