



October 4, 2016

Dear SACHI Members:

In October 2016, SACHI embarks on its 20th year, a cause for celebration! To its dedicated members, enthusiastic sponsors, and to its Bay Area institutional partners, SACHI owes deep appreciation for their sustained and encouraging support. A small organization like SACHI could not otherwise have evolved into a quality driven entity with a meaningful presence.

Its intimate character has enabled the organization to carve a creative space that brings thought provoking programs to public audiences. In experiencing these programs over the years, you may have seen that cutting edge SACHI events offer a unique lens for art and culture discussions. Dynamic and stimulating, they inspire and engage Bay Area audiences in refreshing new ways.

The year 2015-2016 represents another remarkable milestone in program offerings:

The year kicked off with two highlight Fall events. The first was a rare appearance by Mumbai-based artist Jitish Kallat. Discussing his art practices and the acclaimed curating project, the *Kochi Biennale, 2014*, the program, *A Conversation with Contemporary Artist Jitish Kallat* was an illuminating encounter. It brought together Dr. Karin Oen, Assistant Curator of Contemporary Art at the Asian Art Museum in a dynamic conversation with Jitish Kallat.

The SACHI Annual Event followed on the heels of the Jitish Kallat visit. *Rama and Company Come to the Asian* provided a splendid introduction to the major Ramayana themed exhibition, *The Rama Epic: Hero, Heroine, Ally, Foe* which opens to the public Oct. 21, 2016. Dr. Forrest McGill, Wattis Senior Curator of South and Southeast Asian Art, Asian Art Museum, and Chief Curator of the Special Exhibition, *The Rama Epic* presented an overview, followed by an enlightening conversation with renowned UC Berkeley Ramayana scholars, Dr. Robert Goldman and Dr. Sally Sutherland Goldman and Dr. Forrest McGill.

Celebrated theater and dance artist, Dr. Mallika Sarabhai performed an outstanding concluding piece from her stage production *Sita's Daughters* to an enthusiastic audience.

In conjunction with the above mentioned exhibition it was SACHI's great privilege to provide sponsorship support towards *The Rama Epic* publication, a 266 page companion volume, extensively researched by Ramayana scholars, and beautifully illustrated. The publication has just been released and is available for purchase in the Museum bookstore.

SACHI also provided co-sponsorships for two Bay Area stage productions: *Dance Like a Man*, by Bay Area Drama Company specializing in South Asian theater; and towards *Shiva, A Memorial Tribute to Pandit Chitresh Das*, a multimedia Kathak performance staged by Chitresh Das Dance Company.

A stimulating Conversation and book discussion led by Kamini Ramini honored Bay Area contemporary dance artist turned fitness guru, Yasmen Mehta. Her entrepreneurial and adventurous spirit is captured in her autobiography, *Mom, You're Not Normal*

The two Spring events, *Poets of Partition*, and *Behind the Man Who Knew Infinity: Panel Discussion with Film Excerpts* were among SACHI's highlight events for the year. *The Poets of Partition*, a passionate talk rendered by Dr. Priya Satia, Professor of modern British and British Imperial History at Stanford University explored the experience and thoughts of Urdu poets who lived through the Partition of India in 1947- a rare portrayal of Partition with an artistic sensibility through the lens of the poets. *Behind the Man Who Knew Infinity* featured Film Director Matthew Brown, and a distinguished panel of mathematicians, Manjul Bhargava (Princeton Univ.), Ken Ono (Emory Univ.) and Kannan Soundarajan (Stanford Univ.) In a most dynamic panel conversation and cutting edge presentation, the four presenters discussed the extraordinary genius of Indian mathematician, Ramanujan through an introduction and film excerpts. A 400-count public audience felt unbelievably touched and inspired by the event on Stanford campus.

An unusual creative event featured posture specialist Esther Gokhale in a Posture and Wellness Gallery Workshop, *Healing Through Art*, exploring Hindu and Buddhist artworks in the Asian Art Museum collection. Setting a meditative and peaceful tone, San Francisco architect Thomas Soper presented an enchanting illustrated talk on the architecture of Geoffrey Bawa in *A Portal to Sri Lankan Culture*.

Two recent summer events provided a closing note to the year's offerings. These comprised a trio of UK-based next generation artists in *A Sarode, Sitar, and Tabla Recital* with Arnab Chakrabarty (Sarode), Roopa Panesar (Sitar), and Sanju Sahai (Tabla) - an excellent Indian classical music performance, and an illuminating talk, *Depicting the Beloved*, on 16th century Persian painting, exploring the relationship between text and image, with visiting scholar, Naciem Nikkhah of Cambridge University. 16th and 17th century Mughal and Persian painting theme also surfaced in a SACHI led private tour of Asian Art Museum Spring Exhibition, *Pearls on a String* for SOAS alumni group.

