

## Images of a selection of Kathmandu street art (October 2014)

**Photographs and descriptions by Shishir Dhakal:** NIAP archivist and photographic researcher for the Kathmandu Valley area.



1. This art is done for awareness, and it's based on the political scenario of Nepal (probably at the time when the preparations were done for the second election of constituent assembly). There are leaders who can do everything for the nation, but just in words.

The picture says, "I'll not vote for the corrupt and criminal candidates, as well as the ones who prefer to surrender. I'll vote for the young, fresh, energetic and dedicated candidates .... *What about You?*"



2. This art is for awareness against child-marriage, which is still prevalent among a few ethnic peoples of Nepal. As we know that early marriage generates a lot of problems, it is a negative side of certain cultures that should be avoided.

**Location:** Jawalakhel, Lalitpur





3. Increasing deforestation has negative impacts on human beings as well as the climate. This painting was done to raise awareness about the need for deforestation control.

**Location:** Jawalakhel, Lalitpur



4. This painting is an example of psychedelic art – the art that was popular particularly in the 70's. There are several paintings like this on the walls of Kathmandu.

**Location:** Jawalakhel, Lalitpur





5. Lack of awareness and education is also responsible for creating a large sized family. This painting depicts the same. In overall, it explains the causes and consequence of having more number of children, which is the prime cause of rapid population growth in Nepal.

**Location:** Jawalakhel, Lalitpur



6. This art has three parts: left is the male gamete, right is the female gamete. In the middle is a stop sign. Inside the stop sign are the measures for family planning (condom, pills, copper-T, quarterly injection). Generating awareness on the role family planning plays for population control is the theme of this art.

**Location:** Jawalakhel, Lalitpur





7. This art is also related to the family planning. A couple and a medical practitioner are painted inside the figure of condom, which means they are consulting a medical practitioner on family planning methods.

**Location:** Jawalakhel, Lalitpur



8. This picture is a part of a painting that comprises the above two pictures as well. The art was done as a part of awareness campaign by FPAN (Family Planning Association of Nepal). FPAN provides free information and counselling services on family planning.

**Location:** Jawalakhel, Lalitpur





9. “Raise your voice” is the slogan (I think) of this art. This has multiple meanings, ranging from ‘speak out when you see injustice, inhumanity or the consequences of ignorance [so many contexts to this, as is witnessed in societies across the globe]’ to ‘vote and have your say, do not waste the precious gift of having your say in the democratic process.’ The recent moving and searing Indian Cinema classic ‘Mr Boothnath Returns’ [Mr Ghost Returns] \* – starring the internationally renowned Amitabh Bachchan \*\* -- deals with this so well, and some of the human psychology and local and party politics issues it deals with may be said to resonate in Nepal as well as its larger neighbour to the south.

**Location:** Jawalakhel, Lalitpur

\* <http://movies.ndtv.com/movie-reviews/bhoothnath-returns-movie-review-951>

\*\* [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amitabh\\_Bachchan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amitabh_Bachchan)



10. This painting features

1. A traffic police officer giving directions
2. Words that say "stop", "learn", "go".

So this art is focused for young riders. They mostly are inexperienced and over-confident, and ride carelessly, thus causing many road accidents.





11. As seen on the top floors of a building, this art features a fox made of polygons. And yes, it's symmetrical too.

**Location:** Thapathali, Kathmandu