

FACING HISTORY AND OURSELVES

REVISITING ARCHIVES AND MUSEUMS IN THE 21ST CENTURY INDIA

India Foundation for the Arts (IFA) in association with Emami Art presents

Facing History and Ourselves*

Revisiting Archives and Museums in the 21st Century India

Friday, December 02 & Saturday, December 03, 2022

Emami Art, Kolkata

Introduction to the Collaborators

Star of Mysore, launched in 1978, is a local English evening newspaper from Mysuru and is the only 'subscribed' evening paper in the country. Founded by KB Ganapathy and the late CP Chinnappa, the paper, together with its sister publication Mysuru Mithra, are published by the Academy Newspapers Pvt Ltd, Mysuru. The archive has copies of the physical newspapers printed from the late 1970s and digital copies of the online version.

SL Bhatia History of Medicine Museum, Library and Archives, Bangalore, established in 1974 is housed in the Museum Block in St John's Research Institute. Named after Major General Sohan Lal Bhatia (1891-1982), the first Emeritus Professor of the Department of the History of Medicine in St John's Medical College, the museum brings alive the significant phases of the journey of medicine through a collection of medical instruments, models, photographs, paintings, and rare medical books.

Museum of Christian Art (MoCA), Goa, was set up in 1994 in the Seminary of Rachol, in collaboration with the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Portugal and the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), New Delhi. The museum was later relocated in 2001 to the Convent of Santa Monica, in the vicinity of the UNESCO World Heritage site in Old Goa. It has a unique collection of objects that reflects the rich and pluralistic history of Goa.

Victoria Memorial Hall (VMH), Kolkata, was opened to the public in 1921. The brainchild of Lord Curzon, the then viceroy of India, it was dedicated to Queen Victoria. Known as *The Taj of the Raj*, the monument was immediately recognised as one of the finest examples of Indo-British art and architecture after it was completed. It has a collection of 28,394 artefacts and textual archival material encapsulating the history of the Indian subcontinent, beginning from 1650 AD.

People's Archive of Rural India (PARI) is both a living journal and an online archive to record and bring to national focus the labour, livelihoods, languages, art, crafts, histories and cultures of rural Indians. It covers the complexities of rural India, with 833 million people, 780 languages, multiple cultures and unrivalled occupational diversity through video, still photo, audio, and text articles.

Detailed Biographies of Conference Speakers and Performers

- **Aishwarya Amar Kirit** is a Bangalore-based museologist and archivist interested in researching and writing about history and culture. She has previously worked with Eka Archiving Services and Drishyakala. She is the Project Coordinator working with Star of Mysore Archives for the Foundation Project implemented by IFA.
- **Akash Srinivas** is a prehistoric archaeologist and currently a postdoctoral research fellow at Ashoka University, Haryana. He engages in public archaeology on the forum *Chai with History* and the podcast *Chippin' Away*. He is the Project Coordinator working with SL Bhatia History of Medicine Museum, Library & Archives, Bangalore for the Foundation Project implemented by IFA.
- **Ammel Sharon** is currently working at the Queer Archive for Memory, Reflections and Activism (QAMRA), at NSLIU, Bengaluru. She is also a PhD candidate in History at the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta. She is the Project Coordinator working with Star of Mysore Archives for the Foundation Project implemented by IFA.
- **Anant Maringanti** is currently the director of Hyderabad Urban Lab Foundation, a non-profit multi-disciplinary urban research organisation. He is interested in archiving as an artistic, intellectual and political practice.
- **Arjun Motwani** is a doctoral candidate at the Department of English, Jadavpur University, Kolkata. His interests include colonial Calcutta, Orientalism, Indology, the colonial art of Bengal, renaissance studies, and aesthetic theory. He is the Project Coordinator working with Victoria Memorial Hall (VMH), Kolkata for the Foundation Project implemented by IFA.
- **Indira Chowdhury** is an oral historian who has set up several archives of contemporary institutions in India. She works at the Centre for Public History, Srishti Manipal Institute of Art, Design and Technology, Bengaluru.
- **Jayanta Sengupta** is a historian and Director of Victoria Memorial Hall (VMH), Kolkata. He is the author of four books with research interests that include the interrelationship between colonialism, nationalism, and democracy and authoritarianism in modern South Asia, and cultural practices in modern India.
- **Keshav Waghmare** is a writer and Executive Editor of *Amikshan*, a Marathi quarterly magazine. He has been involved in the Dalit Adivasi Adhikar Andolan (DAAA) since 2012 and has been documenting the communities in Marathwada for several years. He is the Project Coordinator working with People's Archive of Rural India (PARI) for the Foundation Project implemented by IFA.
- **Kevin Fernandes** is a researcher and currently the Assistant Professor of English at the Indian Institute of Psychology and Research, Bengaluru. He is collaborating with Project Coordinator Anirudh Kanisetti working with the Museum of Christian Art (MoCA), Goa for the Foundation Project implemented by IFA.