From contemporary to classical visual arts discussions, music, dance, and theater performances, a healing through art workshop, a book discussion, invitation to Mughal time storytelling, Urdu poetry, a film discussion on the genius, Ramanujan, and an enchanting discussion on Sri Lankan architect Geoffrey Bawa, SACHI programs spanned a wide spectrum.

In addition, the opportunity to contribute towards *The Rama Epic* publication marks a very proud moment for SACHI and a significant highlight project for the organization.

We hope you found the calendar of events and activities to be enriching, and your association with SACHI fulfilling! Our warm appreciation to all members for your generosity in helping SACHI sustain the high quality programs. We thank you for your kind support and encourage members to renew memberships between October and December each year.

**Please mark your calendar for the 2016 SACHI Annual Meeting and Event scheduled on November 5, 2016.** Details of time, place and the agenda are attached. This year's distinguished speakers will be Prof. Diana Eck, Prof. of Religious Studies, Harvard Divinity School, and Prof. Rahul Mehrotra, Head of Urban Design and Planning, Harvard Graduate School of Design, discussing viewpoints from the 2013 *Kumbh Mela* research project initiated by Harvard University. Please join us for this SACHI Annual Event, *Mapping the Kumbh Mela: World's Largest Gathering of Humanity*.

**We very much look forward to having you at the November 5, 2 PM Annual Event! The 1.15 PM Annual Meeting, precedes the program.**

With warmest and sincere thanks.



Kalpana Desai  
President, Board of Directors, SACHI

### **A Synopsis of the activities of SACHI for the year October 1, 2015-September 30, 2016**

The Society for Art & Cultural Heritage of India, a nonprofit, educational and charitable organization based in the San Francisco Bay Area, was formed to serve as a forum for promoting understanding and appreciation of the rich and diverse art, culture and heritage of India. The Society completed nineteen years in September 2015.

#### **SACHI Board**

The Society Board of Directors include Kalpana Desai (President and Program Chair), Poornima Kumar (Vice President), Monica Desai-Henderson (Secretary), Sheila Kothari (Treasurer & Membership Chair), Aarti Johri (Website Development), Robert Del Bonta and Aggie Brenneman. In addition, Prof. Mary-Ann Milford-Lutzker serves as the Special Advisor to the SACHI Board.

#### **Sponsors and Patrons**

SACHI's continuing dedicated membership and generous patron support enable outstanding programs. The SACHI Board expresses great appreciation to all its members and patrons.

#### **A very special note of thanks to our Sponsors and Patrons:**

Betty & Bruce Alberts, Neaera & Ed Baer, Narpal & Chandra Bhandari, Lucey Bowen Sites, Atri & Anshu Chatterjee, Lopa & Paritosh Choksi, Rajen Dalal & Linda Burch, Kalpana & Tushit Desai, Raj & Helen Desai, Monica Desai-Henderson & Steve Henderson, Meena D'Souza & Sriram Ramachandran, Asha Jadeja, Aarti & Sandeep Johri, Anjali Joshi & Sanjay Kasturia, Bharti & Pradyot Kansara, Ketan & Sheila Kothari, Manish Kothari & Carmen Saura, Poornima & Arun Kumar, Prithvi Legha & Shivi Singh, Matra Majmundar & Raj Mashruwala, Dipti & Rakesh Mathur, Forrest McGill, Mary-Ann Milford-Lutzker, Vibhu Mittal & Sujata Banerjee, Shakuntala & Bhupendra Patel, Yogini & Mahesh Patel, Sonia & Ashish Patwardhan, Nimi & A. Paulraj, Sonya Pelia & Matthew Lutzker, Jaymati & Mahendra Ranchod, Merrill Randol Sherwin & Stephen Sherwin, Louise Russell, Gursharan & Elvira Sidhu, Bipin & Rekha Shah, Anna & James Spudich, Gita & Ashok Vaish and Meena Vashee.

In addition, SACHI is grateful for in-kind contributions by Zarine & Neville Batliwalla for hosting the Yasmen Mehta book discussion, and to Vinita Belani for inviting SACHI friends to an enlightening discussion of Mughal time storytelling tradition with renowned storyteller, Danish Husain.

