

SACHI

Society for Art & Cultural Heritage of India

October 16, 2018

Dear SACHI Members,

It will be a 21-year journey for SACHI in Fall 2018! Since 1997, the organization has brought to Bay Area audiences a wide array of thought provoking, illuminating, and memorable encounters in exploring the arts and culture of South Asia. Adventurous programing, multi-disciplinary approaches, and engaging conversations give SACHI programs a unique and expansive flavor.

Thank you for being a part of this journey! For the support we have continually received from member friends and institutions, we are deeply grateful! A collaborative spirit with strong institutional alliances continues to be SACHI's way forward. In the last year, Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, and Palo Alto Art Center have been its anchors for multiple events, many thanks to its leaders and enthusiastic program collaborators. SACHI and Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive also collaborated recently on a very special program.

Filled with varied flavors, rich landscapes, and profound and insightful conversation events, it was a year of many new endeavors.

A highlight event comprised the 20th Anniversary celebration with India's most illustrious scholar of Indian painting, Dr. B.N. Goswamy. He mesmerized his audience with his presentation, *The Unbearable Lightness of Drawing: Tracing the Life and Work of the Great 18th Century Painter, Nainsukh*. Leading us through an insightful journey into the realm of the Indian painter, Nainsukh, Prof. Goswamy shared with his listeners his groundbreaking story of piecing together the life of this great painter from virtual oblivion and anonymous past, to being a celebrated genius. In an immersive rendition, Goswamy carried his audience to new heights!

In a rare glimpse of Himalayan landscapes, Dr. Jaroslav Poncar took us on a journey to the monastic complexes of Alchi, Ladakh, to Tabo monastery in Himachal Pradesh, and to Tholing monastery in West Tibet through a photographic documentation of murals and wall paintings created a thousand years ago. His talk, *A Journey from Czechoslovakia to the Buddhist Himalayas: 40 Years of Exploring Himalayan Monasteries* was an illuminating visual feast to remote mountain retreats that once served as important centers of Buddhist learning. Associated with famous Indian masters of Buddhism, these represented the oldest Buddhist monastic enclaves in the Indian Himalayas, and in West Tibet. We rode a memorable photographic adventure!

Debashish Banerji's *Pan-Asianism and East-West Politics in the Bengal School of Art* touched on many interconnections relating to modernist works. Surveying themes, methods and ideas of some of the principal artists of the Bengal School, the scholar reflected not only on how artists drew on a distinct "Indianness" (despite

being trained in western style techniques), but also on its strong Pan Asian thread - a cultural response to colonial expansion. The event inspired a most insightful conversation in the intimate setting of a home environment.

A taste of the contemporary was provided by Guggenheim Fellow and artist Sandeep Mukherjee. Sharing his diverse body of work over the last decade in a talk, *Painting Performs, Carves, and Molds Image*, he engaged his audience through a dynamic presentation of his work involving painting and installation art. His presentation drew a multi-generational audience, especially inspiring the next generation of artists.

Priya Purshothaman, a classical musician, explored the deep rooted concept of the Indian Raga: What is a raga, and where can we trace its origins? Starting from its roots in Vedic chanting to its modern day rendition - a versatile and highly imaginative form - she carried us step by step in a poetic rendition, *The Story of a Raga*, showing how the modern day version emerged out of diverse musical traditions. A musical recital followed in a voice that soared majestically. The event was breathtaking, and the learning unique!

The young Stanford neurosurgeon and literary enthusiast, Paul Kalanithi wrote a memoir, *When Breath Becomes Air*, as he faced lung cancer at age 37, probing how the mind makes meaning and why our lives matter. The book, posthumously published in 2016 was shortlisted as a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. SACHI was honored to partner with Bay Area Book Festival in presenting a thought provoking Panel Discussion: *What Makes A Life Worth Living: Powerful Memoirs of Love and Loss*. The event brought into conversation Paul Kalanithi's wife, Lucy Kalanithi with writers Rebecca Soffer, Elizabeth Percer, and Elizabeth Scarborough to weave together ideas of love, hope, mortality, survival and loss in the modern age.

