

Artists form a unique chain of creativity

BY OUR CORRESPONDENT

Performance artists Verena Stenke and Andrea Pagnes have taken on a pretty unique mission: they hope to bring together a global network of artists to take part in one of the most elaborate works of performance art ever attempted. They call their project *Fragile: Global Performance Chain Journey*, and it involves one fragile object — a transparent glass/crystal plate with gold elements inside — travelling from one artist to another, shuttling across the globe in this unique fashion.

"Artists will personally carry the object to the next artist's place, so every single participating artist has to make one journey to his/her next assigned neighbour. In the end, the object has to return safely to the place of its origin, Florence in Italy," Pagnes told *Guardian20*. "For us, the object is like the project itself. The glass plate will have several elements in it," he says.

The duo also wishes to create a platform for artists who have difficulties in accessing international art events because of the political situation in their homelands or economic constraints.

The concept aims to promote a global situation that allows artists to work together on one project and instill a spirit of community despite living in different parts of the world. "We wanted to create something that allows everybody to work in their place of origin, something different from festivals or art encounters where artists converge in a specific place. As performance artists, we keep making new contacts, but rarely meet each other personally after we part ways," says Stenke.

The *Journey of the object* is the essence of the performance. Each artist has to use it in their creations or refer their action to it. "The idea is to get the object charged by this creative energy. It be-

comes a 'universal memory in motion' of all the artistic steps of the journey," Stenke explains. The choice of artistic implementation is free. The only given task is to use the fragile, travelling object within the process of making, and to refer and address his/her personal research on the subject of 'Fragility'.

Musicians will compose songs; performance artists will create live action pieces; visual artists will produce paintings, drawings, sculpture, or photos and installations; movie and video makers will explore the theme for shooting short movies, and poets, writers and theoreticians will use their words to define the subject.

The artwork produced will be contemporarily presented and displayed in the place of its creation. Galleries, institutions and festivals have already shown their interest in supporting the display of these creations. Each participant will be asked to

Illustration by Neha Ahuja | Dev Kabir Malik

document their performance with photographs or videos (which will be uploaded on the journey's YouTube channel). They will also write a short text about the experience. The final documentation catalogue will be published by Vest Anil Pagne press, as a log book of the journey.

"Our aim is to include in the catalogue a DVD documenting videos of the participants, as well as a CD of the sound works composed for the project by the participating musicians," Stenke concludes.

