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## Using art to solve city's pothole problems

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[Sukhada Tatke](#), TNN | Aug 23, 2010, 01:46AM IST

MUMBAI: It has been one of the innate qualities of art that it can fill the empty spaces in our soul. One wonders, though, how it would fare in the face of a simpler, more utilitarian test; to try and help fill the countless potholes on our city's roads.

Debunking the numerous claims of various government authorities that pockmarked roads are being constantly attended to, an exhibition of photographs of potholes by young artists will be put up from next week. The idea is to put forth "a view from an artist's eye" in a way that galvanises a movement of sorts against authorities who "take citizens for granted". The show, that will display photographs of 600 potholes across the streets of Mumbai, will open on August 30 at the Banyan Tree Cafe, Gallery BMB, Queen's Mansion, Fort. The photographers are young artists who have graduated from art schools, graphic designing courses and so on. The exhibition is ironically titled "Smooth Runnings".

The idea was born out of a sense of dissatisfaction against the government and the need to get people interested in the issue. "Potholes has been a hindrance for years," said curator Kanchi Mehta. "It is the result of negligence and now requires technology and knowledge that can provide for a sophisticated life that one deserves. It is a wakeup call for the people of Mumbai to raise a voice," she said.

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The BMC maintains all roads except the Eastern and Western Express Highways. They were improved by the MMRDA in 2007, but sections are already riddled with potholes. The 54 flyovers in the city are maintained by MSRDC. J J flyover and Santa Cruz flyover on the Eastern Express Highway are ridden with potholes.

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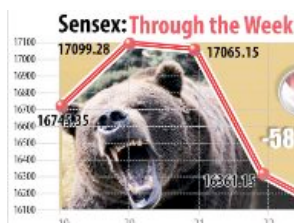
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