- **Latika Gupta** is trained in visual studies and was a research fellow at SOAS, London (2017) on a Charles Wallace India Trust Fellowship. She has worked as a curator at the NGMA, Delhi, Khoj International Artists' Association and also been an Associate Editor at *Marg*.
- **Madhuja Mukherjee** is Professor of Film Studies at Jadavpur University, Kolkata. She extends her research into art-practice, curatorial work and filmmaking, with primary interests in media histories, practice, and the city. She is the Project Coordinator working with Victoria Memorial Hall (VMH), Kolkata for the Foundation Project implemented by IFA.
- **Mario D'Souza** is a curator, critic, journalist and researcher based in Goa. Some of his interests include political imaginaries, the nation building project, cultures and aesthetics of dissent. He has worked with Khoj International Artists' Association and Kochi-Muziris Biennale. He is the Project Coordinator working with the Museum of Christian Art (MoCA), Goa for the Foundation Project implemented by IFA.
- **Meera Krishnamurthy** makes animation films with handmade puppets, cut outs, and stop motion animation. Her films have been screened at Animafest Zagreb and DubaiExpo 2020. She is the Project Coordinator working with the SL Bhatia History of Medicine Museum, Library & Archives, Bangalore for the Foundation Project implemented by IFA.
- **Namita Waikar** is co-founder of and Managing Editor at the People's Archive of Rural India (PARI), where she also writes for and anchors the *Grindmill Songs Project*. She is a partner in a chemistry databases firm in Pune.
- **Natasha Fernandes** is the Curator of the Museum of Christian Art, Goa. She was awarded a scholarship by Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Portugal and Museum of Christian Art (MoCA), Goa (2006-2007). She has coordinated several museum projects and curated experiences and heritage walks in old Goa.
- **Nobina Gupta** conceived the Disappearing Dialogues (dD) collective that initiates interdisciplinary interactions with positive socio-spatial impact. Her artworks have been showcased worldwide. She is the Project Coordinator working with People's Archive of Rural India (PARI) for the Foundation Project implemented by IFA.
- **Partho Datta** teaches courses in Music History at the School of Arts and Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. He has authored *Planning the City, Urbanization and Reform in Calcutta c.1800 to c.1940* (2012) and co-edited with Narayani Gupta, *Urban Spaces in India* (2018).
- **Radhika Hegde** is a lecturer at the History of Medicine Department in St John's Medical College, Bengaluru, where she curates the SL Bhatia History of Medicine Museum, Library & Archives. Her focus as a historian is at the intersection of social-history, urban space and medicine in Bangalore.

- **Shaleen Wadhwa** curates exhibitions and experiences across global and national museums, heritage sites, and galleries to bring daily audiences closer to South Asian arts, culture, and history. Her recent research was showcased at *The Unfiltered History Tour* by Vice World News at the British Museum, London.
- **Shuddhabrata Sengupta** is a Delhi-based artist and curator with the Raqs Media Collective. The collective's works are part of contemporary art collections and museums and essays published in numerous anthologies. They have also had solo shows in museums, educational and independent art spaces across the world.
- **Subasri Krishnan** is a filmmaker whose works deal with questions of citizenship through the lens of memory, migration and interrogation of official identity documents. She leads the Media Lab at the Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS), Bangalore. She is the Project Coordinator working with People's Archive of Rural India (PARI) for the Foundation Project implemented by IFA.
- **Sumant Balakrishnan** is a META Award winning guitarist, vocalist and songwriter from New Delhi. He is known for his work with acts such as Dastaan Live, Barefaced Liar, Nok Nok and The Aahvaan Project. He has been active in creating projects that push the boundaries of independent music in India.
- **Vedi Sinha** is a writer, storyteller, vocalist and performer based in New Delhi. She began The Aahvaan Project in 2016 as a way to explore the relevance of Nirguna philosophy in the world we inhabit today.

Register [here](#) to attend the conference.

**The title of the Conference is partly taken from the Foundation Project of the same name with Subasri Krishnan, implemented by IFA under the Archives and Museum programme in collaboration with People's Archive of Rural India (PARI).*

The conference is free and open to all and will have Indian Sign Language interpretation.

For all conference related queries and information, please write to contactus@indiaifa.org

The conference is made possible with support from Titan Company Limited, Kshirsagar Apte Foundation and Parijat Foundation.

The Archives and Museums programme in 2020-21 and 2021-22 was part-supported by Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan New Delhi and Parijat Foundation.