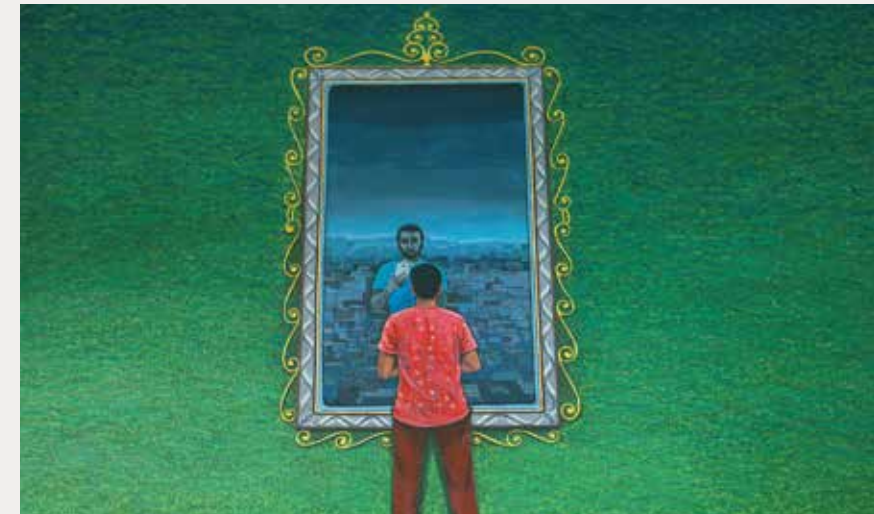


## Art for hope 2024



## Art for hope



**Mr. Unsoo Kim**

Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer  
Hyundai Motor India Limited

“Hyundai Motor India Foundation, under Hyundai’s global vision of ‘Progress for Humanity’, has been working in varied sectors to create opportunities and livelihood for the underserved. With deep respect for art and artists, we connected with various communities and added art collectives to our repertoire in the first two editions of Art for Hope. This year, we fortify our efforts and enhance our reach by including specially-abled artists, in our endeavour to enrich more lives. Keeping our eyes open for things anew, we appreciate inclusion and the myriad perspectives it brings forth. Artists present a glimpse of our world, things beyond we could see with our eyes, and it is this unique perspective and world-view that we truly admire at Hyundai.”

# Hyundai Motor India Foundation

Since 2006, Hyundai Motor India Foundation (HMIF) has been committed to giving back to the society and bringing about positive change. Guided by Hyundai's global vision of 'Progress for Humanity', HMIF is continuously working towards sustainable development and promoting inclusive growth in India. HMIF has undertaken numerous welfare projects under the aegis of Hyundai's Creating Shared Value (CSV) philosophy of 'CONTINUE'. To align with the CSV philosophy, HMIF focuses on three key CSV pillars: 'Earth', 'Mobility' and 'Hope'. This translates to a range of programs promoting community development, art and culture, healthcare, education, vocational training, environment, road-safety, science and technology.

HMIF's diverse initiatives include, 'Sparsh Sanjeevani', bringing healthcare to the doorsteps in rural hinterlands, enabling employment for India's youth and '#BeTheBetterGuy', a road safety campaign. HMIF has been at the forefront of numerous community development projects such as, 'Art for Hope', 'Samarth', 'Dhyan Do', 'H-Social Creator', 'Education on Wheels - Vidya Vahini', and other efforts towards agroforestry, driver health and wellbeing, youth and rural community development, besides others.

HMIF's commitment to social progress in India is here to CONTINUE.

## Art for hope

Launched in 2021, the 'Art for Hope' initiative ignites artistic expression across India. With the objective to unearth and nurture hidden talent in the field of art, craft and culture across the nation, Art for Hope provides social, emotional and financial support to artists through grants. The program supports artists and collectives working on the revival of traditional art forms, in the environmental, social and community centric themes. Along with providing a platform for the artists, the program also acts as a catalyst for dialogue, collaboration and innovation in the artistic landscape. The third edition of the program recognizes 25 artists, 5 art collectives and 10 specially abled artists, selected from across the country, cutting through diverse genres such as visual, digital, performing, folk and traditional art and craft.

## Ability for dignity

Art for Hope's 'Ability for Dignity' initiative ensures no artistic voice is left behind, extending a helping hand to 10 specially abled artists, offering not just financial aid but a comprehensive support system for their progress and growth. Alongside grants, artists and their caregivers receive invaluable artist management and virtual upskilling training, empowering them to thrive in the world of art. This commitment to inclusion supports with Art for Hope's grants to the deserving and impactful artists, paving the way for a brighter, more inclusive artistic landscape in India.

## The journey so far

**2021-22**  
25 grants in 10 states



**2022-23**  
35 grants in 17 states



**2023-24**  
40 grants in 20 states

In the past 2 years, the program has supported over 983 artists cumulatively through 60 grants and seen over 3700+ visitors. This year 40 grants are awarded to artists from 20 states each bringing meaningful change in the society through their art and celebrating the rich diverse culture of India.



# Art for hope



“Art is a reflection of a society’s values, culture and people. It brings to the fore our innermost emotions. We consider it our duty to safeguard the interests of our artists. HMIF has taken it upon itself to support their work and enrich their lives. We congratulate all the winners and hope that the Art for Hope grant will help them in strengthening and popularizing their expression of art.”

**Mr Gopala Krishnan CS**  
CMO, Hyundai Motor India Ltd.  
& Trustee, Hyundai Motor India Foundation



“Nothing unites us more than art. The emotions, thoughts and ideas portrayed through art are universal. Art for Hope is HMIF’s endeavour to uplift the cause of art and encourage the community of artists from diverse backgrounds across India. Besides financial grants, the larger intent is to provide a worthy platform, promote the spirit of collaboration, and foster creativity that inspires mankind.”

**Mr Sarvanan T**  
Function Lead-Finance, Hyundai Motor India Ltd.  
& Trustee, Hyundai Motor India Foundation



“Art for Hope is our flagship social initiative designed to unearth hidden talent in the field of art and culture, and support them socially, emotionally and financially. Hyundai is committed to ‘Progress for Humanity’ through various CSR efforts under its global philosophy of ‘CONTINUE’, and we have been making our society more inclusive, celebrating its rich diversity, and contributing in meaningful ways that make a difference and bring about positive change.”

**Puneet Anand**  
Vertical Head, Corporate Affairs,  
Hyundai Motor India Ltd.

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## Ability for dignity grantees

**Rupak Munje**, a 27-year-old artist born with autism, expresses himself through abstract paintings despite being non-verbal. He trained under American art therapist Melissa Enderle and is mentored by his father Rajendra Munje. Rupak has showcased his work in 48 art shows, gaining global recognition and winning national and international awards, including the Art For Inclusion Fellowship.

**Amrit Khurana**, a young adult on the autism spectrum, finds art as an escape from chaos. She has won awards, featured in 'The Reason I Jump' documentary, held six solo shows, participated in group exhibitions, and received the Art for Inclusion fellowship, touching the hearts of art lovers globally.

**Korok Biswas**, born with Down Syndrome in 2003, faced challenges but found support at School Noble Mission in Kolkata, where his passion for dance blossomed. Despite societal barriers, he excelled in dance, winning awards and dreaming of opening a dance school for individuals with special needs. Supported by his parents and school, he is preparing for his 10th Standard exams through NIOS while pursuing his dance aspirations.

**Varun Naren**, 23, is a vibrant individual known for their infectious smile, humour, and artistic talents in caricatures, doodles, and photography. Despite being diagnosed with Fragile X syndrome, he is dedicated to lifelong learning and spreading joy through teaching workshops on doodling and baking. His work has been featured in galleries across India, and he aspires to continue making a positive impact on others.

**Karan Arora**, born with a hearing impairment, is a talented artist and UI/UX designer at Dell Technologies in Bengaluru. He studied Applied Art at Sir JJ Institute of Applied Art and holds a Master's in graphic design from the National Institute of Design. While excelling in digital design, he maintains a passion for traditional art mediums like watercolour and acrylic painting, as well as sand art, calligraphy, and illustration in his free time.

**Rahul Wahi**, based in Delhi, is pursuing an MFA in Painting at The College of Art. Despite being a thalassaemic major patient, he's captivated by human behaviour and its psychological impact. He explores this through balanced compositions in montage photography.

**Ritika Gupta**, an autistic artist, found solace in art despite late diagnosis and challenges like anxiety and selective mutism. She pursued a career as a freelance illustrator, prioritizing her sensory needs and passion for drawing and painting. Despite ongoing anxiety, art is crucial for her well-being and survival, and she's proud of forging a career that accommodates her uniqueness.

**Simron Raj**, despite a 92% disability, excels in diverse art forms like watercolor, acrylic, and sketching. Graduating with a BFA Visual Communication degree from Government Fine Arts College, his vibrant imagination fuels his connection with the world through art, bringing him immense joy.

