

Sleepers

The in-between spaces that lie on the fringes in urban lives. **FirstCity Art** previews photographer Dhruv Malhotra's ongoing photo-exhibition



PHOTOGRAPH BY DHURUV MALHOTRA/PHOTOINK

“I AM ATTRACTED TO DESOLATE SPACES - PLACES THAT LIE ON THE EDGE OF URBANITY, inhabiting a borderland. The transient state of places undergoing transformation becomes an ongoing fulfillment of potential, an idea I'm fascinated with. My camera finds half-seen places on the periphery of vision to reveal what would ordinarily be left obscure. It is this disclosure I seek in order to find a sense of sentience,” photographer Dhruv Malhotra tells us about his works in the ongoing exhibition, *Sleepers*, a collection of photographs exploring the anatomy of an aspiring metropolis and its in-between spaces.

The exhibition started with *Noida Soliloquy*, (his first solo exhibition), in Dhruv's words, “Wandering around at night, I would find many sleepers and would initially photograph them as a part of *Noida Soliloquy*. It was only after a while that I realised that *Sleepers* had become its own project.” About the figure in the photographs, he says, “The landscape around the sleeping figure is extremely important for me; in some ways the sleeping figure is a metaphor that allows me to explore the urban landscape at night.” *Sleepers* has been shot in and around the urban areas of Delhi NCR, Noida, Jaipur, Ahmedabad, Goa, Bombay, Calcutta, Ajmer, Agra, Udaipur and also in the interiors of Rajasthan,

UP, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, West Bengal, Haryana and Karnataka.

Born in 1965 in Jaipur, Dhruv is a major in Economics from Mumbai University. *Sleepers* had a solo presentation at the 2010 Brighton Photo Biennial in the exhibition, *New Ways of Looking*. Photographs from *Sleepers* were included in the exhibition, *The Matter Within* at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco (2011) and a three person exhibition titled, *Urban Landscapes - Indian Case Studies* at The British School at Rome (2012) amongst others.

(Sleepers on view at Photoink Gallery. Through February. Nearest Metro Station: Jhandewalan, Blue Line.)