

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

Conference Schedule

Day 1 | Friday, December 02, 2022

09:30 AM to 10:00 AM | **Registration**

10:00 AM to 10:10 AM | **Introduction and Opening Remarks**

Arundhati Ghosh (Executive Director, IFA) | Ushmita Sahu (Director and Head Curator, Emami Art) | Ritwika Misra (Programme Officer: Archives and Museums programme, IFA)

10:10 AM to 11:00 AM | **Opening Keynote Address**

Indira Chowdhury (Scholar-in-Residence, Centre for Public History, Srishti Manipal Institute of Art, Design and Technology, Bengaluru)

11:00 AM to 11:30 AM | **Tea Break**



11:30 AM to 01:30 PM | **Panel I: Retelling from Absences**

Historically recognised as institutions with the power to define and confine knowledge, archives and museums are also keepers of peoples' histories and play an important role in safeguarding cultures as well as crafting numerous identities. At the same time, they carry the burden of being exclusionary by prioritising dominant cultures and histories and erasing marginal communities from social memory. This panel brings together four projects that highlight how engagements with archives and museums could facilitate restoration of marginalised narratives and help retell inclusive and diverse stories.

Keshav Waghmare | Subasri Krishnan | Mario D'Souza | Arjun Motwani

Moderator: Latika Gupta

01:30 PM to 02:30 PM | **Break**



02:30 PM to 04:30 PM | **Panel II: Rethinking Public History**

Building on the idea of inclusivity and diversity deliberated upon in the first panel, this session brings together four projects that weigh the possibilities of rethinking history writing based on the understanding of materials from archives and museums, and the lived experiences of people. These parallel and alternative histories will enable new ways of seeing the past in all its diversity, as well as rethink our relationship to it. The panel will explore how linkages between lived histories and institutions also tell us about the advent and evolution of different cultures in various contexts.

Ammel Sharon | Aishwarya Amar Kirit | Madhuja Mukherjee | Nobina Gupta

Moderator: Partho Datta

04:30 PM to 06:00 PM | **Tea Break**



06:00 PM to 07:30 PM | **Performance: *The Aahvaan Project***

Based on the Nirguna philosophy of love and the works of Sufi saints, the performance draws on oral traditions, archival materials, and conversations and showcases them through storytelling and music.

Vedi Sinha (Writer, storyteller, vocalist and performer) | **Sumant Balakrishnan** (Guitarist, vocalist and songwriter)

Day 2 | Saturday, December 03, 2022

10:30 AM to 11:00 AM | **Registration**

11:00 AM to 11:30 AM | **Tea Break**



11:30 AM to 01:30 PM | **Panel III: *Reimagining Access and Outreach***

Archives and museums have a commitment not only to collect and preserve materials from the past but also make them publicly accessible. The advent of digital and audiovisual tools has added to democratisation of audiences and transformed the idea of the privileged museum-goer into a vast pool of virtual audiences who were earlier uninitiated and unexposed to such viewing. However, while digital technologies have made new ways for museum and archival collections to be ubiquitous and exist in non-traditional forms, they have also posed the risk of taking away from the online viewer the experience of physically witnessing the objects. This panel will highlight how creative use of audiovisual media can lead to engagements enabling newer interactions and forging relationships with unconventional audiences.

Meera Krishnamurthy | Akash Srinivas | Kevin Fernandes

Moderator: Shaleen Wadhwana

01:30 PM to 02:30 PM | **Break**



02:30 PM to 04:30 PM | **Panel IV: *Museums and Archives: Renewed Entry Points***

The last session brings together the heads of archives and museums IFA has collaborated with in the last two years to reflect on what archives and museums mean in 21st century India. The panel will discuss the challenges each institution faces in programming, staffing, funding, outreach, and operating while considering their role in enabling the spirit of curiosity, supporting the seeking of knowledge and developing a sense of criticality among citizens.

Namita Waikar | Radhika Hegde | Natasha Fernandes | Jayanta Sengupta

Moderator: Anant Maringanti

04:30 PM to 05:00 PM | **Tea Break**

05:00 PM to 05:50 PM | **Closing Keynote Address**

Shuddhabrata Sengupta (Artist and curator, Raqs Media Collective)

05:50 PM to 06:00 PM | **Valedictory Session**

Arundhati Ghosh | **Ushmita Sahu** | **Ritwika Misra**

Additional Information

Conference Venue

[Emami Art](#)

777, Anandapur, EM Bypass, Kolkata 700 107

+91 33 6623 2300 / +91 6292237612

Nearest Metro Station

[Kavi Subhash \(New Garia\)](#) | 7.2 kilometres away

Garagachha, New Garia, Pancha Sayar, Kolkata 700094

Airport

[Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport](#) | 17.9 kilometres away

Jessore Rd, Dum Dum, Kolkata 700052

Nearest Hospital

[Ruby General Hospital](#) | 1.2 kilometres away

576, Anandapur Main Rd, Golpark, Sector I, Kasba, Kolkata 700107

033 6687 1800

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

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