**Lokesh V**, a Chennai-based artist, holds a B.Com from St. Louis College for the Deaf and an MBA from the University of Madras. Despite being deaf, his passion for art thrives. Mentored at Bala Vidhyala Speech Impairment School, he gained recognition for his artwork on Global Warming in 2007.

**Shivlal**, fondly called Shibu, embodies resilience and joy despite battling Spastic Quadriplegic Cerebral Palsy. His vibrant spirit and unwavering positivity inspire all who know him, spreading happiness wherever he goes.



## Nature's Harmony

The journey of Art for Hope starts with artworks that celebrate the harmony between nature and humanity. This section includes traditional art, paintings, sculptures, or textiles that depict the interconnectedness of life and the hope found in sustainable coexistence.

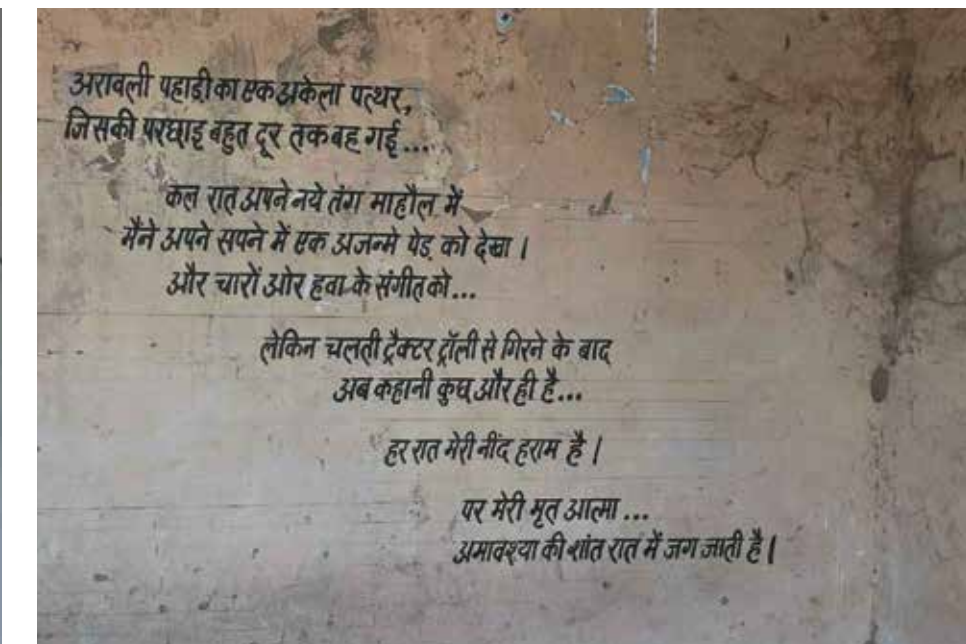
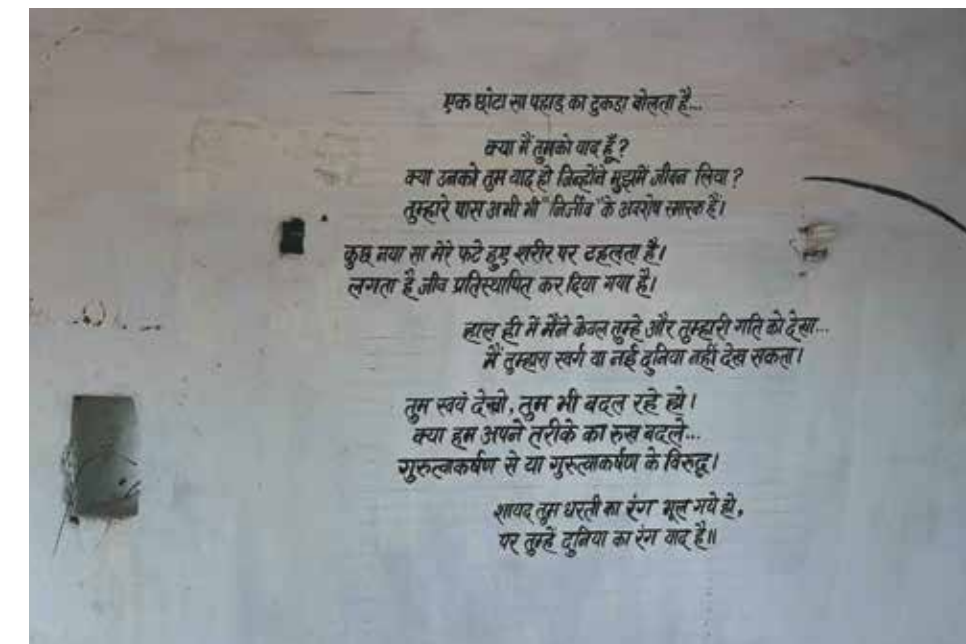




## Ankur Yadav

### Functional Innovative Artist

Ankur Yadav, a painter from Behror, Rajasthan, works with installations, films, photography, poetry, and site-specific interventions. Drawing from literature, philosophy, and daily life, he questions the violence of institutions, culture, and environmental extraction. Currently, he is working on the socio-political issues of his region.



## On the Old One

The project "On the Old One" or "Purane Par", begins with the discovery that nearly thirty-one hills of the Aravalli range in Rajasthan have been illegally razed to the ground for raw materials to support the construction boom. This has consequently transformed the cultural fabric of the entire region of Ankur's hometown. This has resulted in the loss of wilderness. The project which consists of eco-poetries written near the mining spaces, aims to use non-human elements as a reference point, to generate kinship and empathy.



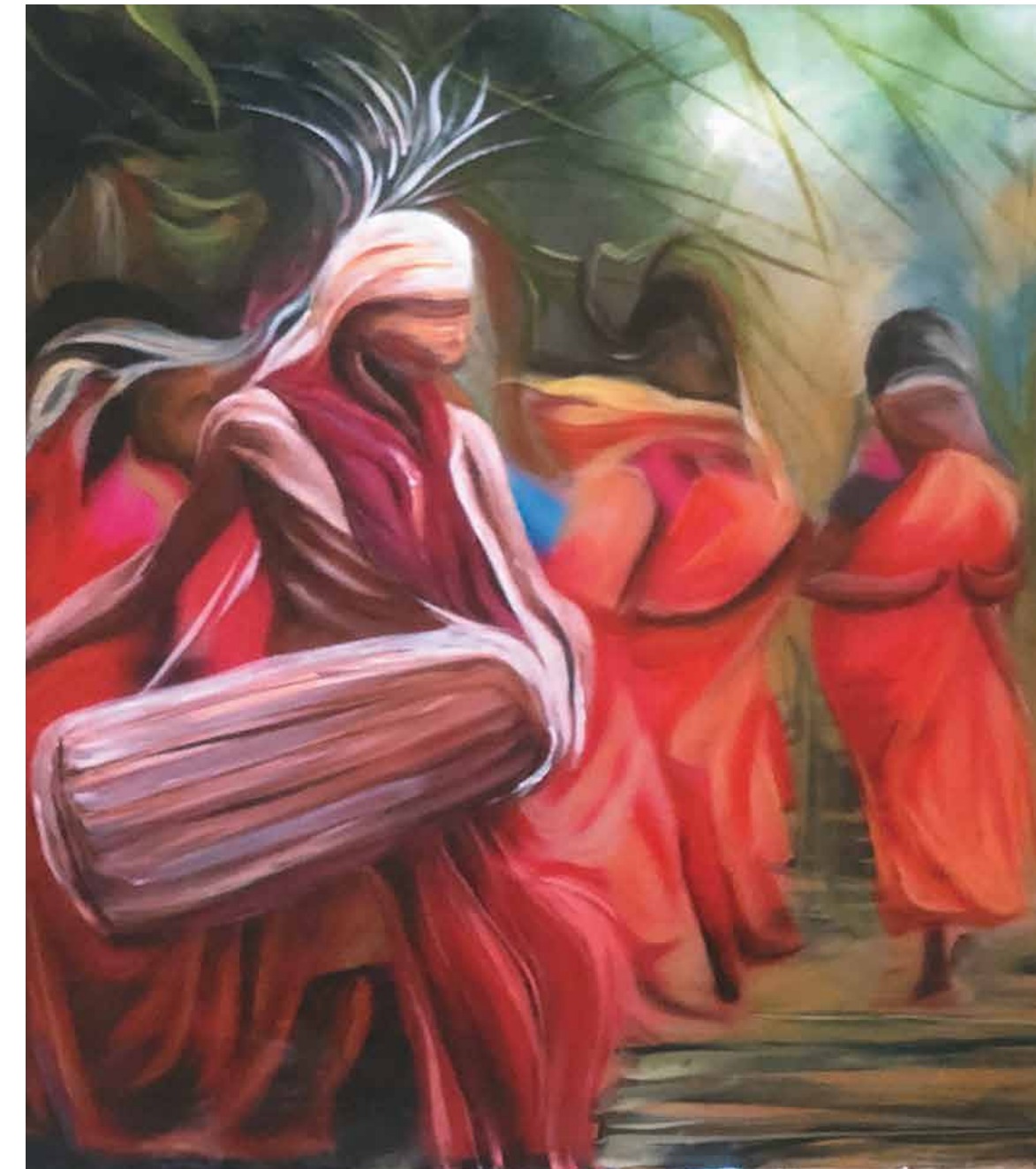
## AYUSH

### NGO

AYUSH (Adivasi Yuva Shakti) is a volunteer group based in Dahanu, Maharashtra, that started in 2007 as social networking platform to promote a collaborative and constructive approach to Tribal Empowerment through knowledge and skill sharing. They aim to utilize and translate all individual and organizational energies to a common vision and mission of Sustainable Tribal Development.

