



# SACHI

Society for Art & Cultural Heritage of India

September 27, 2019

Dear SACHI Members,

SACHI celebrates 22 years of successful programming on September 30, 2019. We thank you for your support, as we continue to dedicate ourselves to SACHI's mission of promoting an understanding of Indian art through quality events. SACHI is led by a group of committed volunteers, and supported by its members, sponsors, and partner institutions. Together, we create events that are unique, informative, and engaging. Thank you for being part of the SACHI community!

Our fifteen programs, described below, spanned a diverse range of subjects. These included traditional and contemporary Indian art, ancient puppeteering and modern filmmaking, Indian cuisine with a San Francisco flair, and the rich histories of textile block-printing, colonial postcards, and royal jewelry collections.

SACHI's annual event *Paper Jewels: Postcards from The Raj* featured Omar Khan, local historian and noted scholar. A captivated audience learnt about his research on colonial postcard artists, photographers, and publishers, and how the humble picture postcard became the global face of the subcontinent from 1892 to 1947.

Cologne-based artist Matti Braun brought a fresh perspective to the multi-faceted life of Vikram Sarabhai, the founder of India's space program. Braun focused on Sarabhai's influence on the Modernist movement in twentieth-century India. This included noted filmmaker Satyajit Ray's uncompleted science fiction screenplay *The Alien*, itself the inspiration for Braun's recent art installations. A short film portraying Ray's style of direction added another exceptional element to the event.

Hemangini Singh, textile artist, delighted her audience with an illustrated presentation on the history of textile block-printing, followed by a live demonstration and a workshop where participants created their own block-printed holiday card. It was a perfect holiday event.

We hosted a series of immersive experiences to further engage SACHI attendees. Docent Neaera Baer led a tour of the Mithila art exhibition *Painting is My Everything* at the Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, following an evening of conversation with Mithila artist, Shaline Kumari, and scholars Malini Bakshi and Vijaya Nagarajan, in Palo Alto. Curator Martin Chapman guided a private tour of the dazzling, not-to-be-missed exhibition *East Meets West: Jewels from the Al-Thani Collection*, that explored the cultural and material exchanges between India and Europe through jewelry and precious objects from the seventeenth century to the present.

An energetic group of SACHI participants traveled to Southern California, combining a visit to the Vedanta Temple in Santa Barbara, with a visit to the spectacular exhibition, *The Jeweled Isle: Art*

from Sri Lanka, kindly led by curator Bindu Gude. Additional stops at the Getty Villa, Eames House and the Simon Norton Museum added to the busy, camaraderie-filled weekend.

Vishal Dar, artist-in-residence, described the conception of his art in his studio at the Headlands Center for the Arts, followed by a hike to the former military batteries, to experience augmented reality light sculptures using an iPhone app. It was a rarely witnessed combination of technology and art that attracted a multi-generational group of attendees!

Susan Sayre Batton, Director of the San Jose Museum of Art, graciously explained the timely themes in Rina Banerjee's stunning retrospective *Make Me A Summary of the World*: from female empowerment to climate change. Despite ample time spent in the galleries, participants vowed to return with friends to take in the exhibition once again.

Celebrated director and actor Nandita Das enthralled a 300+ audience in a conversation with Stanford professors Usha Iyer and Jisha Menon, and changemaker Asha Jadeja. As Das discussed the nuances of directing a period-film, she explained how her recent biopic *Manto*, on mid-twentieth century literary maverick Saadat Hasan Manto, remained relevant to viewers today.

At the Bay Area Book Festival, chef Nik Sharma and KQED reporter Sandhya Dirks engaged in a lively conversation on the ethnic and geographic influences in Nik Sharma's recipes, including those in his recent cookbook, *Season*.

In more intimate settings, Padma Maitland, Assistant Curator of Asian Art at the Cantor Arts Center, enlightened a curious audience on his recent research on modern Buddhist architecture in India, discussing lesser-known religious sites. Master-puppeteer Anupama Hoskere, drew on India's *Natyashastra* to illustrate the origins of the art of puppetry and her own journey in reviving this art-form. Divya Hoskere, rising Bharatanatyam artist, gave a delightful demonstration, accompanied onstage by a puppet.

At the time of publishing this report, we await our last event of the year with great anticipation. Andrew Ward, noted essayist and historian of British India, will present his 50-year-old photographic archive of a village in north India, followed by a conversation with CIIS professor Debashish Banerji.

We hope you have enjoyed the vibrancy of the year's programs and request you to renew your membership at this time. Please join us for the SACHI Annual Event on November 2; further details are attached below. Our guest speaker is Shanay Jhaveri, Assistant Curator of South Asian Art at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. We look forward to seeing you at the Annual Event and at the preceding SACHI Annual Meeting, at 1:15 p.m.

With sincere thanks,



Aarti Johri  
President, SACHI

## **SACHI Overview – October 1, 2018 - September 30, 2019**

The Society for Art & Cultural Heritage of India, an educational nonprofit, based in the San Francisco Bay Area, was formed to serve as a forum for promoting an understanding and appreciation of the rich and diverse art, culture and heritage of India. The Society completes twenty-two years in September 2019.

