



# IMAGE & WORD



WORKSHOP  
ON STORYTELLING

5, 6, 7

April 2013

Sanskriti  
Anandgram  
New Delhi

# IMAGE & WORD



**Image & Word: Workshop on Storytelling** is a space where visual storytellers come together to understand each other's processes as well as the contexts and narratives that influence their individual works. It is the culmination of a year-long study into the visual narrative technique of traditional storytelling forms by comic book artists Vidyun Sabhaney and Shohei Emura.

The workshop is designed to generate dialogue between young and experienced artists about how narrative images are created.

Specially featured are artists from three traditional storytelling forms: Togalu Gombeyatta from Karnataka, Bengali Pat Painting & Performance, and Rajasthani Kaavad. As this workshop comes at a time when traditional visual storytelling forms are rapidly changing in the face of modern entertainment, it focuses on how they are adapting themselves to new markets and formats.

Also showcased at the workshop are works and experiences of contemporary artists, publishers and developmental organisations who have uniquely and innovatively engaged with visual narrative.



# WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

We have the pleasure of hosting the following sessions at Image & Word...

**5TH**  
**APRIL**

**9:30 AM – 10:00 AM**

Opening Session:  
Setting a Context

**Introduction**

by Vidyun Sabhaney

**10:00 AM – 12:30 PM**

Workshop

**Creating Visual Narrative**

by Parismita Singh

**2:00 PM – 2:45 PM**

Interaction & Performance

**Understanding Rajasthani Kaavad:  
Performance & Patronage**

with Kojaram

Facilitator: Ranjana Pandey

**3:00 AM – 4:45 AM**

Workshop

**Understanding Rajasthani Kaavad:  
Making of the Kaavad**

with Dwarka Prasad

Facilitator: Ranjana Pandey

**5:00 PM – 6:00 PM**

Special Feature

**The touring trail: Re-imagining  
stories from the traveling cinemas**

by Amit Madheshiya

**6TH**  
**APRIL**

**10:00 AM – 12:30 PM**  
Workshop

**Understanding Leather Puppetry in  
Karnataka**  
with Gunduraju  
Facilitator: Anurupa Roy

**2:00 PM – 4:00 PM**  
Workshop

**Using Manga Effects in Visual Narrative**  
by Shohei Emura

**4:30 PM – 5:15 PM**  
Special Feature

**Integrating Forms: Creating Comic  
Book Pats**  
with Suman Chitrakar  
Facilitator: Medhavi Gandhi

**5:30 PM – 6:30 PM**  
Special Feature

**Repurposing Traditional Storytelling:  
Cluster Development Programme of  
Happy Hands Foundation**  
by Medhavi Gandhi

**7TH**  
**APRIL**

**10:00 AM – 11:30 AM**  
Workshop

**Practice of Patuas in Bhirbhum (West Bengal) with Arun Patua**  
Facilitator: Roma Chatterji

**12:00 PM – 1:30 PM**  
Workshop

**Understanding the Santhal Pat Tradition**  
with Rupsona Chitrakar

**2:30 PM – 3:30 PM**  
Special Feature

**Style is Substance: Exploring Form vis-a-vis Content in Comics**  
by Vishwajyoti Ghosh

**4:00 PM – 5:00 PM**  
Special Feature

**The Story of A Book: Tara Books & Design as Process**  
with Nia Murphy

**5:00 PM – 6:00 PM**  
Special Feature

**The Poet Who Became a Tree: Visually interpreting Kabir's poetry as comics**  
by Orijit Sen

**6:00 PM – 7:00 PM**  
Closing Session

**Exploring Collaboration:**  
A space for participating artists to share their work and discuss possible collaborations for their projects

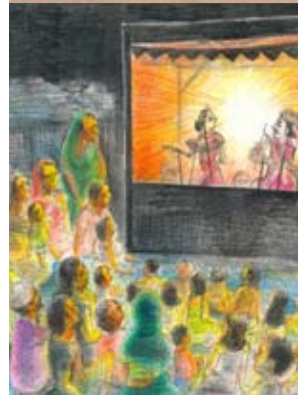
# FEATURED TRADITIONAL STORYTELLING FORMS



TOGALU  
GOMBAYATTA

'Togalu Gombeyatta' is a centuries old leather puppetry tradition that is still practiced in Karnataka. It combines song, dialogue and image to tell its stories, which are usually from either the Mahabharata or the Ramayana.