#### **SACHI Partner Organizations:**

Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, Public Programs & Education  
Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, Society for Asian Art  
Mills College, Department of Art and Art History, Oakland  
San Jose Museum of Art, San Jose

Palo Alto Art Center, Palo Alto  
Stanford University, Center for South Asia  
Stanford University, Department of Religious Studies  
Stanford University, Department of Mathematics  
Harvard University, South Asia Institute, Boston  
UC Berkeley, Institute for South Asia Studies  
UC Berkeley, Department of South and Southeast Asian Studies  
American Friends of SOAS (School of Oriental & African Studies), London  
SOHARA: sharing arts and tradition, Dallas, TX  
INK Talks, Bangalore  
EnActe Arts, San Francisco Bay Area  
Sangam Arts, Santa Clara  
Chhandam, the Chitresh Das dance company, San Francisco  
Bay Area Drama Company, Palo Alto  
Consulate General of India, San Francisco

**To the leaders of partnering organizations, SACHI extends warm thanks and appreciation:**

**Asian Art Museum:** Jay Xu, Forrest McGill, Deborah Clearwaters, Qamar Adamjee, Karin Oen, Allison Wyckoff and Silvia Chang; **Society for Asian Art:** Anne Kahn, Linda Lei, Nazneen & Ehler Spliedt; **Mills College, Department of Art and Art History:** Mary-Ann Milford-Lutzker; **San Jose Museum of Art:** Susan Krane; **Palo Alto Art Center:** Karen Kienzle, Suzanne Ramirez; **Stanford University, Center for South Asia:** Thomas Hansen and Sangeeta Mediratta; **Stanford University, Department of Religious Studies:** Linda Hess; **Stanford University, Dept. of Mathematics:** Brian White, Brian Conrad, Erin Nelligan; **Harvard University, South Asia Institute:** Meena Hewett, Nora Maginn; **UC Berkeley, Institute for South Asia Studies:** Lawrence Cohen, Sanchita Saxena, Puneeta Kala; **UC Berkeley, Department of South and Southeast Asian Studies:** Robert Goldman, Sally Sutherland Goldman; **American Friends of SOAS:** Bharti Kansara; **SOHARA:** Rekha & Prakash Rao; **INK Talks:** Lakshmi Prathury; **EnActe Arts:** Vinita Belani; **Sangam Arts,** Usha Srinivasan; **Chhandam-Chitresh Das Dance Company:** Celine Das; **Bay Area Drama Company:** Basab Pradhan and Sindu Singh; **Indian Consulate:** Consul General Venkatesan Ashok & Mrs. Usha Ashok

**SACHI Programs: Oct. 1, 2015 – Sep. 30, 2016**

**October 17, 2015**

***A Conversation with Contemporary Artist Jitish Kallat***

Discussing his art practices and the acclaimed curating project, the *Kochi-Muziris Biennale, 2014*

Dr. Karin Oen, Assistant Curator of Contemporary Art at the Asian Art Museum, San Francisco

In Conversation with Mumbai-based artist, Jitish Kallat

Venue: Samsung Hall, Asian Art Museum, San Francisco

Co-sponsored by SACHI and Asian Art Museum

**November 8, 2015 SACHI Annual Event 2015**

***Rama and Company Come to the Asian***

An Introduction to a major upcoming Ramayana themed exhibition, *The Rama Epic: Hero, Heroine, Ally, Foe* (Oct. 21, 2016-Jan. 15, 2017) by Dr. Forrest McGill, Wattis Senior Curator of South and Southeast Asian Art, Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, and Chief Curator of the Special Exhibition, *The Rama Epic*. Presentation followed by a Conversation with renowned UC Berkeley Ramayana scholars, Dr. Robert Goldman and Dr. Sally Sutherland Goldman, and Dr. Forrest McGill. A concluding piece presented by celebrated theater and dance artist, Dr. Mallika Sarabhai from her stage production *Sita's Daughters*.

Venue: Samsung Hall, Asian Art Museum, San Francisco

Co-sponsored by SACHI and Asian Art Museum

**December 2-13, 2015**

***Dance Like A Man***

A stage production by Bay Area Drama Company, specializing in South Asian theater

Venue: Sunnyvale Theater

SACHI supported co-sponsorship

**February 26-27, 2016**

***Shiva - A Memorial Tribute to Pandit Chitresh Das***

In a multimedia Kathak performance

By Chhandam, the Chitresh Das Dance Company

Venue: Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley

SACHI supported co-sponsorship

**March 5, 2016**

***Mom, You're Not Normal,***

A Conversation and book discussion led by Kamini Ramini

With Bay Area contemporary dance artist turned fitness guru, Yasmen Mehta, and author of the book, *Mom You're Not Normal.*