### **SACHI Board**

The Society Board of Directors include: Aarti Johri (President), Mary-Ann Milford-Lutzker (Vice-President and Advisor), Monica Desai-Henderson (Vice-President and Secretary), Ed Baer (Treasurer), Priyanka Rana (Membership Chair), Michelle Baird (Programs), and Aggie Brenneman (Programs). In addition, Kalpana Desai, Former President continued to generously offer her time and guidance, as did Sheila Kothari, Former Treasurer and Membership Chair.

### **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 & Edward Baer, Michelle & Jared Baird, Lynne Brewer, Atri & Anshu Chatterjee, Arthi Britto Dorai, Linda Burch & Rajen Dalal, Helen & Raj Desai, Kalpana & Tushit Desai, Vinita & Naren Gupta, Monica Desai-Henderson & Stephen Henderson, Asha Jadeja , Aarti & Sandeep Johri, Rekha Pai-Kamath & Anil Kamath, Madhu & Raj Khanna, Barbara & William Kinsey, Manish Kothari & Carmen Saura , Sheila & Ketan Kothari, Lata Krishnan & Ajay Shah, Poornima & Arun Kumar, Pravin & Mythili Kumar, Prithvi Legha & Shivi Singh-Legha, Matra Majmundar & Raj Mashruwala, Forrest McGill, Mary-Ann Milford-Lutzker, Pragna & Madhukar Mehta, Mahesh & Yogini Patel, Shakuntala & Bhupendra Patel, Sonia & Ashish Patwardhan, Sonya Pelia & Matthew Lutzker, Priyanka Rana & Navneet Dalal, Mahendra & Jaymati Ranchod, Merrill Randol Sherwin & Stephen Sherwin, Louise Russell, Naishadh and Saroj Saraiya, Rekha & Bipin Shah, Gursharan & Elvira Sidhu, Chandana Reddy-Sinha, Gita & Ashok Vaish, and Meena Vashee.

SACHI extends special thanks to the Jadeja Family Foundation and the Krishnan-Shah Family Foundation for their generous program support and longstanding association with SACHI.

In addition, SACHI is grateful for the generous in-kind support of Vrinda & Vasudev Bhandarkar, who graciously hosted the home event *Unraveling the Mysteries of Ancient Puppetry in India/Karnataka*, and to Geetha Srikantan who hosted visiting master-puppeteer Anupama Hoskere.

**SACHI Collaborations with Partner Organizations:**

Asian Art Museum, Public Programs & Education, San Francisco, CA  
Asia Week Festival, San Francisco, CA  
Bay Area Book Festival, Berkeley, CA  
Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archives (BAMPFA), Berkeley, CA  
California Institute of Integral Studies (CIIS), San Francisco, CA  
Headlands Center for the Arts, Sausalito, CA  
Legion of Honor, San Francisco, CA  
Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA  
Palo Alto Art Center, Palo Alto, CA  
San Jose Museum of Art, San Jose, CA  
Santa Barbara Vedanta Temple, Santa Barbara, CA  
Stanford University, Center for South Asia, Stanford, CA  
3<sup>rd</sup> I Films, San Francisco, CA

**To leaders and 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, Mona Chang, Gregg Gerbino, Qiana Williams

Asia Week Festival: Lily Chen

Bay Area Book Festival: Cherilyn Parsons

Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archives: Julia White, Sherry Goodman, Graeme Vanderstoel

California Institute of Integral Studies: Debashish Banerji

Eames Foundation/Residence: Joan Mace

Headlands Center for the Arts: Sarah Kermensky, Ally Zimmerman

Los Angeles County Museum of Art: Bindu Gude, Ravi Gunewardena, Frank Escher

Legion of Honor: Martin Chapman, Patrick Buijten

Palo Alto Art Center: Karen Kienzle, Suzanne Ramirez

San Jose Museum of Art: Susan Sayre Batton, Lauren Dickens, Samantha Hull

Santa Barbara Vedanta Temple: Pravrajika Vrajaprana

Stanford University, Center for South Asia: Usha Iyer, Jisha Menon, Burcak Keskin Kozat

3<sup>rd</sup> I Films: Ivan Jagrirdar

## **SACHI Programs: October 1, 2018 - September 30, 2019**

### October 13, 2018

*Vikram Sarabhai: A Modern Indian Icon. Presented by Matti Braun*

Cologne-based artist Matti Braun spins an elaborate web of interdisciplinary associations around the Indian physicist Vikram Sarabhai in his illustrated presentation.

Venue: Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive, Berkeley, CA.

Sponsored by SACHI and Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive (BAMPFA)

### October 18, 2018

*My Paintings are My Feelings: A Voice from India*

Shaline Kumari, visiting artist from India, narrates her personal story expressed through her Mithila paintings, followed by a conversation with Mithila scholar Malini Bakshi and Vijaya Nagrajan, Associate Professor in the Departments of Theology/Religious Studies and Environmental Studies at the University of San Francisco.