The panel discussion drew 300 attendees, both young and not so young, across all generations and from all ethnicities, to partake in a conversation that resonated with all, and touched the hearts and souls of all who were present. The panelists received a standing ovation for a rare and outstanding one-of-a-kind discussion.

A Spring Family Day organized by Palo Alto Art Center and SACHI drew an attendance of over 460 for a full day's program, 12.30 PM-4.30 PM. It encompassed a magical, animated film screening, *The World of Goopi & Bagha*, a remake of one of Indian master Satyajit Ray's cherished children's classic and beloved works, followed by art activities, outdoor activities, a staged reading of a production titled 'Raavan', based on the Indian epic, Ramayana, and a musical performance by Stanford's Raagapella group. A day filled with heartwarming and enchanting activities for children of all ages!

Three one-of-a-kind Field Trips drew SACHI friends out of the auditoriums into experiential immersive environments: A visit to the *Sufism Reoriented Sanctuary* in Walnut Creek, a sacred architectural space designed by the famed Philip Johnson and Alan Ritchie firm was an encounter beyond expectations - a walk into a pristine, other worldly realm - radiant and illuminating! A Livermore Temple outing coinciding with the Asian Art Museum 'Divine Bodies' exhibition could not have been better timed for partaking in ritual offerings to a world of Hindu deities housed in authentic South Indian architectural setting. And the *Aftel Archive of Curious Scents* experience in Berkeley, CA allowed you 'to step outside of yourself . . . if only for a moment'. Mandy Aftel's museum housing

nearly 300 fragrances derived from natural essences, allowed the visitor to immerse in a rich sensory landscape. Combined with a Chez Panisse lunch, one could not imagine a more exotic and rejuvenating ‘smell’, ‘touch’ and ‘taste’ experience.

The year closed with an eye-opening discovery of a Santa Barbara woman architect ‘Lutah’, with a film screening presented by director Kum Kum Bhavnani of her award winning creation, *Lutah, A Passion for Architecture: A Life in Design*. For having shaped Spanish Colonial Revival architecture that graces Santa Barbara, her vital presence was little known to the outside world. Following the gentle and quiet spirit of its character ‘Lutah’, the film, a graceful tribute, leaves the viewer humbled by her monumental architectural gifts (among them, the well known Lobero Theater and the Vedanta Temple). An exceptional and sensitive portrayal, the ‘Lutah’ film swept everyone by surprise in its ability to bring to life so vividly, an integral figure of early 20th century that had slipped out of public consciousness.

If you happened to be a textile enthusiast, a rare discussion and display of Nagaland Textiles brought together many Textile Arts Council and SACHI friends for an afternoon home event on *Wild Fibers of Nagaland: Indigenous Nettle Textiles of Northeast India*.


Last but not the least, SACHI was a participant in three exhibition related projects: the organization is a proud co-sponsor of the majestic *Divine Bodies* Special Exhibition held at the Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, March 9-July 29, 2018, and also a second, vibrant exhibition of Mithila paintings currently on display in an exhibition, *Painting is My Everything: Art from India’s Mithila Region*, September 7-December 30, 2018. In addition, SACHI was invited by the Livermore Public Library to organize an exhibition focusing on SACHI’s many distinctive programs over the years. An exhibition, *Looking Back*, was on a month long display, February 1-28, 2018 in the Library’s Art Gallery in a Poster Exhibition that showcased SACHI events from the recent past.

This would not have been possible without the dedicated and invaluable support of SACHI Member friends. Our immense thanks to one and all! Your generous giving has supported some landmark SACHI events in the past year. Hope each has been inspiring and rewarding. We encourage all to renew their memberships.

