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Colour washing the city



WALL SPLASH College students painting a wall as part of the Conquer the Concrete street art festival last year PHOTO: G. KRISHNASWAMY

The city is all set to see its streets splashed in colour. After the success of Conquer the Concrete in 2014, Goethe-Institut Chennai/Max Mueller Bhavan started the second edition of the festival on Sunday. The one-week programme, which includes both Indian and international street artists, aims to take art to public spaces.

As part of the festival, Madrid-based independent curator Georg Zolchow is facilitating a week-long academic programme on Art in Public Space for undergraduate art students of Stella Maris. Georg, who curated the Conquer the Concrete Street Art Festival with Goethe-Institut in the city last year, will

introduce the students to historical and contemporary techniques and the politics of art in public spaces, with theory and practical components; explore the works of artists such as Gordon Matta-Clark, Banksy and Blu; and discover the range of artistic possibilities in public spaces — from interventions to performance, graffiti and ad busting.

The other participating artists at the festival include NOTE, a Berlin-based street artist, who specialises in acrylic spray-painting on exterior walls, city-based Parvathi Nayar, whose work centres around exploring spaces; Shilo Shiv Suleman, a Bangalore-based illustrator,

animator and visual artist, who has been actively involved in setting up community art projects and establishing groups that get people to create street art about socially relevant issues; and Guess Who, an artist or collective from Kochi, which works anonymously in the streets using stencils and paste-up techniques.

A two-day street art workshop will also be organised on September 12 and 13 at Spaces, Elliot's Beach Road, Besant Nagar, for young graffiti writers and artists. Conceived by Georg Zolchow, the weekend workshop will teach participants spray painting, wheat-pasting, ad-busting, stencilling and so on.