Venue: Home of Zarine & Neville Batliwalla, Hillsborough

Sponsored by SACHI

**March 20, 2016**

***The Poets of Partition***

By Dr. Priya Satia, prize-winning author and Professor of modern British and British imperial history at Stanford University exploring the experience and thoughts of Urdu poets who lived through the Partition of India in 1947

Venue: Home of Gita & Ashok Vaish, Atherton

Sponsored by SACHI

**April 21, 2016**

***Behind the Man Who Knew Infinity: Panel Discussion with Film Excerpts***

An introduction and excerpts from the film, *The Man Who Knew Infinity*

A conversation discussing the extraordinary genius of Indian mathematician Ramanujan, featuring Film Director Matthew Brown, and distinguished panel of mathematicians Manjul Bhargava (Princeton Univ.), Ken Ono (Emory Univ.) and Kannan Soundararajan (Stanford Univ.)

Venue: Cubberly Auditorium, Stanford University

Co-sponsored by SACHI and Dept. of Mathematics, Stanford University

**April 24, 2016**

***Pearls on a String, Asian Art Museum Special Exhibition Tour***

SACHI led private exhibition tour for SOAS Alumni by Kalpana Desai

Venue: Asian Art Museum Exhibition Galleries

Sponsored by SACHI

**May 21, 2016**

***Healing Through Art***

A Posture and Wellness Gallery Workshop with posture specialist Esther Gokhale, exploring Hindu and Buddhist artworks in the Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, permanent collection

Venue: Asian Art Museum Galleries, South Asia, Himalayas, and early China

Sponsored by SACHI

**June 19, 2016**

***Portal to Sri Lankan Culture: The Architecture of Geoffrey Bawa***

An Illustrated presentation by San Francisco architect, Thomas Soper

Venue: Palo Alto Art Center Auditorium

Sponsored by SACHI and Palo Alto Art Center

**July 9, 2016**

***Antaraa Aotbaayi – A Tale of a Kathakaa***

Featuring Kathak dancer, Antara Bhardwaj with innovative use of rhythm, music and spoken word as she explores being a storyteller in modern times

Venue: Mountain View Center for Performing Arts

Sponsored by EnActe and Sangam Arts with SACHI collaboration

**August 6, 2016**

***Qissebaazi – Mughal time storytelling tradition with***

Renowned and master storyteller, Danish Husain

Venue: Home of Vinita and Ashok Belani, Los Altos Hills

Hosted by Belanis

An Invited Event for SACHI friends

**August 21, 2016**

***Indian Classical Music: The Next Generation in a Sarode, Sitar, and Tabla Recital***

Arnab Chakrabarty on Sarode; Roopa Panesar on Sitar; and Sanju Sahai on Tabla

A new generation of talented young musicians from the UK

Venue: Palo Alto Art Center

Co-sponsored by SACHI and SOHARA in collaboration with PAAC

**September 18, 2016**

***Depicting the Beloved: Exploring Text and Image in Sixteenth Century Persian Painting***

An illustrated talk by Naciem Nikkhah, visiting PhD scholar, University of Cambridge

Venue: Palo Alto Art Center Meeting Room

Co-sponsored by SACHI and Palo Alto Art Center

**Upcoming Fall 2016 SACHI Programs:**

**October 4, 2016, 7 PM**

***A Discussion of the Ramayana with***

Renowned author, illustrator, storyteller and mythologist, Devdutt Pattanaik

Venue: Palo Alto Art Center

Co-sponsored by SACHI and INK talks

**October 7, 2016, 7 PM**

**San Francisco Asia Week Festival Event**

***Subterranean Ghosts: Vanishing Stepwells of India***

An Illustrated presentation by renowned Chicago journalist Victoria Lautman

Venue: Palo Alto Art Center

Co-sponsored by SACHI and Palo Alto Art Center

**November 5, 2016, 2 PM**

**SACHI Annual Event, *Mapping the Kumbh Mela: World's Largest Gathering of Humanity***

Presentations and Panel Discussion based on the 2013 *Kumbh Mela* Research Project, a Harvard University multi-disciplinary initiative of the South Asia Institute. Presented by Prof. Diana Eck (Harvard Divinity School), Prof. Rahul Mehrotra (Gaduate School of Design, Harvard), and Prof. Tarun Khanna (Harvard Business School); moderated by Prof. Robert Goldman (Prof. of Sanskrit and Religious Studies, UC Berkeley)

Venue: Asian Art Museum, San Francisco

Co-sponsored by SACHI, Asian Art Museum, and Harvard South Asia Institute