Venue: Palo Alto Art Center, Palo Alto, CA

Sponsored by SACHI and the Palo Alto Art Center

### November 3 - 4, 2018

3<sup>rd</sup> i San Francisco International South Asian Film Festival

SACHI co-sponsors three films: *Village Rockstars*, *Up Down & Sideways*, *Shalom Bollywood: The Untold Story of Indian Cinema*

Venue: New People Cinema and Castro Theatre, San Francisco, CA

Sponsored by SACHI with 3rd i Films and affiliates

### November 17, 2018

*SACHI Annual Event 2018. Paper Jewels: Postcards from the Raj*

Omar Khan, San Francisco based historian and distinguished scholar, shares his research on colonial postcards.

Venue: Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, CA

Sponsored by SACHI and Asian Art Museum

### December 1, 2018

*Traditions and Beyond: A SACHI Holiday Workshop*

Hemangini Singh gives an illustrated presentation on textile block-printing, followed by a hands-on workshop and exclusive exhibition.

Venue: Palo Alto Art Center, Palo Alto, CA

Sponsored by SACHI

### December 16, 2018

*SACHI Private Tour of the Mithila Art Exhibition at the Asian Art Museum*

Asian Art Museum docent-led tour through the exhibition *Painting is My Everything*, featuring the work of contemporary Mithila artists.

Venue: Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, CA

Sponsored by SACHI and Asian Art Museum

January 26, 2019

*East Meets West: Jewels of the Maharajas from the Al Thani Collection.*

Martin Chapman, curator in charge of European decorative arts and sculpture and interim curator in charge of European art at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, leads a private tour through the exhibition.

Venue: Legion of Honor, San Francisco, CA

Sponsored by SACHI

February 2, 2019

*Edge of See: Twilight Engines*

Artist Vishal Dar led a studio-visit, presentation and hike to experience augmented reality light sculptures in former military batteries.

Venue: Headlands Center for the Arts,

Sponsored by SACHI and Headlands Center for the Arts

March 4, 2019

*Journey of Making Manto: From the Written Word to the Moving Image*

Director Nandita Das converses with Change-maker Asha Motwani, and Stanford Professors Jisha Menon and Usha Iyer about the intersections of cinema, literature, and the sub-continent's history in the context of the 2018 film *Manto*.

Venue: Cubberley Auditorium, Stanford, CA

Sponsored by SACHI, Stanford Center for South Asia, and Motwani Jadeja Foundation

March 8, 2019

*SACHI Excursion to Southern California: Santa Barbara and LA*

A SACHI group-visit to see the exhibition *The Jeweled Isle: Art from Sri Lanka*, led by curator Bindu Gude. Additional visits to the Santa Barbara Vedanta Temple, Charles & Ray Eames residence, Norton Simon Museum, and the Getty Villa.

Venue: Santa Barbara and Los Angeles, CA

Sponsored by SACHI and LACMA

May 5, 2019

*Season: An Interview with Nik Sharma*

Nik Sharma, beloved curator of the award-winning food blog *A Brown Table*, discusses *Season*, his stunning new cookbook, with Sandhya Dirk, race and equity reporter at KQED Public Radio

Venue: San Francisco Chronicle Stage in the Park, Berkeley, CA.

Sponsored by SACHI and the Bay Area Book Festival

May 11, 2019

*Modern Indian Buddhist Art and Architecture*

Padma Maitland, Assistant Curator of Asian Art at the Cantor Arts Center at Stanford University, shares his recent research on Modern Buddhist Art and Architecture.

Venue: Home Event in Los Altos Hills

Sponsored by SACHI

July 15, 2019

*Unraveling the Mysteries of Ancient Puppetry in India/Karnataka:*

Master Puppeteer Anupama Hoskere, from Bangalore India, in A Lecture Demonstration on the ancient art of puppetry and her journey of reviving this art form.

Venue: Home Event in Los Altos Hills

Sponsored by SACHI

September 7, 2019

*Make Me A Summary of The World*

Susan Sayre Batton, Oshman Executive Director, San Jose Museum of Art, leads a tour of Rina Banerjee's retrospective exhibition.

Venue: San Jose Museum of Art, San Jose, CA

Sponsored by SACHI and San Jose Museum of Art

September 27, 2019

*Hushangabad: Portrait of a North Indian Village 50 Years Ago*

Noted essayist, historian Andrew Ward on his photographic archives of a North Indian village, followed by a conversation with CIIS Professor Debashish Banerji.

Venue: Namaste Hall, CIIS, San Francisco, CA

Sponsored by SACHI and CIIS

## **Upcoming Programs**

November 2, 2019

SACHI Annual Event 2019: *South Asian Modern and Contemporary Art at The Met*

Shanay Jhaveri, Assistant Curator of South Asian modern and contemporary art at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, will provide an overview of The Met's recent South Asian acquisitions and exhibitions while bringing into focus some of the larger intellectual issues and practical challenges around curating and collecting in the 21st century. Marc Mayer, Assistant Curator of Contemporary Art at the Asian Art Museum, will facilitate a brief conversation with Shanay Jhaveri following the presentation.

Venue: Samsung Hall, Asian Art Museum, San Francisco

Sponsored by SACHI and Asian Art Museum