Please mark your calendar for the 2018 SACHI Annual Meeting on November 17, 2018 to be followed by the Annual Event. Details of time, place and the agenda are attached. This year’s speaker will be a distinguished scholar and San Francisco based historian, Omar Khan. He will present an exciting theme for the SACHI Annual Event, *Paper Jewels: Postcards from the Raj*.

We very much look forward to having you at the November 17, 2:00 PM Annual Event. The 1:15 PM Annual Meeting precedes the program.

With warmest and sincere thanks,



Kalpana Desai

President, Society for Art & Cultural Heritage of India

SACHI Activities for the Year October 1, 2017-September 30, 2018

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 completes twenty- one years in September 2018.

SACHI Board

The Society Board of Directors include Kalpana Desai (President and Program Chair), Poornima Kumar (Vice President), Mary Ann Milford-Lutzker (Vice President), Monica Desai-Henderson (Secretary), Edward Baer (Treasurer), Aarti Johri (Website Development), Aggie Brenneman (Programs), and Michelle Baird (Programs). In addition, Sheila Kothari, recent Board Member and past Treasurer, gave generously of her time.

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, Michelle & Jared Baird, Lynne Brewer, Atri & Anshu Chatterjee, Vaishali Chadha, Rajen Dalal & Linda Burch, Kalpana & Tushit Desai, Raj & Helen Desai, Monica Desai-Henderson & Steve Henderson, Meena D'Souza & Sriram Ramachandran, Arvind & Sharbari Iyer, Asha Jadeja, Aarti & Sandeep Johri, Bharti & Pradyot Kansara, Jennifer Kao & R. Stanley Williams, Ketan & Sheila Kothari, Manish Kothari & Carmen Saura, Lata Krishnan & Ajay Shah, Poornima & Arun Kumar, Pravin Kumar, Prithvi Legha & Shivi Singh, Jane Lurie, Matra Majmundar & Raj Mashruwala, Forrest McGill, Mary-Ann Milford-Lutzker, Shakuntala & Bhupendra Patel, Yogini & Mahesh Patel, Sonia & Ashish Patwardhan, Sonya Pelia & Matthew Lutzker, Robert & Susan Pinsker, Jaymati & Mahendra Ranchod, Louise Russell, Naishadh & Saroj Saraiya, Merrill Randol Sherwin & Stephen Sherwin, Gursharan & Elvira Sidhu, Bipin & Rekha Shah, Anna & James Spudich, Gita & Ashok Vaish, Meena Vashee, and Judy Wilbur.

SACHI extends special appreciation to the Jadeja Family Foundation for major program and exhibition support in 2017-2018. Thank you, also, to the Brayton Wilbur Jr. Memorial Fellowship enabling support for Dr. BN Goswamy's visit, our featured speaker for SACHI's 20th Anniversary Event. SACHI is grateful also, to the Krishnan-Shah Family Foundation for on-going program grant support and its long standing association with SACHI.

In-Kind Support

In addition, SACHI is grateful for generous **in-kind support** provided by Matra Majmundar & Raj Mashruwala, Priyanka Rana & Navneet Dalal, and Nazneen & Ehler Spliedt for generously hosting home events with local and visiting scholars; to Sheila & Ketan Kothari for hosting visiting artist Sandeep Mukherjee, and also, a post

event reception with the artist; to Rekha & Bipin Shah for a SACHI reception at their home, following Sufi Sanctuary Field Trip; to Shivi Singh & Prithvi Legha for hosting a formal evening home reception in honor of visiting scholar, Dr. BN Goswamy; to Elizabeth Takao and Neaera Baer for flower arrangements and table decor for SACHI's special 20th Anniversary Annual Event; and to Graeme Vanderstoel, for valuable support and coordination for SACHI program with visiting scholar, Matti Braun.