We have the pleasure of hosting Gunduraju and his son Darshan from this tradition of storytelling at the workshop.

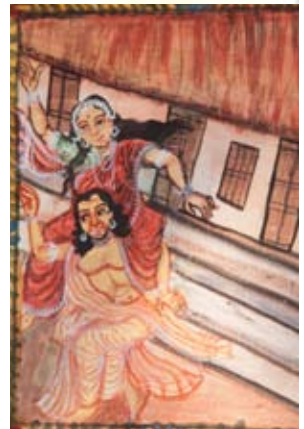




## BENGALI PAT PAINTING AND PERFORMANCE

The Patuas and Chitrakars of Bengal combine song and the painted image to tell stories. Traditionally, they performed door-to-door, a practice that is now changing. Active patachitrakars, as they are known, can be found in Purba and Paschim Mednipur, Bhirbhum and Purulia.

We have the pleasure of hosting Arun Patua, Rupsona Chitrakar & Sumon Chitrakar from this tradition of storytelling at the workshop.



RAJASTHANI  
KAAVAD



The Kaavad of Rajasthan is both a record of the lives of the gods and of the patron families of the performers. There are two communities engaged in this practice – one that makes the Kaavad, and the other that performs its stories.

We have the pleasure of hosting Dwarka Prasad and Kojaram from this tradition of storytelling at the workshop.



# ARTISTS & FACILITATORS AT IMAGE & WORD

Introducing the artists  
& facilitators who will be  
sharing their experience and  
knowledge of storytelling at  
the workshop . . .



**AMIT MADHESHIYA** is a graduate in English Literature from Hindu College, New Delhi. He is an independent photographer based in Mumbai. For his work on the Travelling Tent Cinemas of India, he has received the World Press Photo (2011), World Photography Award (2011 and 2009), and the Humanity Photo Awards (2009). This work is supported by the Arts Research and Documentation Grant from India Foundation for the Arts, the Goethe-Institut 50 Year Anniversary Grant Program, and a fellowship from the Cluster of Excellence 'Asia Europe in a Global Context' at Heidelberg.

Amit's work on migrant communities received the Commonwealth Photographic Award (2011). His work on the migrant children living in Mumbai is supported by a fellowship from National Foundation of India (2010). His work on India's visual culture is supported by Tasveer Ghar through the South Asian Popular Visual Culture fellowship (2008 and 2010). Amit was awarded TOTO Funds the Arts' Emerging Photographer of the year (2009). Amit's work has been published and shown through solo and group exhibitions worldwide.



**ANURUPA ROY** is a puppeteer by profession. She has Diplomas in Puppet theatre from DI (Dramatiska Institutet for Film, TV, Drama and Radio) at The University of Stockholm, Sweden and in Guaratelle, traditional glove puppetry, from the Scuola Della Guaratelle (School of Traditional Glove puppetry) in Naples, ITALY .

She has been a research scholar at the Institut de la Marionette at Charleville Mezeires. She is a puppet designer and performer and has directed over 14 full fledged performances (Almost Twelfth Night, About Ram, Virus ka Tamasha, The Kashmir Project to name a few) which have toured festivals in India and abroad. She is the founder and managing trustee of the Kat-katha Puppet Arts Trust, New Delhi.

Anurupa has used puppetry as a tool of empowerment of women and youth through several grass-root level interventions in areas of gender and health. She is the co-founder of the 15 Minute Fringe Festival and has been the recipient of the Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar 2006 and the WISCOMP Fellowship of Peace in 2005.



**ARUN PATUA** is from Satpolsa, a village in Bhirbhum, West Bengal. He and his brothers are some of the few patachitrakars who still travel from village-to-village singing their scrolls. He often makes scrolls for sale in craft fairs and festivals.