### Hand in Hand for Creating New Tarpakari

Tarpa, an indigenous cultural musical instrument originating from the Palghar and Thane districts of Maharashtra, India, holds a significant place in the cultural heritage of the Warli tribe. This unique wind instrument, often crafted from bamboo, resonates with the rich traditions and stories of the Warli community. Even Warli paintings are famous globally with huge commercial potential, tribal communities are still not able to reap this potential. AYUSH aims to establish social entrepreneurship models and preserve the Adivasi value systems.



## Saif Ahmad

### Visual Artist

With a Master's degree in Fashion and a notable career as a personal designer for the esteemed Miss Universe Sushmita Sen, and Senior Faculty in Edexcel University (UK) in Indonesia, Saif's artistic journey has flourished into a multifaceted tapestry of accomplishments. As a painter, his artistic canvas is a celebration of vibrant diversity, specializing in crowd and cultural scenes. Utilizing radiant colors juxtaposed against dark tones, his palette knife technique imparts a unique depth and dynamism to each creation. Exhibiting across India, Indonesia, Dubai, and Canada, his artworks resonate globally, capturing the essence of cultural richness.

### Heritage Resin: Transforming Indian Tribal Artistry

The project, a vibrant fusion of resin and paint on canvas, aims to encapsulate the dynamic spirit of traditional folk dances. By employing resin and paint as the medium, the project seeks to capturing the fluidity and energy of dance forms of Jharkhand. The project seeks to revitalize traditional Indian tribal paintings by infusing them with resin and epoxy artistry, making them not only visually striking but also commercially competitive.



## Nishchay Thakur

Functional Innovative Artist

Nishchay Thakur, a visual artist from Khairlangi, Madhya Pradesh, now based in New Delhi, explores his village roots through art. Despite the COVID-19 lockdown, he created captivating works on his grandfather's house walls. Thakur has earned prestigious awards and showcased his art in esteemed exhibitions like the Kochi-Muziris Biennale.



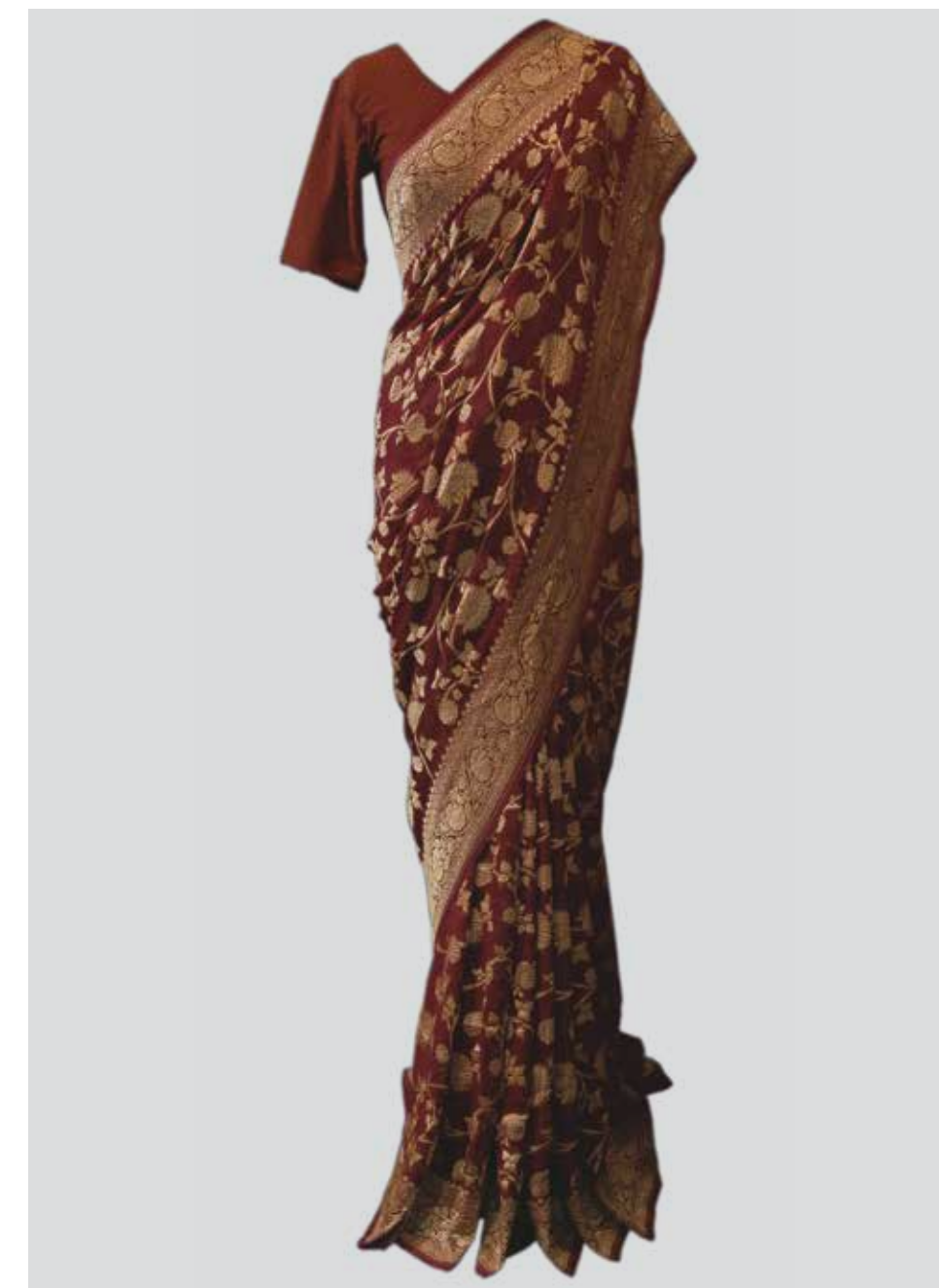
### Peek into Rural Identity

The project "Peek into rural identity" consists of three works highlighting rural life and environmental challenges. One celebrates traditional farming, another showcases the Pangur dance of Madhya Pradesh, and the third addresses water issues in farming.



## Tri Impact Global NGO

Tri-Impact Global promotes holistic well-being through environmental action and eco-friendly heritage textiles. The group uplifts marginalized weaver artists, champions ethical practices, and prioritizes worker welfare. Their approach emphasizes impactful collaborations, citizen engagement, and authentic production. They support sustainable fashion and extend efforts to urban housing societies, promoting solid waste management, renewable energy, water conservation, green spaces, and worker well-being.



## Banarasi Saree Weavers' Empowerment

The project champions natural-fiber-based Heritage Textiles, with a focus on the esteemed Banarasi sarees. It embraces a multifaceted strategy encompassing worker welfare, artisan empowerment, environmental preservation, and sustainable economic growth. The Banarasi saree, symbolizing a fusion of art and tradition, serves as a testament to its rich legacy and timeless elegance. Beyond preservation, the project aims to educate consumers about the impact of their fashion choices, urging them to opt for eco-friendly heritage textiles over fast fashion. It also seeks to raise awareness about Government Silk Marks and Handloom Marks safeguarding the authenticity of Indian Heritage Sarees.



## Srabani Baskey

### Traditional Artist

Srabani Baskey is a Santal village artist who paints the mud walls of her dwelling for the Sohrai festival and for family marriages, in the traditional Sohrai style that is unique to her region of north Purulia, West Bengal. With her fellow artist, Badani Murmu, who lives in a village closeby, and Ratnaboli Bose, the founder of Daricha Foundation, who has been visiting them over the last nine years, Srabani aims to preserve the art form.