SACHI Collaborations with Partner Organizations:

Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, Public Programs & Education
Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, South Asia Curatorial Department
Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, Docent Council
The Asia Foundation, San Francisco
Mills College, Department of Art and Art History, Oakland
Palo Alto Art Center, and PAAC Foundation, Palo Alto
Stanford University, Center for South Asia
UC Berkeley, Institute for South Asia Studies
UC Berkeley, History of Art Department, South and Southeast Asian Art
UC Berkeley, South Asia Art Initiative
Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archives (BAMPFA)
Bay Area Book Festival, Berkeley
3rd i South Asian Film Festival, San Francisco
The Livermore Library
The Livermore Temple
Sufism Reoriented Sanctuary, Walnut Creek
Aftel Archive of Curious Scents, Berkeley
SOHARA: sharing arts and tradition, Dallas, TX
Consulate General of India, San Francisco

To leaders/supporters of partnering organizations, SACHI extends warm thanks and appreciation:

Asian Art Museum: Jay Xu, Deborah Clearwaters, Forrest McGill, Qamar Adamjee, Allison Wyckoff, Silvia Chang and Paula Rampe; **Asian Art Museum Docent Council:** Mary Powell, Neaera Baer, Mary Mead, Linda Lei; **The Asia Foundation:** David Arnold, Gerald Martin; **Mills College, Department of Art and Art History:** Mary-Ann Milford-Lutzker; **Palo Alto Art Center:** Karen Kienzle, Suzanne Ramirez; Denise Laxen di Zazzo; **Stanford University, Center for South Asia:** Thomas Hansen and Sangeeta Mediratta; **UC Berkeley, Institute for South Asia Studies:** Munis Faruqui, Sanchita Saxena, Puneeta Kala; **UC Berkeley, History of Art Department, South and Southeast Asian Art:** Sugata Ray, Atreyee Gupta; **Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive:** Lawrence Rinder, Julia White, Sherry Goodman; **Bay Area Book Festival:** Cherilyn Parsons; **3rd i South Asian Film Festival:** Ivan Jaigirdar; **Livermore Library:** Paul Sevilla; **Livermore Temple:** Leela Koneru; **Sufism Reoriented Sanctuary:** Pascal Kaplan; **Aftel Archive:** Mandy Aftel; **SOHARA:** Rekha & Prakash Rao; **Indian Consulate:** Consul General Venkatesan Ashok & Mrs. Usha Ashok

SACHI Programs, October 1, 2017 – September 30, 2018

October 30, 2017

A Journey from Czechoslovakia to the Buddhist Himalayas:

40 Years of Exploring Himalayan Monasteries

with Dr. Jaroslav Poncar, Prof. Emeritus, Technical University, Cologne

Venue: Palo Alto Art Center

Co-sponsored by SACHI and Palo Alto Art Center

SACHI 20th Anniversary Annual Event

November 12, 2017

The Unbearable Lightness of Drawing:

Tracing the Life and Work of the Great 18th Century Painter, Nainsukh

with Dr. B.N. Goswamy, internationally renowned scholar of Indian painting

Venue: Samsung Hall, Asian Art Museum, San Francisco

Co-sponsored by SACHI, Asian Art Museum, and The Asia Foundation

November 11 & 18, 2017

3rd i San Francisco International South Asian Film Festival

South Asian Film Screenings:

November 11, Castro Theater, San Francisco

November 18, Cine Arts @ Palo Alto Square

Selections include Shilpa Ranade's animated film adaptation,

The World of Goopi & Bagha, a remake of Satyajit Ray film and

Nari - Gingger Shankar celebrates the life and work of her mother

(Viji Shankar) and grandmother (Lakshmi Shankar), a 3 generational

film on Women and Music

February 1-28, 2018

Looking Back!

