

'Killing Fields' issue: Karachi Biennale.

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Art and the sea

The second edition of the Karachi Biennale (KB19) in its attempt to take art to the common man has chosen three public spaces out of the seven venues — Bagh Ibn Qasim, the zoo and Frere Hall. The uniqueness of the former (park) is its proximity to the sea; and that has made all the difference.

The installations erected in different parts of the Bagh may not have been originally envisioned as a reference point to the choppy waters of the Arabian Sea, but against its backdrop, though most of it is blocked by the countless buildings that have been constructed in recent years, the exhibition gains multiplicity of meaning.

British artist Sinta Tantra's mural 'Bright Dawn' reinforces the idea of looking back by "drawing upon the work of Rudyard Kipling reimagining the complex colonial histories between Great Britain and its empire where 'the sun never sets'". Though the artist lends a touch of positivity to the exhibit by using warm tropical colours, there's much for the viewer to mull over as well.