



# ARTS EDUCATION: RESPONDING TO CHANGING LANDSCAPES

## Biographies

**Abhisheka Krishnagopal** is a Bangalore-based artist, ecologist and educator currently working with Nature Conservation Foundation, Bangalore. With an educational background in Fine Arts, Ecology and Environment, and Social Sciences, Abhisheka has more than a decade of experience in urban wildlife rescue and rehabilitation, wildlife research, nature education, and communication. She has a keen interest in exploring the intersection between art and ecological sciences, and in finding new ways to make conversations around nature conservation engaging.

**Anant Maringanti** is the director of the Hyderabad Urban Lab, a non-profit multi-disciplinary urban research organisation. A graduate of the University of Minnesota with a PhD in Geography, Environment, and Society, Anant has taught graduate courses at the National University of Singapore and University of Hyderabad. His academic and professional career has centered on interdisciplinary approaches to critical global challenges, with a particular focus on South Asia.

**Arpitha RG** is a visual artist trained at Bangalore University, with an interest and commitment to arts education projects. As a practicing artist, she has showcased her work at numerous art shows.

**Aruna BT** is a trained theatre person and an active practitioner from Channagiri, Davanagere. He has been conducting arts integrated workshops for children across Karnataka. His training at NSD Bangalore has opened new ways for him to engage in the field of Theatre in Education.

**Ashok Totnalli** is a drama teacher from Sedam, Kalaburagi, and has been working in the field since 2008. He studied at Gulbarga University and trained at Ninasam. He has been part of the Kali Kalisu teacher training programme. His students have staged multiple plays across Karnataka over the years.

**Baby Biradar** is a Visual Arts teacher at the Ramalingeshwara Government High School, Muchalamba, Bidar. Having been exposed to various forms of visual arts, Baby has

developed a 3D book titled *Vismaya Rekhaloka* (Amazing world of lines) on geometrical figures.

**B Padma Reddy** is a practicing painter and printmaker based in Hyderabad. Two of her central passions have been art and children. She has been involved as a pedagogue for more than 30 years at Kendriya Vidyalaya and other voluntary organisations. She has conducted and participated in numerous workshops, exhibitions and competitions at the national and international levels as an artist and art teacher. She continues to work with rural and economically disadvantaged children and young adults through the Sanskriti Rural Art Center in Hyderguda village, Hyderabad.

**Blaise Joseph**, as a visual artist and art educator, has been involved in community based art projects as an art consultant and facilitator to several research based funding organisations. In his art practice he engages with socio-economic, political, and ecological relationships with people and places. The community based Art education projects and workshops that he undertakes address children, parents, teachers, youth, college students, rural communities, educational policy makers, prisoners, programme managers of NGOs, art educators, and families across India. Since 2018, he has been the Programme Director of the Art By Children (ABC) Programme at the Kochi Biennale Foundation and the curator of its Art Room Project.

**Chandahas Y Jalihal** is a practicing artist with more than two decades of teaching experience in visual arts at MMK College of Fine Arts, Kalaburagi. He has a post-graduate diploma in printmaking from Santiniketan.

**Feroze MNA** is a theatre practitioner and an alumni of National School of Drama, New Delhi, specialising in Theatre In Education (TIE). He has acted in, directed and produced more than 30 theatre productions in different languages with more than 300 performances across the country.

**Ganesh Kumar Malthurkar (Gannu)** is a PhD scholar in Art Education, IIT Hyderabad (Department of Design) and an accomplished sculptor, and a passionate educator. With four innovation patents under his name, he currently serves as the Vice President of the Telangana Sculptors and Artists Association (TSAA).

**Ganganna** is an Assistant Teacher and is enthusiastically involved in various Kannada literary activities in Raichur district. He is also passionate about documenting different folk genres found around his native town, Karatagi, Koppal.

