Please Join us for an exciting Mithila exhibition highlight as Shalinee Kumari Narrates her Personal Story through her Art in an Illustrated Presentation

My Paintings are My Feelings: A Voice from India

Followed by a stimulating Conversation with Shalinee Kumari, and scholars Malini Bakshi, and Vijaya Nagarajan

Mithila and Kolam Painting: Celebrating the World of Women in India

Thursday, October 18, 2018, 6 PM
Palo Alto Art Center, 1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto
Free and Open to the Public
Shalinee Kumari, a Visiting Mithila Artist from India, will be an Artist in Residence, October 17-21, 2018 at the Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, during the Special Exhibition, Painting is My Everything: Art from India’s Mithila Region.

Working in a centuries-old tradition of Mithila painting, she conveys a distinctly modern point of view in projecting themes based on her own experiences. Born in 1985 in a rural Mithila village, she studied Geography before attending Mithila Art Institute. Now based in Hyderabad, India, Shalinee is one of the young female artists working in the Mithila painting tradition using the style for personal self-expression.

“I took the fine art skills I had learned and my thoughts of the world and I combined them”, explains Shalinee. Drawing on both ancient and modern Indian art traditions, she expresses original visions, personal struggles, and critiques of international politics. Her work intertwines global and local concerns. However, her core artistic expressions revolve around feminist issues.

Malini Bakshi is a Product Designer in the technology industry with a long standing interest in the arts. She taught Design and Typography at the Academy of Art University, San Francisco, while also following the evolution of individual Mithila artists since 1995. Through an organization she founded in 2002, Pink Mango, Malini has been involved in organizing Mithila painting exhibitions and projects across communities in Northern California. Her focus remains on gaining appreciation for the contemporary painting tradition, and in bringing life and art sustaining income for the Mithila artists. She is the co-author with David Szanton of the publication, Mithila Painting: The Evolution of an Art Form published by the Ethnic Arts Foundation and Pink Mango, 2007.

Dr. Vijaya Nagarajan is an Associate Professor in the Departments of Theology/Religious Studies and Environmental Studies at the University of San Francisco. She has also taught at the University of California, Berkeley and at Harvard University. Her books, Feeding A Thousand Souls: Women, Ritual and Ecology in India, An Exploration of the Kolam (Oxford University Press, 2018) is a deep investigation of the South Indian women’s ritual art form, the Kolam, an ephemeral rice-flour painting performed daily on the thresholds of homes, temples and businesses. She has been active in the American Academy of Religion and in the environmental movements in the United States. Nagarajan was born in a South Indian village and raised bi-culturally in New Delhi and Washington D.C. She received her Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley in the fields of South Asian Studies/Anthropology/Art History/Tamil Language and Literature.