

# POOL OF DREAMS, AMSTERDAM LIGHT FESTIVAL

vibhor sogani, delhi ncr  
installation artist



## The artwork by Vibhor Sogani,

'Pool of Dreams' was conceived for the 12th edition of the Amsterdam Light Festival 2023, which was held from the 30th November 2023 to 21st January 2024. The theme for the festival's latest edition was 'Revealing Art, AI, and Tech', which invited artists to discuss the rise of artificial intelligence and technology and their role in art and daily life. Twenty-four artists from eight nationalities were chosen to display their artwork at this prestigious festival, Sogani being the only Indian.

Known for his love for steel, Vibhor Sogani created the 'Pool of Dreams', the installation comprising 100 mirror-finished stainless-steel orbs. These orbs vary in size ranging from 3.5 feet to 7 feet in height, and 12 inches to 20 inches in diameter. The chosen location for the installation comprised of water (canal) and adjacent land (park). While boat rides give one a close view of the water installations, people walk within and mingle in the clusters on land. Positioned near the city



center, this section of the canal was broad, accommodating boats and cruises moving in both directions. Two nearby bridges and points across the canal served as key vantage points, offering various perspectives. Additionally, the artwork could be experienced intimately by strolling through it from the park side.

In an age marked by rising distrust and fear of the new dawn in the world of technology, he preferred to take on an optimist's approach. Often, one encounter divided and contrasting opinions regarding AI and its future; Utopia vs Dystopia, Competition vs Collaboration and Evolution vs Revolution, for instance. The future is unknown and constantly invites all the possible imagination, assumptions, and predictions.

While describing his light installation, Sogani says, "The artwork, a collective of multitudes of images, is a reflection of my thoughts, my imaginary perception of a beautiful tomorrow. A dream of a utopia where knowledge, technological advancement, and evolved intelligence will make the world dramatically beautiful and beautifully imagined."

With Pool of Dreams, Sogani achieved his goal of creating an immersive, interactive, and thought-provoking experience for the viewer. The reflections of the glistening forms, the blue lights recessed below it, collectively dance in mesmerizing manners as the artwork comes alive in an ever-changing recital, and a curious dialogue ensues between the spectator-enthralled, and the subject-enthralling. **if**