**Gayatri Nair** is a photographer, arts manager and educator from Chennai. She co-founded the Chennai Photo Biennale Foundation and heads CPB Prism, the foundation's educational division, where she integrates arts-based learning in education through curriculum development, teacher training, children's literature publishing, and workshops.

**Gundappa Goudgol** is a retired government school visual arts teacher from Kamalapur, Kalaburagi. His science, language, and mathematics models have been permanently featured in several educational institutions throughout Karnataka. He is renowned for crafting models using waste materials.

**Gundurao Desai** is an Assistant Teacher at the Government Higher Primary School at Medakinala, Maski, Raichur. He is also known in the Kannada literary world. At a personal level, he has kept himself updated on the developments in literature and theatre in the region. He regularly contributes on various topics to many popular Kannada magazines.

**Gururaj L** is a special teacher of drama at Government Pre-University College, High School Section, Koppal. He has vast experience in documenting a range of folk traditions that stretch from a relatively unknown repertoire of domestic work songs of women to the more established theatre and dance forms available within the community around the Koppal district in Karnataka.

**Jahanara** is an Assistant Teacher at the Government Higher Primary School, Gandhinagar, Kustagi, Koppal. She comes from the pool of trained facilitators who underwent the Kali Kalisu orientation workshop that was conducted in Pavagada in 2018. Having been exposed to various forms of literary arts, she uses her skills to aid the learning process of her students.

**Kishan Rao Kulkarni** is a social science teacher at the High School section of the Government Pre-University College, Hanumasagara, Koppal. He has been a columnist for various Kannada newspapers and magazines.

**Kotresh B** is a high school teacher in Hagaribommanahalli, Hospet. He is known for publishing the students' newspaper *Pencil* in Sindhanur, Raichur. He was selected for the Youth Icon Felicitation Programme 2020 by Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, a first for a primary school teacher from Karnataka.

**Dr KN Ganeshiah** is an agricultural scientist and Professor Emeritus of University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore. Throughout his career, he has delved into a diverse array of research domains, including Evolutionary Ecology of Plants, Insect-Plant Interactions, Insect Behavior, Biodiversity Mapping, Documentation, and Conservation. He has published over 180 research papers and 11 scientific books. Beyond his contributions to science, Dr Ganeshiah is also a prolific writer in Kannada. He has authored numerous novels and short stories.

**Likla Lall** has a Master's in English literature from University of Mumbai and is an award-winning children's book writer. She has published *Art is a Verb*, *Somnath Hore: Wounds* and *Abanindranath's House of Stories* with Art1st Books. She writes comics about nature with her sister and illustrator Keya Lall and is a part of PanicNot!, a storytelling collective. Likla reads voraciously and is curious about art, history, dance, and unconventional story formats.

**Lina Vincent** is an independent art historian and curator with two decades of experience in arts management. She is committed to socially engaged practices that reflect in the multi-disciplinary projects she has developed and participated in. Her research areas include arts education, printmaking history and practice, the documentation of living traditions, and environmental consciousness in the arts. Since 2021, she heads the Sunaparanta Art Initiator Lab (SAIL) mentorship programme, Goa. She regularly curates exhibitions and contributes to publications on art history and contemporary cultural practices.

**Madhukar** is a drama teacher at the Adarsha School, Mellahalli, Chamarajanagar. He is known for his innovative approach to teaching where he incorporates various art forms like puppetry, origami and theatre into his pedagogies. He has facilitated Theatre-in-Education workshops for students across Mysore.

**Mallikarjun Veeranna Karoli** is a visual arts teacher from Kalaburagi. He has a Master's in Visual Arts from Kalaburagi University. His engaging projects and collaborative exhibitions have earned him recognition within the school and the broader community.

**Muralidhar** is a retired government school Headmaster known for his innovative approaches to teaching through the art of origami. He actively participates in activities with Science and Math Clubs in Mysore.

