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India Foundation for the Arts (IFA) in collaboration with
Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan, New Delhi and supported by
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Archives and Museums—Old Routes/New Journeys*

A Conference on Critical and Creative Approaches to Making Collections Public

DATES: Wednesday, March 07 & Thursday, March 08, 2018

TIME: 09:30 AM to 06:30 PM

VENUE: Siddhartha Hall, Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan

No 3, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi

DAY 1: Wednesday, March 07, 2018 | 9:30 AM to 06:30 PM

09:30 to 10:00 AM: Registration

10:00 to 10:30 AM: Introduction and Opening Remarks

Leonhard Emmerling (Regional Programme Director, South Asia, Goethe-Institut), **Arundhati Ghosh** (Executive Director, IFA) and **Suman Gopinath** (Programme Executive, Archival and Museum Fellowships, IFA)

10:30 to 11:30 AM: Keynote Address

Rustom Bharucha (Professor, Theatre and Performance Studies, School of Arts and Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi)

11:30 to 11:45 AM: Tea

11:45 AM to 01:15 PM: Panel I: Re-Presenting Histories: New Narratives from Museum Collections

This session features the museums as well as the artists and curators that IFA has supported through the Archival and Museum Fellowships. It will focus on the different ways in which collections have been curated in order to explore marginal and untold histories that often challenge dominant narratives. The session will also attempt to highlight issues such as interpretations and representations.

Panellists:

- **Jyoti Roy** (Arts and Museums Manager)/ **Suchitra Balasubrahmanyam** (Professor, School of Design, Ambedkar University, Delhi)
- **Muzammil Hussain** (Head of Outreach, Munshi Aziz Bhat Museum, Kargil)/ **Latika Gupta** (Curator and Associate Editor, MARG Publications)
- **Abeer Gupta** (Assistant Professor, School of Design, Ambedkar University, Delhi)
- **YS Wunglengton** (Director of Museums, Assam)/ **Sonal Jain** (Desire Machine Collective, Guwahati)

Moderator: **Venu Vasudevan** (Principal Secretary, Tourism, Kerala, and Former Director General, National Museum, New Delhi)

01:15 to 02:15 PM: Lunch Break

For Speakers, food will be provided at the café

For Attendees, food at the café will be available at a special rate

02:15 to 03:45 PM: Panel II: Re-Searching Stories: Interventions in Archives

One of the objectives of the Archival and Museum Fellowships supported by IFA is to make archives accessible to creative practitioners. This session will focus on case studies of archives and artists who have received our support to animate them, create new readings, and make them 'living archives'.

Panellists:

- **Tapati Guha-Thakurta** (Professor in History, and Former Director, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta)/ **Afrak Shafiq** (Multimedia Artist) and **Vishwajyoti Ghosh** (Graphic Novelist)
- **Shubha Chaudhuri** (Associate Director General (Academic), The Archives and Research Center for Ethnomusicology, American Institute of Indian Studies, Gurgaon)/ **Priya Sen** (Filmmaker and Artist)
- **Surajit Sarkar** (Associate Professor, and Coordinator, Centre for Community Knowledge, Ambedkar University, Delhi)/ **Bhavin Shukla** (Architect and Educator)
- **Rongili Biswas** (Economist and Musician)

Moderator: **Sabih Ahmed** (Senior Researcher, Asia Art Archive)

03:45 to 04:00 PM: Tea

04:00 to 05:30 PM: Presenting and Performing the Archive

- **Martin Groh** (Research Associate, The documenta archiv - documenta und Museum Fridericianum gGmbH, Kassel, Germany) will present on an archive that has grown out of one of the most important exhibitions in the world, *Documenta*, in the city of Kassel, Germany.
- **Sudhanva Deshpande** (Actor, Theatre Director, and Publisher) will present excerpts from the play *Shamuk Vadh*, based on a little-known episode in the Ramayana. This play, which has evolved from archival material from different texts, highlights the politics of caste, language, and gender.

05:30 to 06:30 PM: Museums and Heritage: Past and Future

Romila Thapar (Emeritus Professor in History, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi) in conversation with **Latika Gupta** (Curator and Associate Editor, MARG Publications)

DAY 2: Thursday, March 08, 2018 | 10:00 AM to 05:30 PM

10:00 to 10:30 AM: Registration

10:30 to 11:30 AM: Keynote Address

Susie Tharu (Former Professor, Departments of Literature and Cultural Studies, The English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad and Member, Subaltern Studies Collective)

11:30 to 11:45 AM: Tea

11:45 AM to 01:15 PM: Panel III: Re-Accessing the Archive: Issues of Access, Ethical and Legal concerns

This session will feature case studies of three institutional archives (music/visual/textual) together with presentations by an independent scholar/curator and a lawyer. It will also focus on the role of Intellectual Property law, policy, and practice in relation to archives that both preserve and promote the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of India.

Panellists:

- **Amlan Das Gupta** (Professor, Department of English and Director, the School of Cultural Texts and Records, Jadavpur University, Kolkata)
- **Srijan Deshpande** (Manager and Curator, Samvaad Foundation, Mumbai and Saptak Archives, Ahmedabad)
- **G Sundar** (Director, Roja Muthaiah Research Library, Chennai)
- **Sita Reddy** (Independent Scholar and Curator)
- **Swathi Sukumar** (Intellectual Property Lawyer)

Moderator: **Moinak Biswas** (Professor, Department of Film Studies, Jadavpur University, Kolkata)

01:15 to 02:15 PM: Lunch Break

For Speakers, food will be provided at the café

For Attendees, food at the café will be available at a special rate

02:15 to 04:00 PM: Panel IV: Re-Imagining Journeys: Futures of Collections in Archives and Museums

The last session will consider the role of archives and museums in the 21st century – can these spaces be re-invented to reflect the challenges of the contemporary world? Is it 'space' first and 'art' second, or can it be the other way round? Is it possible to think of a new notion of these spaces that do not set out to 'monumentalise', but rather 'lend a voice and listen to those who have none?'

Panellists:

- **Avni Sethi** (Dancer and Founder, Conflictorium)
- **Jahnvi Phalkey** (Founding Director, Science Gallery, Bengaluru)
- **Martin Groh** (Research Associate, The documenta archive - documenta und Museum Fridericianum gGmbH, Kassel)
- **Naman P Ahuja** (Curator; Professor, Visual Studies, School of Arts and Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, and Co-Editor, MARG Publications)
- **Rahul Gore** (Founder Partner, OPOLIS architects; designer of Bihar Museum in partnership with Maki and Associates, Japan)
- **Sarit Kumar Chaudhuri** (Director, Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, Bhopal)

Moderator: **Shuddhabrata Sengupta** (Artist and Curator, Raqs Media Collective)

04:00 to 04:15 PM: Concluding Remarks

Shuddhabrata Sengupta (Artist and Curator, Raqs Media Collective)

04:30 to 05:30 PM: Performing the Archive

Lady Anandi, a performance by Anuja Ghosalkar

VENUE: Library, Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan, New Delhi

Anuja Ghosalkar is a theatre actor, writer, and director based in Bangalore. Her documentary theatre performance – *Lady Anandi* – drawn from personal archives, tells the story of Lady F, an actor haunted by the ghost of her maternal great-grandfather, a female impersonator in Marathi theatre in the late 19th century.

The conference is free and open to all

**The title of the conference is taken from Abeer Gupta's project of the same name, as part of his Archival and Museum Fellowship at Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, Bhopal*

For queries on the conference, please contact Pramila at pramila@indiaifa.org or call Tanveer Ajsi at +91 98803 00118