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A space they can call their own

Staff Reporter

BANGALORE: The Samuha Artists Initiative Collective is perhaps the only one of its kind in the city.

A concept created by three young artists to empower the artist community without making them dependent on galleries, Samuha is an interesting way of approaching the question of artists' space, literally and figuratively.

Samuha was launched by its members Suresh Kumar G., Archana Prasad and Shivaprasad at the ADA Rangamandira building here on Monday.

It has brought together 23 artists from the city so that they can showcase their work throughout the year and interact with the city's residents as well.

"We reworked this unused office space to make it more conducive for art endeavours," said Ms. Prasad.

The concept behind the initiative and collective is simple. The 1,250 sq. ft. space given to them by the ADA Rangamandira will be shared by the 23 artists and they will pay Rs. 2,000 a month for a year.

In lieu of this each of them will own the space for 17 days each, in which period they can choose to do whatever they want to do with it.

"Samuha is not about building institutions, so after 414 days, the collective will close down," said Ms. Prasad at the launch, explaining that all the documented information of Samuha's existence would be available to share, making this a replicable model for anyone else.

The member artists, including visual artists, painters and film-makers, will be free to use their space as they wish. To find out more log on to Samuha's website <http://samuha.wikidot.com>.

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