

Wall of goodwill



HARBANT GILL

THIS is the mural created by film director Baz Luhrmann, Archibald Prize darling Vincent Fantauzzo and several Indian artists in a cross-cultural collaboration in the Bollywood hub of Mumbai.

The mural, on the facade of a new art hotel named Le Sutra, and another opposite the building were conceived as a goodwill gesture at a time of troubled ties between India and Australia.

The Oscar-nominated director of such films as *Moulin Rouge* and *Australia* donned an art frock to make his mark of diplomacy in a country that adores his films.

The murals incorporate dance images including Bollywood moves, breakdance, Michael Jackson and Fred Astaire.

The painting pair then mounted two Royal Enfield Classic motorcycles for a travelling photo-shoot, the results of which were displayed at the hotel and helped raise funds for a charity.

"Sutra in Sanskrit is 'a thread or rope that holds things together' and here it weaves along with these ambassadors



Universal language: Vincent Fantauzzo (left) and Baz Luhrmann with the mural.

of art and goodwill," said a hotel spokeswoman. "They have invested time, effort and heart; the universal language of art and humanity."

Fantauzzo says the timing is right because of the attacks on Indian students in Melbourne and Sydney.

"We wanted something uplifting which we could share with everyone in the street," says the South Melbourne-based artist, who won the Archibald People's Choice two years in a row with his portraits of actors Heath Ledger and Brandon Walters.