Get ready for an intimacy of words

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BANGALORE: Words reign supreme as the New Year swings into Lekhana 2013. After its debut at National Gallery of Modern Art last year, the literary event continues to draw book and literature lovers into intimate, informal spaces. Jagriti Theatre, in its informal grandeur that defines art spaces in Bangalore, gets ready for the intimacy of words.

Put together by Arshia Sattar, who along with DW Gibson is the founder and director of Sangam House International Writers' Residency programme, the theme for Lekhana 2013 is Writing for the Spoken Word. "Since Lekhana means 'writing' in so many Indian languages, we thought we'd explore different kinds of creative writing this year -- from songs to drama to screen dialogues -- rather than focusing on more traditional ideas of 'literary' output," says Arshia.

While the literary weekend shares its passion for words with the recently concluded Bangalore Literature Fest, it is diverse in scale. "Lekhana is about bringing writers and readers together to talk to each other about writing and reading. I'm not sure if this is about impact, it's much more about interaction on a relatively intimate scale," says Arshia. "It's like a yearly family reunion for Bangalore writers, where we can talk about our work, our hopes and our dreams. There are no bigger and smaller stars -- everyone is simply a writer."

With Jagriti primarily being a theatre space, it fits in with Lekhana's 2013 theme. "We're reaching out to new audiences and hoping that communities in Whitefield will be drawn to Lekhana this year," says Arshia.

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