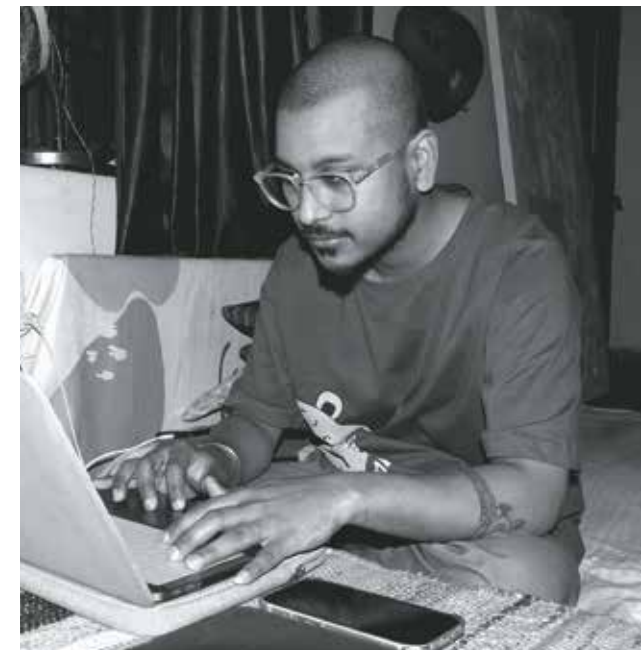


### Preserving Traditional Sohrai Wall Art of Santal Women in Purulia

The project seeks to highlight and preserve an endangered art - the exquisite, monochromatic motifs of traditional Sohrai wall murals by Santal women in northern Purulia, West Bengal. The Santals, the largest tribal group in West Bengal and Jharkhand, have a rich cultural heritage. Renowned for their music and dance, the art on their mud walls, skillfully created by the women, in celebration of Sohrai, their harvest festival, is lesser known and disappearing. The project saves the compositions by reproducing them on hand made paper. Given that the medium is a sheet of paper and not a mud wall, brushes rather than fingers are used with continued use of clays and cowdung for the colour.

## Voices of The Earth

The theme transitions to contemporary art that addresses environmental concerns, featuring work that speaks on climate change, conservation, water issues, and the urgent need to protect our planet. This is an exclusively showcase of art for the Earth.





## Akash Biswas

### Visual Artist

Akash Biswas, an Andaman visual artist, portrays the beauty and fragility of marine corals, drawing inspiration from their decline due to pollution and missile tests. He was born on 26th August 1997 in Diglipur. He completed his Bachelors in Painting from IKSU Khairagarh in 2019, and Masters in Painting from Ravindra Bharati University, Kolkata.



### Undersea City Colorful Elegy

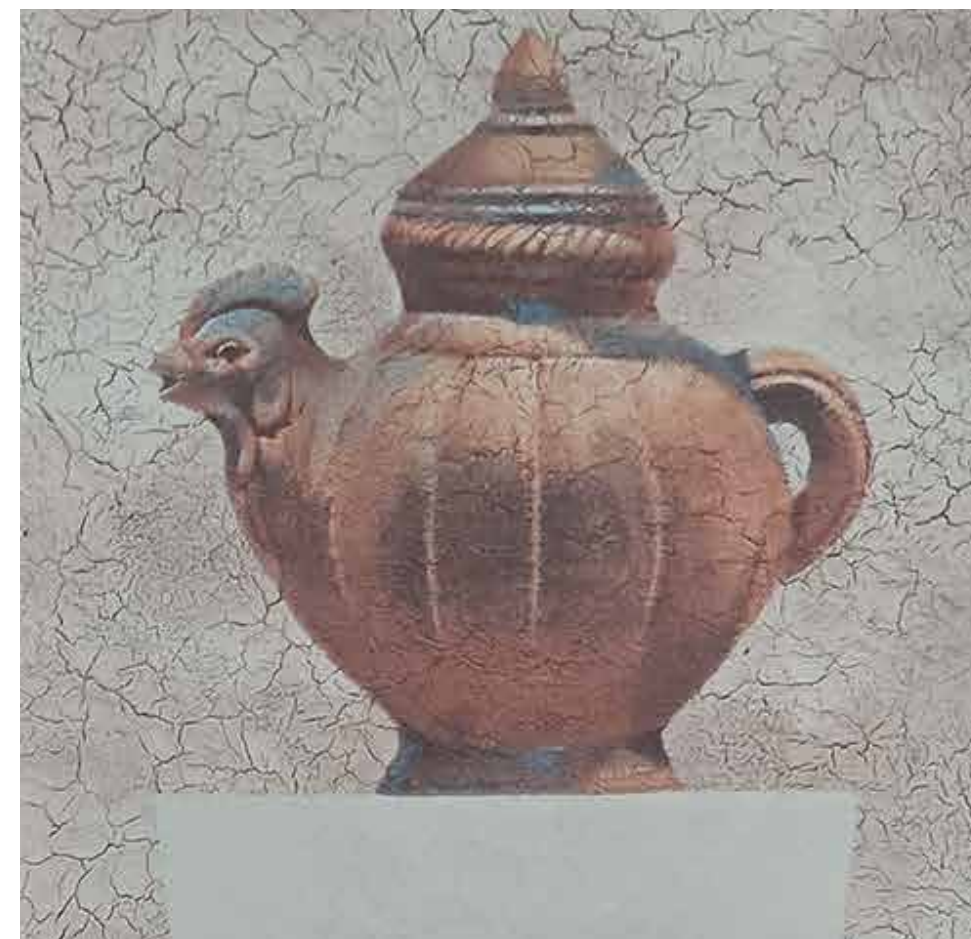
“Undersea City Colorful Elegy” is a poignant painting project shedding light on the plight of Andaman’s coral reefs. Inspired by the devastating impact of pollution and missile testing, the project aims to raise awareness about coral destruction. Through a series of six large-scale paintings, the artist visualizes the urgency of conservation efforts, incorporating unconventional materials to convey the interconnectedness of marine life and human existence. Each artwork serves as a narrative, depicting the vibrant yet endangered underwater world and its profound influence on the local community. Through this project, the artist seeks to ignite dialogue and inspire action towards preserving the invaluable coral ecosystems.



## Gaurang Naik

### Visual Artist

Gaurang Naik completed his Bachelor of Fine Art in Painting from Goa College of Art in 2019 and Master of Visual Art in Painting from M.S. University of Baroda in 2021. Raised in a village in south Goa, his art delves into the concept of loss and transience, often exploring the collision between humans and nature. He finds inspiration in the textures, dust, and scars left behind by human interaction with the environment, particularly in areas surrounded by the iron ore mining hub and the ancient capital of Goa.



### Fluid Desires

"Fluid Desires" explores the evolving relationship between convenience and access to clean water, using the traditional Gurguret as a symbol. Through reshaping its form, the project represents contemporary water challenges, merging local heritage with modern concerns. This reimagined vessel serves as a poignant reminder of the pressing need to address water scarcity in Goan culture.



## Gurpreet Singh Rattan

### Digital Artist

Gurpreet Singh Rattan, a Dehradun-based 3D artist, is fueled by a fervent commitment to sustainability and environmental consciousness. Having earned his B.Sc. in Animation from Swami Vivekanand Subharti University in 2019, he harnesses his creative energy to craft impactful digital art that initiates vital discussions.



### What If

Gurpreet Singh Rattan's project "What If" delivers a powerful wake-up call through his 3D art, envisioning a future plagued by environmental degradation and human exploitation. His evocative imagery of plastic-choked landscapes and polluted skies prompts viewers to confront the consequences of our present actions. Inspired by real-world environmental challenges, Gurpreet aims to ignite conversations and inspire collective action towards a more sustainable future. By acknowledging these "What If" scenarios, he urges us to reimagine our relationship with the planet, motivating us to enact positive change before it's too late.



## Jasmi Paladiya

### Visual Artist

Jasmi Paladiya, hailing from Surat, Gujarat, is a student of Master of Fine Arts at Maharaja Sayajirao University. Her artistic journey is deeply rooted in her surroundings, with a focus on translating human emotions into tangible forms through sculpture. Inspired by society and culture, Jasmi seeks to represent her own cultural heritage in her work. She finds ceramic to be the perfect medium for expressing her feelings, often enhancing her creations with metal elements to bring her artistic vision to life.



### Transplantation

The project "Transplantation" explores the impact of environmental degradation on stray animals' health. Through experimentation with materials like plastic, the project delves into the abstract concept of fertility, encompassing not only genital parts but also female breasts and animal udders. Through emotionally charged representations, "Transplantation" sheds light on the intricate process of growth amid environmental challenges.



## Samvit Joshi

### Visual Artist

Samvit Joshi, a versatile artist, embarked on his artistic journey after completing a BA in English Literature from St Xavier's College, Ahmedabad, and a diploma in Filmmaking from Digital Academy, Mumbai. He further pursued his passion by obtaining a master's degree in Art History (MVA) from Maharaja Sayajirao University, Baroda. Samvit's works have been showcased in prestigious exhibitions like the Abhivyakti City Arts Project, reflecting his commitment to finding sustainable modes of self-expression.



### Metropolis

The project 'Metropolis' is a critique of the capitalistic insatiability and unchecked expansion that is doing irreversible damage to the planet, its people and its climate. It also aims to underline the irony that as populations get denser, and the physical distance between people grows smaller; the people inhabiting those spaces become more disconnected, more apathetic. A city that was once bustling but is now deserted paints the picture of a future where the greed of the few outweighs the need of the many. The material used for the project is recycled, mostly containing repurposed cardboard and old newspapers. The use of these materials is deliberate, as one of the growing concerns of Samvit's work is to create a practice that is sustainable and ecologically conscious.



