India Foundation for the Arts (IFA)  
in collaboration with  
Bangalore International Centre  
Past Forward: Celebrating Critical Practices on  
October 30, 31 and November 01, 2019  
at  
Bangalore International Centre, Bangalore

Past Forward: Celebrating Critical Practices, an arts festival over 3 days bringing together 40 diverse artistic expressions asking questions of our pasts, investigating the present, and imagining possible collective futures, through panel discussions, performances, film screenings, workshops and exhibitions.

In the past 5 years IFA has supported over 40 projects through its Arts Practice Programme across photography, visual arts, theatre, film, augmented reality, gaming, graphic work, sound, music, dance, puppetry etc.; which have yielded exhibitions, installations, performances, films, games, books and other exciting outcomes. We have presented them in a few cities in India, and are now bringing these projects together under a festival to our own home city – Bangalore. So over 3 days - October 30, 31 and November 1, 2019, we are inviting over 60 artists from across the country and disciplines to present more than 40 of these projects as performances, films, workshops, panels, and exhibitions/ installations under the umbrella of the festival. We hope to make 'Present' in PAST FORWARD' the riveting explorations of these arts practitioners from all over the country. Their provocations will be presented under the themes of interrogating pasts, engaging communities, thinking audiences, confluence of forms, making meanings of myths and imagining futures.

All events will be free and open to the public. We want the entire city of Bangalore to come, explore and experience the festival.

Arundhati Ghosh, Executive Director, IFA

“Through the grants made by IFA over the past 5 years under our Arts Practice Programme, it has been our effort and desire to support the journeys of those arts practitioners who critically question the world they inhabit, their relationships with it, and their own practices. In this festival we are bringing much of it together – to wonder at, listen to, debate with, discuss as well as celebrate theses many possibilities that their artistic expressions open up for us. We hope to see Bangalore present at PAST FORWARD.”

Menaka Rodriguez, Head- Resource Mobilisation and Outreach, IFA
We are delighted that we have partners like Biocon Limited, Goethe-Institut, RMZ Foundation and the Sandeep and Gitanjali Maini Foundation, C. Krishniah Chetty Group of Jewellers, and Jaithirth Rao who have come forward to support the festival. IFA is excited to be showcasing 40 art projects in own home city – Bangalore, and we look forward to welcoming audiences from all over to explore and experience them at Past Forward!

**Be Present at Past Forward** on October 30, 31 and November 01 at Bangalore International Centre as we celebrate these groundbreaking projects from across the country and disciples. See and experience the best, the most critical and the most exciting of the arts in India.

**Curated Themes at the Festival:**

**Interrogating Pasts**
The past is at once a legacy to treasure and a burden to bear. The projects showcased here point to the multiple ways in which artists have conversed with pasts. While finding inspiration, artists have also challenged, rejected, questioned, critiqued, reinterpreted and departed from the pasts.

**Confluence of Forms**
Art forms have always existed and thrived in each other’s company. They have evolved through mutual influence and nurturing. The projects showcased under this theme were in part born out of the desire to see the results of two or more forms in conversation with each other. While some of these projects borrow and build through their respective techniques and methodologies, others provoke new ways of looking at making work.

**Engaging Communities**
Artistic and cultural practices of various communities, community knowledge systems, and traditional/contemporary political and social discourses embedded within specific communities, have been at the centre of many arts projects. The projects showcased here are representative of the diverse ways in which community engagement in the arts are prevalent today.

**Making Meanings of Myths**
Myths have played a significant role in helping humanity interpret their lives, understand their experiences and make meanings of their existence. Artists have always used and borrowed from myths to make works that attempt to extend beyond the immediate struggles of living, to seek broader questions of life. The projects showcased under this theme represent some of these attempts.

**Thinking Audiences**
Far from being passive consumers, the audiences have always played a powerful role in shaping the trajectory of arts practices. They have encouraged practitioners to chart new paths, discover new content and find new ways of communicating it to the larger world. Some of the
projects showcased here have attempted to build new audiences, enabled wider public access to their work and embraced audiences as active participants in their work.

**Imagining Futures**
The human race today finds itself irrevocably trapped between two conflicting emotions about its future - the anxiety and fear of slowly destroying this planet; the hope and desire that a better world is possible. The projects showcased under this theme bring together some of the ways in which they envisage, project and frame our imminent destinies.

**About India Foundation for the Arts**

**India Foundation for the Arts (IFA)** is a not-for-profit, independent, grantmaking organisation that supports research, practice and education in the arts and culture across India, since 1995. We believe that the arts and culture are essential to our individual and community lives, and for a more equitable and just world. As a facilitator, catalyst and provocateur in the field, we support critical investigations, explorations and experiments that push boundaries of knowledge and practice, and challenge dominant narratives.

IFA makes grants to individuals and organisations with the aim of filling important gaps in private and public assistance for the arts and culture in India.

Our grant programmes variously respond to existing demand for assistance, provide opportunities for artists to explore untried processes and new connections in the arts, or address systemic issues in the field. The grants made by IFA support all forms of cultural expression, while accommodating work that falls outside specific domains of art, blurs disciplinary boundaries, or anticipates new modes of artistic production and presentation. IFA also undertakes sustained, self-administered projects that respond to clearly articulated needs in the field in those areas where grants are not applicable and in the absence of other forms of support. Such interventions enable a direct engagement with the community which can be made sustainable with ownership of the work eventually passing down to the next stakeholder.

**For media queries:**
PR Manager, IFA- Ruam Mukherjee, Phone: 7022793980, Email: ruam@indiaifa.org

**Address: India Foundation for the Arts**
'Apurva' Ground Floor, No 259, 4th Cross,
Raj Mahal Vilas 2nd Stage, 2nd Block, Bangalore
India - 560 094
Tel: 91-80-2341 4681 / 82 / 83 Website: www. https://indiaifa.org