**Muththamizh Kalai Vizhi** is a leader in social engineering, education, and advocacy for marginalised communities. As the Founder and CEO of Neelam Trust, Muththamizh has empowered over 15,000 first-generation learners through 25 academies that use folk arts, theater, and creative expression to build confidence and cultural pride among Dalit and tribal children. Currently, as the State Lead for Holistic Development and Progressive Education in Tamil Nadu Model Schools Society, she designs programmes integrating Social Labs, arts, gender-responsive education, and community empowerment. A passionate theater artist, director, and documentary filmmaker, Muththamizh uses performance as a medium for children to explore societal themes and foster self-expression.

**Nitin Ranveer Sinha** is an academician, conservation architect, arts & heritage management strategist, and a PhD Scholar at IIT Hyderabad in the Department of Design.

**R Srinivasan** retired as Professor, Department of Econometrics, University of Madras in 2023. He was the Registrar of University of Madras from 2017-2020. He has been a member of the State Planning Commission, Government of Tamil Nadu since 2021 and a member of a few committees and commissions in the Government of Tamil Nadu since 2003.

**Radha Gomaty** has studied Design at NID, Ahmedabad, Painting at the Faculty of Fine Arts, Maharaja Sayajirao University, Baroda and History of Art at Visva-Bharati University, Santiniketan. Radha is also a published poet who works with a range of media including

video, painting, and sculpture. Two of her works are in the permanent collection of the Museum of Sacred Art in Brussels, Belgium.

**Ramgiri Police Patil** is a visual arts practitioner trained at The Ideal Fine Art Institute, Kalaburagi. He has showcased his works at numerous art galleries and exhibitions. He has been recognised for his work by institutions like Gumbaz Art Association, Tasmiya Art Society, Karnataka Lalithakala Academy, Manav Sanket Academy, and Gulbarga Akademi of Fine Arts.

**Revathi R**, a filmmaker and journalist, started the Vanavil Trust in 2004. Vanavil School is an alternative residential school run by the Trust in Keezhakaraiyiruppu village near Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu. She has been living and working closely with Nomadic Tribes in Tamil Nadu.

**Sahana Pinjara** has studied at the National School of Drama, New Delhi, Ninasam, and received a PhD in Performing Arts from Bangalore University. She grew up in Azad Nagar, near Hospet, and witnessed many social issues which adversely impacted people and families. Deeply motivated to address these, she conducts free drama camps for underprivileged children, and stages plays about social issues.

**Sameen Almas** is the Director – Projects at NalandaWay Foundation. She currently oversees projects across North India, partners with government stakeholders and donors, and leads the adolescent girls' programme (Sakhi) of the Foundation. With a work experience spanning over 15 years in the development sector, her expertise has been in research and programme management for projects related to child rights and education, human rights, social exclusion and livelihoods. Sameen is also a visual artist, with a keen interest in urban sketching and calligraphy.

**Sangeetha Kadur** is a wildlife artist passionate about showcasing India's natural heritage through her artwork. With nearly two decades of experience, she has illustrated for renowned publications and collaborated with leading wildlife organisations on art-ecology projects. She co-founded Greenscraps, an initiative that promotes nature journaling workshops across India, inspiring people to connect with nature through art. Expanding her impact, Sangeetha has taken on a curatorial role, leading teams to design interactive exhibits, visual panels, and installations that raise conservation awareness. Through her art and outreach, she continues to bridge the gap between science and creativity to deepen the appreciation for biodiversity in India.

**Sanjana Rangan** is the Communications Manager at Prayoga. She has completed her Master's in Museology from the National Museum Institute, New Delhi. She engages with historical collections and educational initiatives at museums, combining her passion for education with her expertise in communications. Her strengths lie in facilitating dialogues at

the museum between people, spaces and times. She has worked with institutions such as the RBF Sanganakallu Museum and the ASI Hampi Circle.

**Shantamani** is a special teacher of drama at Karnataka Public School, Koppal. She holds a Diploma in Theatre, and has inspired her students to explore their creative potential through acting, directing, and stage production. Known for her innovative teaching methods, Shantamani seamlessly integrates drama with other academic subjects, fostering a holistic learning environment.