## Siddharth Puri & Team

### Digital Artist

Siddhartha Puri, a seasoned photographer and videographer, began his artistic journey at the Cleveland Institute of Art, Ohio, earning a Bachelor's in Fine Art. With over a decade of experience, he's collaborated with renowned brands like Airtel and Taj Hotels. Currently expanding into coding, Siddhartha aims to support organizations like the Society for Child Development and Avacayam, advocating for the disability community in India.

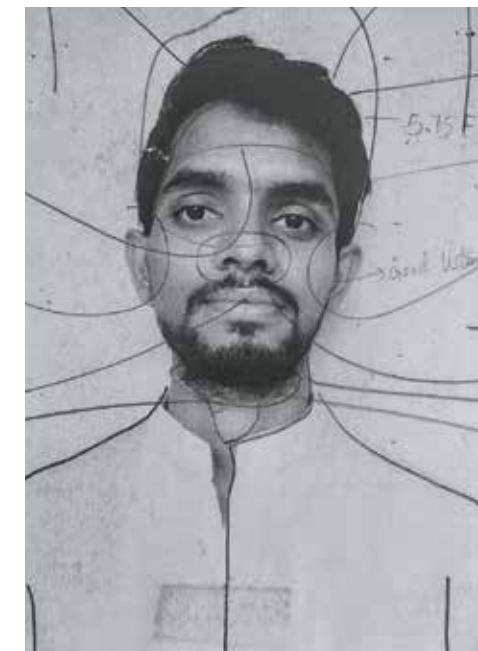


### Inclusive Earth: Inspiring Climate Action through Inclusive Art

The "Inclusive Earth: Inspiring Climate Action through Inclusive Art" project delves into the "Us vs. Them" social theory, exploring how it shapes attitudes towards our planet. By collaborating with differently abled artists, the project aims to break down barriers and promote inclusivity, expanding the collective notion of "us" to include Earth. Through captivating artworks, it seeks to inspire compassion and ignite climate action, fostering synergy between humanity and the planet.

## Community Resilience

This section showcases artworks that depict community life, cooperation, and shared experiences. It includes contemporary works that focus on community resilience in the face of challenges, emphasizing hope as a collective force that binds people together.





## Afzal Adeeb Khan

### Visual Artist

Hailing from Patna, Bihar, Afzal Adeeb Khan is driven by the art of capturing life's moments, inspired by poet Jaun Eliya. Pursuing communication studies in New Delhi, he delved into photography, mentored by Shailendra Kumar. Expanding into cinematography during his Master's at AJK MCRC Jamia Millia Islamia, Afzal collaborated with organizations like BBC and UNICEF. He was also selected for the Indian Society of Cinematographers Mentorship Program 2022.

### **Journey of Hope: Navigating Earth's Rhythms Along the Ganges**

"Journey of Hope: Navigating Earth's Rhythms Along the Ganges" encapsulates the resilience of Patna's Ganges commuters, shedding light on their struggles and advocating for sustainable solutions amidst development projects like the construction of a bridge over the Ganga. Through powerful photography, it amplifies their voices, fostering empathy and understanding while urging society towards a more harmonious future.



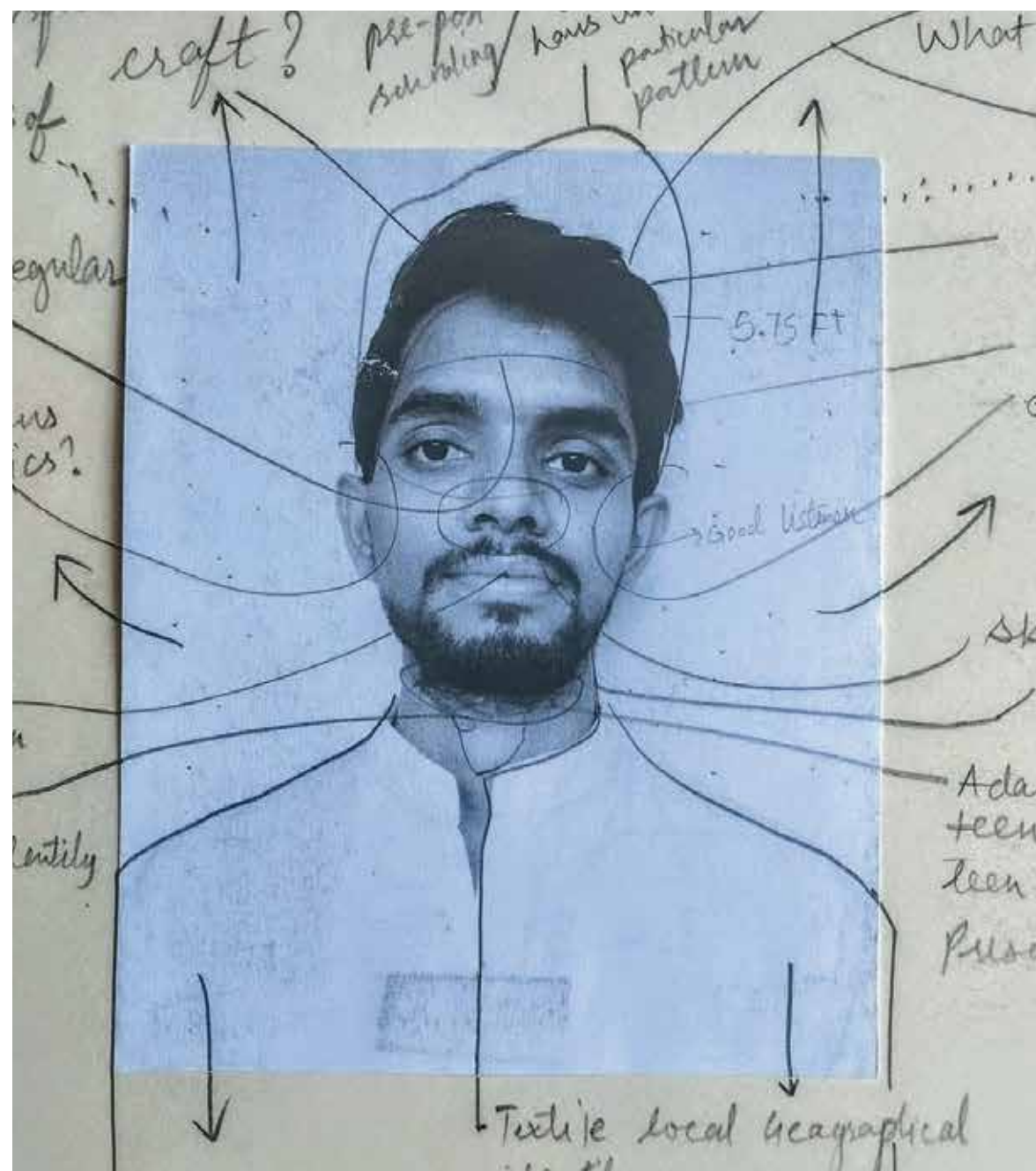
## Sewali Deka

### Visual Artist

Sewali Deka is an artist hailing from Assam. She completed her BFA in Painting from Guwahati University, at Kokrajhar Music and Fine Arts College, Assam and her Master's from Visva Bharati University, Shantiniketan. Her work reflects on the visuals and the affective spectrum informing rural lifestyles and cultures. Sewali's identity as a woman as well as a member of the farming community shapes much of her creative journey which folds indigenous materials and multiple new media like site specific installation, craft, sculpture, painting, film and photography.

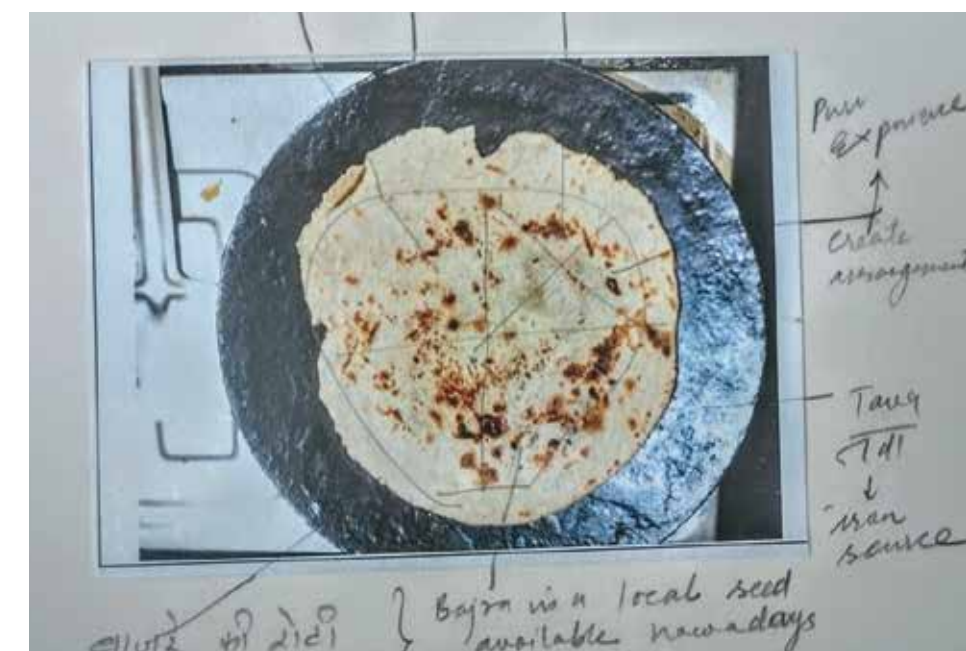
### **The Big Trape**

Through experiments across painting, found materials, and localised infrastructure, the project attends to historical traces of colonialism, attesting to its present-day contiguities with the region's continuing marginalisation. Elaborating on the bamboo-based rural infrastructure of Assam, The Big Trape establishes fishing and tea-gardening as twinned analogies for Assam and its residents' anxieties concerning the countryside and borderlands. Drawing from archival material, local implements, indigenous materials, as well as culinary heritage, Deka's installation underlines the captive quagmire of tea-estates.