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**GUNDURAJU** is a leather puppeteer from Hassana, Karnataka. He began performing in puppet shows when he was 5 years old, and has since built his skills in singing, puppet-making, painting and playing accompanying musical instruments. He has performed at cultural events in New Delhi, Rajasthan, Haryana, Khajuraho, Kuwait and South Korea, where he won a silver medal for his performance. He is the recipient of: Karnataka Janaka Award, Karnataka Gyanapada Parishat Award, Karnataka Sahitya Parishat Award and Karnataka Drama Academy Award.

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**DWARKA PRASAD** is a maker of Kaavads, toys, puppets and wooden horses from Bassi, Chittor, Rajasthan. He is skilled at carpentry, wood carving and painting. He has worked with Dastakaari Haat Samiti (Delhi, Bangalore, Mumbai and Chennai), Kala Maadhyam (Bangalore), Karigar Haat Samiti (Kolkata), Katha Books (New Delhi) and Crafts Museum.

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**HANIF KURESHI** is an independent graphic designer and typographer from MSU Baroda. His current project ([handpaintedtype.com](http://handpaintedtype.com)) attempts to conserve and archive the vernacular street typography of India. His work has been featured by Centre Pompidou, Triennale Design Museum and the Type Director's Club among others. He worked with Ogilvy and WK Delhi before founding his own studio. He lives and works in New Delhi.

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**KOJARAM** is a Kaavad performer and farmer who lives in Ramgarh, Jaisalmer district of Rajasthan. He has worked with and performed for Lok Kala Mandal and Ms. Nina Sabnani. He has also been featured in Ms. Sabnani's film on Kaavad titled 'Maker of Tales'.

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**MEDHAVI GANDHU** works with artists and craftsmen across the country to tell stories of different traditions and communities. She started the Happy Hands Foundation in 2009 that enables artists to develop creative and design processes to make their craft sustainable and market-ready. She founded the artist led initiative and brand 'The People's Project' in 2010 which includes collaborative art residencies, studio experiments, public art work and other innovative design projects. She believes artists have the power to create social impact through their art. Medhavi is a recipient of the Asia Pacific Fellowship, the Jury Prize at the Young Creative Entrepreneurs Award of the British Council India, 5th Indira Award for Entrepreneurship and Social Innovation, and is an alumnus of the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) of the State Department of the USA. Medhavi holds an MBA degree in Communication Management from SIMC, Pune, and is a freelance children's storywriter as well.

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**NIA MURPHY** studied at Central Saint Martins School of Art and Design in London. A graphic designer working predominantly in book design, she joined Tara Books in 2011. Since then she has worked on a number of book projects with Patua, Gond and folk artists from India as well as contemporary fine artists and illustrators from across the world.

Tara Books is an independent publisher based in Chennai. Founded in 1994 by a group of writers and designers committed to feminist and egalitarian principles, Tara now works with authors, artists, illustrators and designers from India and the rest of the world. Their largely visual books are distinct in content and form, spanning and defying a range of genres. From the beginning Tara has worked to bring Indian tribal and folk art to the form of the book as well as pushing the boundaries of handmade book production through their fair-trade workshop in Chennai.

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**ORIJIT SEN** is a graphic artist and designer based in New Delhi, India. He trained at the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad. He has helped conceptualise, design and execute several exhibition and museum design projects, including the India Pavilion at the World Expo 2005 in Aichi, Japan and the Virasat-e-Khalsa Museum in Anandpur Sahib, Punjab.

Orijit also works with graphic narrative forms. His pioneering graphic novel 'The River of Stories' was published in 1994. He is a one of the founders of the Pao Collective – a group of comics artists and graphic novelists in Delhi.

In 1990, he co-founded People Tree, a centre for design, crafts and sustainable living, which has grown to become a celebrated and unique cultural space in Delhi. He heads People Tree's in-house design studio.

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**PARISMITA SINGH**'s graphic novel 'Hotel at the end of the World' was published in May 2009. She is currently working on a graphic novel for young adults. She also works in primary education and is associated with the ASER Centre, Delhi.

