

## Mela 2001

Contributed by Administrator  
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"Connections" was a meeting between important institutions and individuals in Norway and Pakistan, aimed at creating new networks and facilitating the exchange for art. "Arts and Images of Contemporary Pakistan" aimed at updating Norwegian artists and art institutions on the art scene in today's Pakistan. At this conference, one of the world's leading experts on Sufism and the Sufi tradition in literature, Annemaria Schimmel, gave a lecture. Professor Sajida Vandal, Principal of the National College of Arts in Lahore gave a historical overview leading on to the contemporary scene; the young art critic Jalees Hazir talked about the creative dilemmas of post-partitional youths and Ajay Chhabra, Art Director of East London Mela, shared his experiences of Melas in England with the audience.

The programme of the outdoor festival at the Vaterland Park consisted of comedians as well as a number of music and dance performances. More than 6000 people attended. The group "Dub Factory" from Great Britain performed, and Simi Gupat enchanted the audience with her kathak dances. A well known writer on cuisine, Andreas Viestad, ended the outdoor festival by giving out free samples of Asian dishes.

The first Mela in Norway was ended with a Moshaira at the Oslo Concert Hall, drawing a full house and presenting dance and stage shows as well as poetry.