## Dheeraj Jhadav Visual Artist

Dheeraj Jadhav is an emerging artist from Shendurjana Adhav, currently in the final year of his MFA at Sir J.J School of Arts, Mumbai. His multidisciplinary practice delves into the sensory experience of inhabiting spaces, employing drawing, painting, photography, and various mediums to explore the nuances of perception. He has received the Maharashtra State Art Award for Creative Painting and has participated in numerous exhibitions and workshops, including the esteemed Geography of Consumption at Mohile Parekh Centre.



## Nomadic Narratives: Unveiling Banjara Essence Through Art and Ink

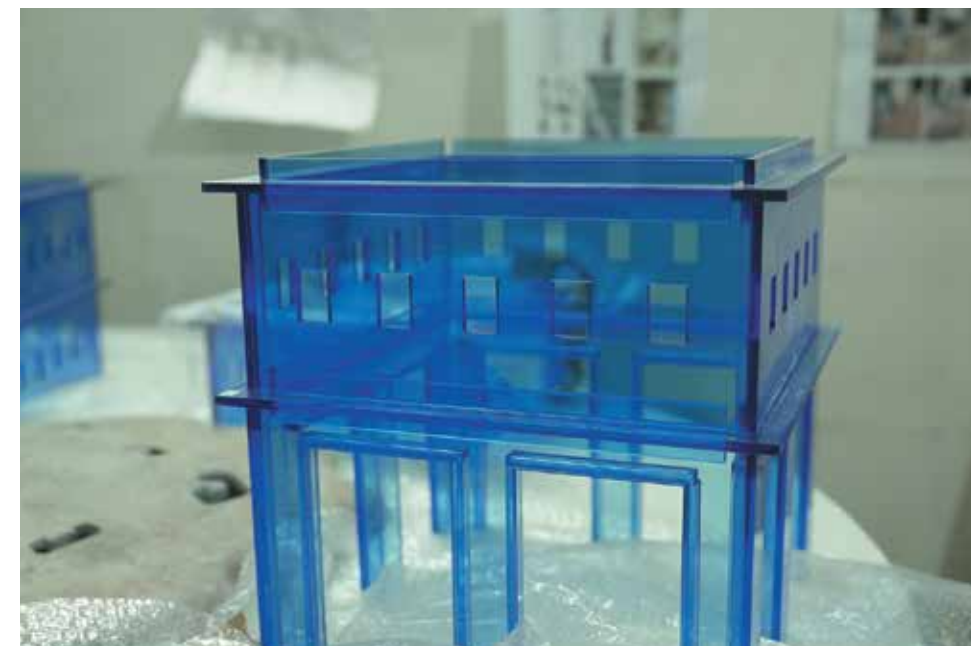
"Nomadic Narratives: Unveiling Banjara Essence Through Art and Ink" is an exploration of the indigenous Banjara micro-community's cultural heritage. Through documenting their daily lives, traditional food recipes, and soil conservation techniques, the project celebrates their unique way of life and seeks to bridge the gap between indigenous communities and urban areas.



## Dhruv Poddar

### Visual Artist

Dhruv Poddar was born in Delhi and raised in Guwahati, Assam, having been exposed to a multicultural environment since his childhood. He holds a double graduation - a Bachelor of Science in Animation and Multimedia in 2019 and a Bachelors of Visual Arts in Sculpture from the Faculty of Fine Arts of Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda in 2023. He is now pursuing a Masters in Visual Arts in creative sculpture from the MSU, Baroda. His work investigates the human psyche and its interactions in terms of the nature, politics and society.



### Hang in There

Inspired by the game - 'Tumblin Monkeys', the project showcases the harsh realities faced by Indian construction workers. A construction worker's tragic death due to tripping over loose cords, the constant disregard for workers' lives is reflected in the installation for this project that features a building-like structure with numerous bamboo sticks forming a scaffolding, populated by worker figurines engaged in construction tasks. The installation recreates the game wherein participants must strategically choose and delicately remove bamboo sticks on each turn, to avoid having the figurines fall. It evokes the feeling of unease and distress that one feels when the figures hit the ground. The objective is to create a visual dialogue on the jarring truth of the matter.



## Neeraj Singh Khandka

### Visual Artist

Neeraj Singh Khandka born in Nainital, Uttarakhand, did his Bachelors of Fines Arts from Government College of Art, Chandigarh and his MFA from Visva Bharti University, Santiniketan. He has been part of various group shows and exhibitions over the years. His works are the visual documentation of contemporary time and space, and he uses his work as a tool to create social awareness and pleasure of the soul and senses.



### Nostalgic Green And Urban Complexities

The project is based on documentation of time and space of two different eras, it reflects the transformation of human life in two different centuries as being a kid of 80s and 90s and an adult of the 21st century, using references from rich Indian miniature paintings - especially Pahadi and Rajasthani. The project showcases the vanishing greens, the isolation of man and his dialogue with nature, the struggle of survival in a metro city and the effects of digital advancements on human emotions.



## Smriti Rastogi

### Visual Artist

Smriti Rastogi is a multidisciplinary artist fascinated by decoding everyday life's language, forging connections that reveal jointness within disjointed elements. Rejecting stagnation, she explores the continuous flux of each day, delving into the diverse perspectives that converge to create synthesis. Her inquiry focuses on unraveling the formation of everyday gestures.



### Looking Inside From Outside of the Circle

“Looking inside from outside of the circle” sheds light on the hidden lives of construction workers in Delhi, constantly displaced from their temporary homes while building spaces for others. Their existence exists in a liminal space, overlooked amidst the urgency of urban development. Through documentation and analysis, the project explores their daily rhythms and challenges, revealing the impact of their labor on both themselves and their environment.



## Shikha Patel

### Visual Artist

Varanasi-based artist Shikha Patel, is a research scholar with an MFA and BFA from the prestigious Banaras Hindu University. She holds prestigious accolades such as the Junior Fellowship from the Ministry of Culture, the Young Artist Award, and the Prafulla Award. Shikha's work has been a part of group shows in esteemed galleries nationwide, and she also had a solo exhibition at Ka Art Gallery, Varanasi.

### Dilli Ek Kabootar

"Dilli Ek Kabootar" offers a migrant's viewpoint of Delhi, blending words, poetry, and visuals inspired by personal experiences. Reflecting on the city's cosmopolitan nature and socio-political themes, it symbolizes Delhi and its inhabitants as pigeons, bridging connections amidst struggle and hope.



## Suman Chandra

### Visual Artist

Suman Chandra is a highly accomplished artist with notable awards, including The CIMA AWARD 2022 in Kolkata, the KCC Art Fellowship in 2021-22, the MHRD scholarship in 2018, and The Elizabeth Greenshields Foundation award in 2017. These accolades highlight their exceptional artistic skills and contributions to the field of painting.

### Immovable Frames of an Artificial Landscape

"Immovable Frames of an Artificial Landscape" is a visual study and documentation of the changing landscape of the migrant miners in Dahibari coal mine. The artworks are inspired by coal as a material, mines as landscapes, and the lives of miners. The research over five years delves into new elements within coal, defining them through works. The early family business association with coal influences the perspective, viewing life through a coal-centric lens.

## Reimagining Cultural Roots

The theme involves a creative and thoughtful exploration of a community's cultural heritage, traditions, and identity with a forward-looking perspective. It is about finding a balance between honoring the past and embracing the possibilities of the future.





## Akshaya R

Visual Artist

Akshaya R is an architect who seamlessly merges creativity with balanced design, embodying precision with artistic flair. Rooted in values and radiating positivity, they inspire positive change through exploration in art, sharing stories that evoke hope and commitment to life.

### Documenting the Last Remaining Gandhi Ashram at Sabarmati

In the project "Documenting the Last Remaining Gandhi Ashram at Sabarmati", Akshaya R immerses herself in the stories and experiences woven into the fabric of the ashram. Working closely within its walls, she reflects on the question, "Who is Gandhi?" realizing that it is an endless exploration revealed through the narratives of people, places, and objects.



## Poornima Sardana

Visual Artist

Poornima Sardana, a curator and founder of Museums Of Hope, explores art's role in health and well-being. She has been a Fulbright-Nehru Scholar and has a background in Museum Studies and Design from NIFT. As the co-founder of the Museums Mazedaar Collective, she also designs inclusive museum experiences and contributes to academic journals.

