

## Tape That

Tape – a simple, everyday material of utility value - can become a thing of beauty in the hands of the artist, was the lesson learnt by Fine Arts students in a unique workshop on tape art. The department of Fine Arts, Stella Maris College collaborated with the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany, Chennai and Goethe-institut/Max Mueller Bhavan, Chennai to conduct a one-day workshop on tape art in the college on 30 August 2017. Three artists, Thomas Meissner, Stefan Busch and Felix Rodewaldt from Tape that – a collective from Germany worked with 30 final year undergraduate students of BVA to put together a unique set of artworks. The workshop which began with a simple inauguration, graced by Rev. Sr. Susan, the Secretary of our college, along with the German artists, was followed by a presentation by the artists about tape art. The students were then exposed to direct hands-on techniques of working with tapes of different weights, textures and hues. The outcome of a few hours of the workshop was a fantastic set of painstakingly done tape works of iridescent colors in a variety of concepts, ranging from geometric abstracts to expressionistic portraits, serene seascapes to vivid icons and decorative motifs reflecting the myriad shades of life.

The artworks were exhibited the following day, 31 August 2017 at Spaces in Besant Nagar, where the German artists also created a large tape art panel as part of their demonstration-cum-performance. The artwork that they made was inspired by the Indian lotus, a favourite cultural motif approached through a different material and medium of expression\*. The exhibition which was in the atrium drew visitors throughout the evening who were highly appreciative of the artworks on display. The Consul General of Germany, Achim Fabig and Helmut Schippert, Director of Goethe-institut lauded the efforts of all the artists at the closing ceremony. The students while receiving certificates from their German artist mentors, expressed their enthusiasm for the very different tape art that they had learnt to create and their gratitude to the artists and to all who made the event possible.

\* The Lotus tape artwork created by the German artists was gifted to Stella Maris College where it will be housed permanently. The students' tape art works and the Lotus work were displayed in the Open Air Theatre on 6 September 2017.