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**RANJANA PANDEY** is a lecturer at MCRC Jamia Millia Islamia, where she teaches a post graduate course in traditional entertainment. She is also a founder member of Jan Madhyam, an NGO which works towards the inclusion of persons with disability in media and education. She has created scripts, directed and produced programmes on a variety of issues related to development, such as – family planning, adult education, conservation of the environment and the health and empowerment of women. She has also written, directed and produced a number of programmes for the television show Khullam Khulla on Doordarshan. As an advisor and expert in the field of puppetry, she is associated with – Asia Pacific Commission, Sangeet Natak Akademi, Ministry of Culture & Unima.

She is currently creating intimate story telling through puppets modules for children and performing them in schools.

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**ROMA CHATTERJI** teaches at the Department of Sociology, Delhi University. She has an abiding interest in forms of narrative especially as they emerge in unexpected places such as in painterly traditions and bureaucratic dossiers. Her latest book is called 'Speaking with Pictures: Folk Art and the Narrative Imagination in India' (Routledge, 2012).

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**SUMAN CHITRAKAR** is a patachitrakar who lives in Naya, in Midnapore, West Bengal. Significantly, He has provided artwork for two books – one on Bono Bibi (Bono Debi) of the Sunderbans and another on the life of Savitribai Phule.

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**RUPSONA CHITRAKAR** is a patachitrakar from the village Naya in Midnapore, West Bengal. A skilled painter, she is particularly known for her santhal pats – which depict the lives and mythologies of the santhal tribe. Rupsona has taken her work to cultural events at Kolkata, Delhi and Goa. She has also worked extensively with her father Bahadur Chitrakar.

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**VISHWAJYOTI GHOSH** is the author of the critically acclaimed graphic novel Delhi Calm. His graphic narratives are regularly published in various journals and anthologies, both in India and abroad. His published work includes contributions in international anthologies, 'When Kukbhushan met Stockli' and 'Cntrl.Alt.Shift Unmasks Corruption', and 'Times New Roman and Countrymen', a set of picture postcards on contemporary classifieds. Ghosh is also the author of the weekly political cartoon 'Full Toss' in a leading Indian newspaper. Currently Ghosh is curating 'This Side That side', an anthology on Indian subcontinent's partition with graphic narratives from Pakistan, India and Bangladesh.

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## CORE TEAM



**VIDYUN SABHANEY** is a Delhi-based comic book writer. She has worked with and been published by – Braft Publications, Radio Mirchi, COMIX.INDIA, Apne Aap Women Worldwide and Campfire Comics. In July 2012, she released her first self-published comic titled 'Mice Will Be Mice', and her work 'Chilka' was published in an anthology of Indian comics by Penguin India in August 2012. Currently, she is working on a study of traditional visual story-telling formats from the perspective of a comic book writer/artist, for which she has been awarded a grant from India Foundation for the Arts (IFA) in 2011. 'Image & Word: Workshop on Storytelling' is an outcome of this research. She regularly collaborates with Japanese Manga artist Shohei Emura, who is also a part of the same project, to create an online archive of their documentation and a graphic travelogue based their fieldwork.



**SHOHEI EMURA** is a comic book artist, illustrator and painter based in New Delhi. Since graduating from the Fine Arts Faculty at MSU Baroda in 2005, he has worked with and been published by: Penguin India, Radio Mirchi, MRM, Rubbabu, The YP Foundation and Captain Bijli Comics. Significantly, his work 'Chilka' has recently been published in PAO: Anthology of Comics I (Penguin India). Currently, he is collaborating with Vidyun Sabhaney on their research on visual storytelling traditions of India. He also teaches art and craft independently and at schools across Delhi.

## LOGISTICS



**BHNAVI ARORA** is a recent fashion design graduate from Pearl Academy of Fashion. Through this course she discovered her love for graphics and illustration, and is now a full-time graphic designer. She is also keenly interested in shared-space collaborations. In the past, she has worked with Turmeric Design and is currently a Junior Graphic Designer with Neha Tulsian. At 'Image & Word' she has taken on a slightly different role as head of the logistics team.



## SPECIAL THANKS

This project has been supported by India Foundation for the Arts since its inception, with additional support for the workshop from Ms. Rajika Puri towards travel scholarships and honorariums for our traditional artists.