### 'Museum of Hopes' Game of Home

"Museum of Hopes' Game of Home" is a therapeutic art-based toolkit and game designed to support individuals facing illness or recovery, and their caregivers. Through art and playfulness, the project aims to foster emotional acknowledgment, community connection, and resilience. It seeks to provide solace and a sense of belonging, particularly for vulnerable groups like the elderly and those with limited mobility, by encouraging participation and exchange.



## Anil Thambai

Visual Artist

Anil Thambai, a Kerala-born visual artist now based in Baroda, transitioned from commerce to art, earning his BFA in painting from the College of Fine Arts, Trivandrum, and MVA from MS University, Baroda. His work has graced prestigious exhibitions like the India Art Fair and Art Mumbai, receiving accolades such as the Junior Artist Fellowship from the HRD Ministry of India in 2018 and the Shrishti AIF Grant in 2020.



## Laterite Stones in Kerala Architecture

The "Laterite Stones in Kerala Architecture" project visually explores the use of laterite stones in traditional architecture, shedding light on their cultural significance in Kasaragod, Kerala. It highlights the interplay between landscape and architecture, fostering appreciation for Kerala's rich architectural heritage.



## Lakshay Kumar

### Functional Innovative Artist

Lakshay Kumar, a visual designer and artist from New Delhi, skillfully navigates the intersection of art and design, drawing inspiration from personal experiences and societal influences. His work explores themes of identity, randomness, advertisement, and childhood memories, employing both digital and traditional mediums to weave compelling narratives.



### Reviving Traditional Games

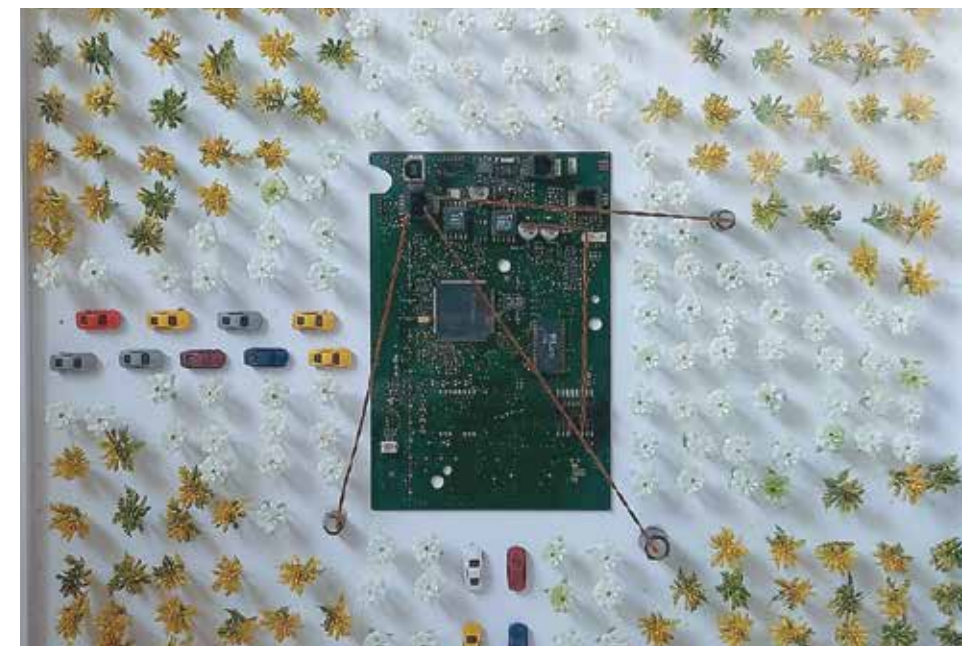
The project "Reviving Traditional Games" aims to resurrect forgotten Indian pastimes like 'gitte,' a hand-eye coordination game steeped in cultural heritage. In a bid to preserve these fading games, particularly gitte, I plan to transform it into a multiplayer board game, offering a modern twist while honoring its traditional roots. Through this endeavor, I seek to reignite interest in these culturally rich games and prevent their disappearance into obscurity.



## Rohan Khuntale

Visual Artist

Rohan Khuntale, a Pune-based conceptual visual artist, transforms e-waste into compelling sculptures, prompting reflection on technology and consumption. Through exhibitions, he sparks discussions on sustainability and societal progress, inspiring awareness and change.



## Green Future

The "Green Future" triptych installation symbolizes our evolving relationship with technology and nature. It depicts a transition from a tech-centric society to harmonious coexistence with nature. Through three panels, it highlights the imbalance, transition, and eventual return to nature's prominence, urging viewers to consider the impact of e-waste and embrace sustainability for a greener future.



## Skarma Sonam Tashi

Visual Artist

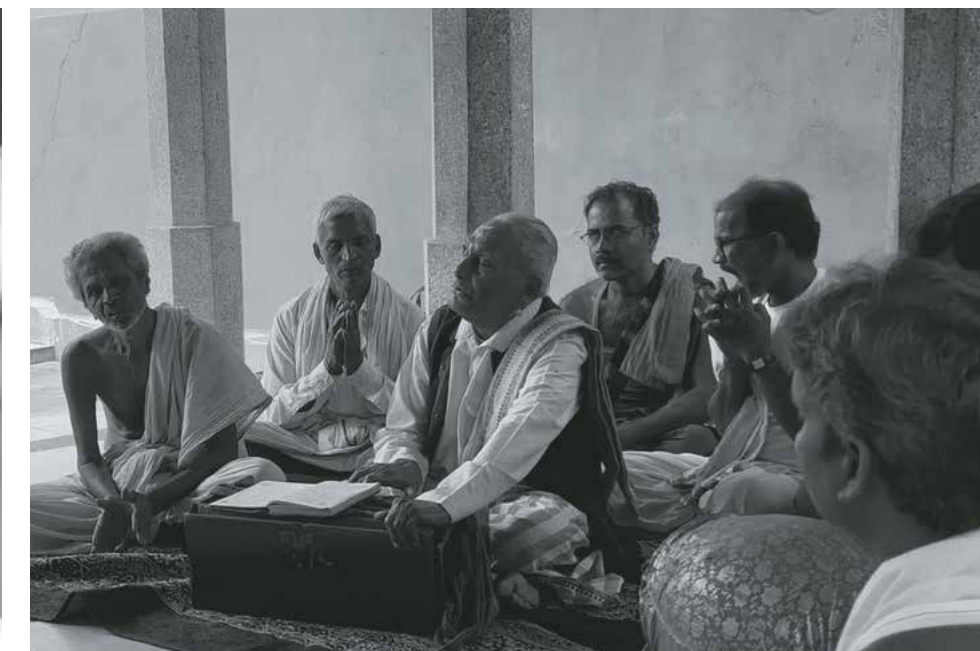
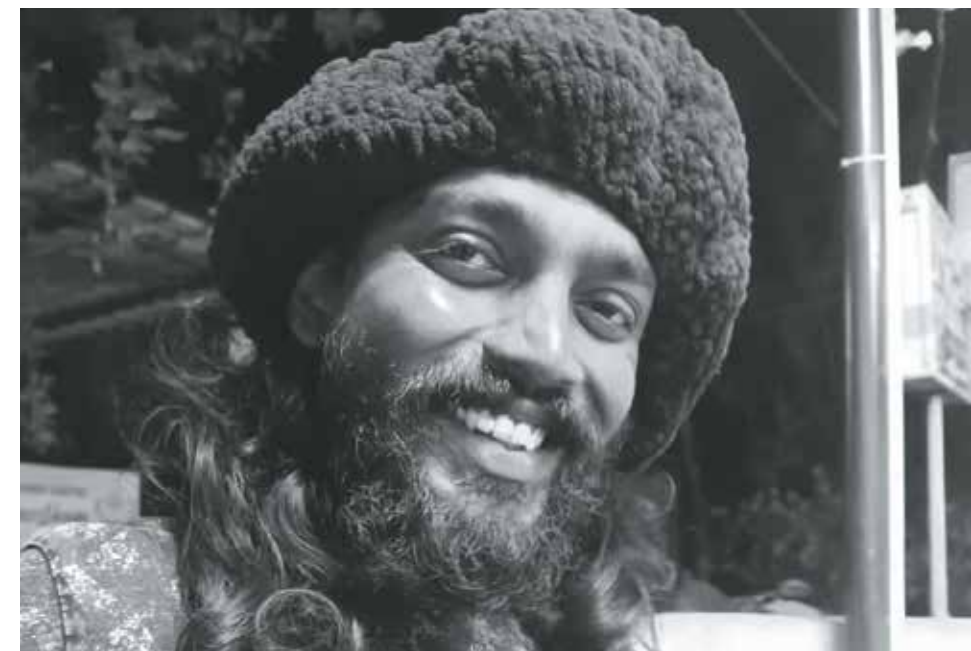
Skarma Sonam Tashi, a Ladakhi visual artist, graduated from IMFA, Jammu University, and pursued MFA at Kalabhavana, Shantiniketan. Awarded the Lalit Kala Akademi Scholarship, his work was featured in the 63rd National Exhibition of Art. Engaging with Ladakh's landscapes, he participated in Asia's highest contemporary land art exhibition and undertook residencies at institutions like LAMO. With exhibitions like "Mountainscape" at LAMO and participation in India Art Fair 2024, Tashi's art celebrates nature's essence through contemporary expression, reflecting his deep connection to his homeland.