A SACHI Poster Exhibition at the Livermore Public Library

Celebrating two decades of visionary and educational programs

Venue: Art Gallery, Livermore Library

Co-sponsored by SACHI and Livermore Library

February 3, 2018

Maharaja: The Splendor of India's Royal Courts

An Illustrated Presentation

by Kalpana Desai

in conjunction with launch of SACHI Poster Exhibition

and Livermore Library's Annual Book Reading selection

A Long Way Home, a Memoir by Saroo Brierley

Venue: Livermore Public Library

Co-sponsored by SACHI and Livermore Library

February 25, 2018

Field Trip

Livermore Hindu Temple in conjunction with Asian Art Museum

Divine Bodies Special Exhibition

An engaging tour of Hindu deities housed in shrines in an authentic South Indian architectural setting

Participation in puja offerings followed by discussions and lunch with religious scholar, and temple management

Venue: Livermore Temple

Sponsored by SACHI

March 24, 2018

Field Trip

Aftel Archive of Curious Scents, a one-of-a-kind Museum

with more than 300 natural essences derived from fruits, flowers, trees

A Tour with owner Mandy Aftel, followed by Chez Panisse Lunch

Venue: Aftel Archive Museum, and Chez Panisse Restaurant, Berkeley

Sponsored by SACHI

April 15, 2018

Spring Family Day at the Palo Alto Art Center

An animated film screening, *The World of Goopi & Bagha*,

followed by children's art & outdoor activities, a staged reading

of 'Raavan' from the Indian epic, *Ramayana*, & musical performance

Venue: Palo Alto Art Center

Co-sponsored by SACHI and PAAC in collaboration with Rinconada Library

April 28, 2018

What Makes A Life Worth Living: Powerful Memoirs of Love and Loss

A Panel Discussion with Paul Kalanithi's wife, Lucy Kalanithi and writers

Rebecca Soffer, Elizabeth Percer and moderator Elizabeth Scarborough

Inspired by Stanford neurosurgeon Paul Kalanithi's book, *When Breath Becomes Air*

Venue: Veterans' Memorial Building Auditorium, downtown Berkeley

Co-sponsored by SACHI and Bay Area Book Festival

May 12, 2018

The Story of a Raga: A Survey of Indian Classical Music followed by

a Musical Recital - a 2-part lecture demonstration and performance

by Priya Purshothaman

Hindustani classical vocalist and Visiting Mumbai Artist

Venue: Palo Alto Art Center

Co-sponsored by SACHI and Palo Alto Art Center

May 31, 2018

Pan-Asianism and East-West Politics in the Bengal School of Art

by Dr. Debashish Banerji, CIIS

Prof., Indian Philosophy & Culture, Asian Art, and Chair, East-West Psychology

Venue: Home of Matra Majmundar & Raj Mashruwala

Sponsored by SACHI

June 2, 2018

Painting Performs, Carves, and Molds Image

by Sandeep Mukherjee

Contemporary Artist and Prof., Dept. of Art, Pomona College, Claremont

Venue: Palo Alto Art Center

Co-sponsored by SACHI and Palo Alto Art Center

August 26, 2018

Field Trip

Sufism Reoriented: A Sacred Design

A presentation and tour of the Sanctuary and gardens followed by a film screening, *The Story of Noor Inayat Khan*, a Sufi Indian Princess

Venue: Walnut Creek, CA

Sponsored by SACHI in collaboration with Sufism Reoriented team

September 16, 2018

Lutah, A Passion for Architecture: A Life in Design

An architectural film screening event presented by

Prof. Kum Kum Bhavnani, Dept. of Sociology, UC Santa Barbara

Venue: Home of Priyanka Rana & Navneet Dalal

Sponsored by SACHI

September 29, 2018

Wild Fibers of Nagaland: Indigenous Textiles of Northeast India

a presentation by Radhi Parekh, Founder-Director, Artisans' Center, Mumbai followed by display of Nagaland Textiles

Venue: Home of Nazneen & Ehler Spliedt

Sponsored by SACHI

Upcoming Event**SACHI 2018 Annual Event**

November 17, 2 PM, 2018

Paper Jewels: Postcards from the Raj

by Omar Khan, distinguished scholar and San Francisco based historian

Venue: Samsung Hall, Asian Art Museum, San Francisco

Co-sponsored by SACHI and Asian Art Museum