I F A

### India Foundation for the Arts (IFA)

India Foundation for the Arts (IFA) is one of the country's leading independent arts funders, championing the cause of arts philanthropy and advocating the importance of the arts in public life. In the last decade and a half it has substantially enriched India's cultural landscape and infused passion and professionalism into the business of arts philanthropy.

IFA was set up in 1993 in Bangalore, to focus on urgent but unattended needs in specific areas of the arts. Since it began it has committed over seventeen crore rupees (three million, one hundred and fifty thousand US dollars) to projects located in almost every corner of the country. Its support has gone out to independent research and teaching institutions, cultural and development organisations, scholars and artists.

Today it funds cutting edge artistic practice, supports initiatives to bring the arts into the classroom, assists in institution development and infrastructure creation, funds research in the arts, helps in the preservation and transmission of valuable cultural knowledge, and creates public platforms for the dissemination and advocacy of the arts. It also act as a source of information and expertise to those in the arts community and beyond.



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## Rajika Puri

**(Dancer, Storyteller, Choreographer)**

Trained in Bharatanatyam and Odissi, Rajika performed solo recitals internationally for many years, including a command performance for the President of Mexico. Since 1986, when she played the dual role of 'Narrator/Kali' in a Lincoln Center production directed by Julie Taymor (of Lion King & Spiderman fame), she has had an active career in western theatre – Shakespeare, Greek drama – with major theatre companies in America. Her films include Mira Nair's 'Mississippi Masala', Dev Benegal's 'Split Wide Open', & Danny Leiner's 'The Great New Wonderful'.

In 1986 Rajika began to develop a form of danced storytelling in which she sings or chants in Sanskrit and narrates an English text as she dances. Evening-length works, like 'TAPASYA: Ascetic Power and Tales of the Ganges (2009)', unfold a theme through choreographed dances set to 'new' Indian music and danced stories from Indian myth. A solo show 'DEVI-MALIKA: garland of danced stories on the feminine divine in India' was presented off-Broadway (NY 2008). Her Ted India presentation on 'The Importance of Myth' (2010), including two danced stories, can be found online by googling 'Rajika Puri myth'.

Rajika feels extremely indebted to the many, many storytelling traditions of India – and thus is honoured to help support the storytellers of the IMAGE & WORD workshop.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank - our partners:  
Sanskriti Foundation and The YP  
Foundation, for their support.



**About Sanskriti Foundation:** Sanskriti literally means the 'process of cultivating'. Heritage is its fruit. The need to create, to discover, to imagine is universal and requires expression and therefore support. The purpose of Sanskriti Foundation is to cultivate an environment for the preservation and development of the artistic and cultural expressions of India and of the world as a whole. Established in 1978, Sanskriti Foundation is a registered Public Charitable Trust based in New Delhi, India. Sanskriti perceives its role as that of a catalyst, in revitalising cultural sensitivity in contemporary times.



**About The YP Foundation:** The YP Foundation is a youth run and led organisation that supports and enables young people to create programmes and influence policies in the areas of gender, sexuality, health, education, the arts & governance. The organisation promotes, protects and advances young people's human rights by building leadership, and strengthening youth led initiatives and movements. Founded in 2002, we have worked over the last 8 years directly with 5,000 young people to set up over 200 projects in India, reaching out to 300,000 young people.

**Our translators at the workshop:** Sourav Brahmachari, Asmita Sarkar, Nilotpal Bhattacharjee and Tanvi Prakash

**Our volunteers:** Vriti Bajaj, Shivangi Sharma, Chhavi Mongia, Prachi Dhawan and Ishan Saluja

**Our documentation team:** Bhamati Sivapalan, Payal Wadhwa and Alexandra Moskovchuk

**Our translators during our fieldwork:** Megha Bhaduri and Jaivrati Singh

**Our graphic designer:** Khyati Trehan

## Our advisors, well-wishers and friends:

Angarika Guha

Chinmay De

Ranjit Sabhaney

Anupam Puri

Gautam Bhatia

Reiko Emura

Anushka Rajendran

Mitsuhiro Emura

Shubhra Tandon

Arpita Das

Orijit Sen

Arundhati Ghosh

Prableen Sabhaney