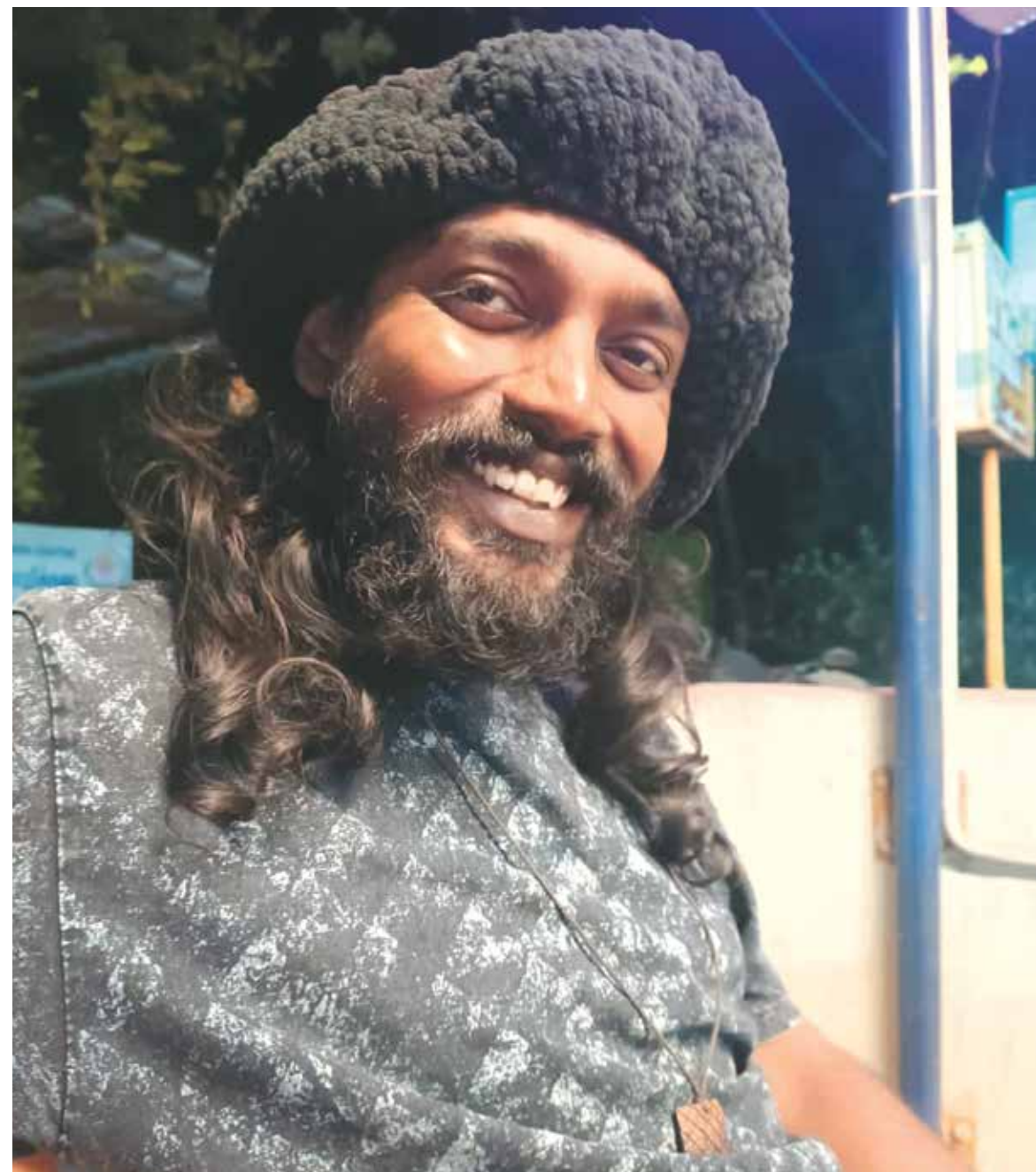


### Reviving Ladakh's Sustainable Heritage

"Reviving Ladakh's Sustainable Heritage" project blends traditional architecture with contemporary art, using recyclable materials like cardboard and paper-mâché. Egg trays symbolize Ladakh's mountains, forming the basis of relief sculptures. Through these artworks, the project promotes environmental consciousness, celebrating Ladakh's beauty and advocating for sustainable living.

# Performances





## Isaiprakash

### Traditional Artist

Isaiprakash is a storyteller and an Independent artist who has been working with children from marginalized communities for over the last decade. He uses art and storytelling as a tool for connecting with the target population to help them express their thought processes without any apprehensions, thus improving their mental health and social functionality, among other flourishing outcomes. He has worked with over 200 schools along with communities around Tamil Nadu, mostly in Chennai, Pondicherry, Cuddalore, Madurai and Theni.

### Revive the Concept of Puppetry

The art of shadow and hand puppetry, which serves as a strong foundation for theater arts, is a dying art form and needs revival. The project's objective is to fuel the drive to reach children and communities in 10 different districts in Tamil Nadu over the span of 9 weeks - Chennai, Pondicherry, Namakkal, Cuddalore, Rameswaram, Kotagiri, Madurai, Krishnagiri, Kumbakonam and Tirupur. The project entails puppet shows in school and communities followed by day long workshops passing on knowledge of storytelling frameworks and detailing, voice training, singing etc.



## Leesa Mohanty

### Performance Artist

Leesa Mohanty has contributed to cinema as a child artist as well as the founder of the Nirguna Centre for Excellence in 2008, advocating for Indian culture through dance and music. Her accident redirected her to champion handlooms, birthing Nirguna in 2014, evolving her from designer-entrepreneur to social-entrepreneur. Embracing rural communities, Nirguna Trust was born in 2018, conserving folk traditions by supporting weavers, artisans, and musicians. Leesa's mission encompasses documenting local arts, music, and crafts, preserving India's cultural heritage.

### HariKatha Tradition

Founded in 2018 by Leesa, Nirguna Trust champions rural livelihoods, particularly by supporting weavers, craftsmen, and artists, with a focus on reviving lost traditions. Through talk shows, events and exhibitions, they promote art forms, fostering cohesive communities. For the past eight years, Nirguna Trust has collaborated with weavers in the Ganjam district. Recognizing the problem, the "Hari Katha" project seeks to revive different traditions, through organizing workshops, events, and fostering collaborations to further empower these artists and restore Ganjam's cultural heritage.



## Octave Foundation NGO

Octave Foundation is a not-for-profit organization and was established to provide platforms of convergence to celebrate ethnic diversities that build our cultural ethos. Their motto is 'connecting people through stories'.

### Rediscovering Leirol Eshei

The project revisits the ancient Manipuri artform known as "Leirol Eshei". In this artform relations between human life and flowers, the comparison of ladies to flowers, historical ballads, mythical ballads, etc are showcased. The link between the inhabitants of the hills and the valleys, as well as with other states and nations, is also shown and reflected in this singing style. Since the lyrics of Leirol Eshei are primarily in archaic Manipuri language, Octave Foundation aims to rediscover Leirol Eshei through this project and share the stories gathered in a common parlance.



## Shubham Tiwari Performance Artist

Shubham Tiwari born and brought up at Lucknow, in Uttar Pradesh, has been doing theatre for the past ten years in Lucknow and is member of 'The Mocking Birds' theatre group. He has worked with many renowned directors like Chaitanya Prakash (Anmol Khazana), Bhartendu Kashyap (Ek Batta Chabbis, Sapanpriya, Sohar Ek Avantar Katha, Waiting For Godot), Surya Mohan Kulshreshtha (Muntazir, Bhagvadajjukyam, Bury The Dead), Atamjeet singh (Baje Dhidhora Urf Khoon Ka Rang), Ram Dayal Sharma, Rozi Dubey (Bhagnansh), and many more.

### India After Bhagat Singh

A solo play based on Bhagat Singh which uses the elements of Dastangoi, to portray the myths / stories related to Bhagat Singh. The solo performance aims to break the perception of the audience about Bhagat Singh and bring facts in the performance. What is Bhagat Singh for us, just a person or something else?

# Acknowledgements

## Jury members

**Mr Aditya Arya,**  
Founder and Managing Trustee,  
Museo Camera, Center for  
Photographic Arts

**Ms Kanchan Chander,**  
Eminent Artist and Printmaker

**Mr Kranti Sambhav,**  
Eminent Automotive Journalist

**Mr Raghuwanshi Pratap Singh,**  
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Hyundai Motor India Ltd

**Ms Seema Kohli,**  
Eminent Artist, Sculptor and Poet

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