**Shekhawat Chandra** (CS Shekhawat) is an IT professional, and a passionate theatre enthusiast, who began practicing theatre with Sifar in 2012. Since then he has worked as an actor and production support for a number of plays that include both originals as well as adaptations.

**Shivananda Hombal** (Shihom) is passionate about Kannada literature, language, history, and education. He has studied Kannada literature and language and has taught students from 1990 to 2000. He has also created curriculum-supportive resource materials for history and Kannada language teaching through Dhvani Trust. Shivananda has published work books, language activity books, and edited numerous others. His areas of interest include history, art, story reading and telling, spiritualism, and translation.

**Shivanayak Dhore** is an active theatre practitioner and special teacher of drama from Kudligi. Trained at Ninasam, he has received state awards for his creative productions.

**Siddappa Biradar** is an Assistant Teacher at the Government High School, Chibbalageri, Uttara Kannada district. He has engaged with the community at an individual level to build relationships to ensure that the children attend school regularly. He has also employed activity-based learning in the school, giving him statewide recognition. He has participated in training programmes by IFA and Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT).

**Sreya Saraswatula** is a designer and zine maker based in Hyderabad and Delhi. She is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Social Design at Ambedkar University. She works at the intersections of art and design - from publication design, furniture sourcing to exhibition design. Her most recent projects include *Listening Room*, a student project exhibiting and archiving subaltern feminist songs.

**Suryakanth Nandur** has a Master's in Visual Arts and is also a practicing artist from Kalaburagi. He is currently working as a visual arts teacher and has showcased his art works at various prestigious galleries and arts events across India.

**Swathi Vellal Raghunandan** is the Founder Director of Ishanya India Foundation, a not-for-profit organisation working with Persons With Disabilities (PWDs) in Bangalore. She holds Master's degrees in Special Educational Needs and Inclusion from University of

Northampton, UK and in Clinical Psychology from Christ University, Bangalore. A keen researcher, she has presented papers at national and international seminars, publishing a paper in the *Good Autism Practice Journal* of the British Institute of Learning Disabilities.

**Syed Fakruddin Huseni** is a Sanjhi artist and a matchbox collector (of over 30,000 matchboxes) from Bangalore. He is trained in the art of paper stenciling practiced across Mathura and Vrindavan. He has conducted workshops for children across Karnataka.

**Syed Sadiq S (Riyaz)** is a graduate of Ninasam and an active theatre practitioner from Hospet. He has served as a director, an artist and light designer with theatre groups at Hospet, Dharwad, Shivamogga, and Mysore. He has also worked as a drama teacher at Kautilya Vidyalaya, Mysore and has been conducting theatre workshops for children for years.

**Tajuddin Azad** is a photojournalist working with the Prajavani newspaper. He has a Diploma in Theatre Arts from Ninasam. Tajuddin has worked on several theatre productions and conducted theatre and language workshops for children. He is passionate about photographing the city and landscapes, and has attended various workshops on these subjects.

**Vidya Rao** is a Hindustani classical singer and writer. Her repertoire ranges from thumri-dadra and ghazal, to the songs of medieval Sufi and Bhakti poets, verses from Hindu and Buddhist texts and Islamic styles of music. Her book, *Heart to Heart: Remembering Nainaji*, is a memoir of her guru Naina Devi. Vidya has been the recipient of a fellowship from the Ford Foundation, and a senior fellowship from the Ministry of Culture (Government of India). She has been a Visiting Professor at the School of Arts and Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, and a Visiting Fellow at the Centre for Advanced Study, Jadavpur University, Kolkata.

**Vinay Abhishekh Vemu** is a communications professional with 15 years of experience in writing and producing content for the web, print and creative sector. His theatre journey started with Sifar in 2012 and he continues to learn, practice, write, act, and help with production.