



Kolkata Centre for Creativity

In collaboration with

Nazrul Tirtha, NKDA and HIDCO

Presents

“AMI ARTS FESTIVAL”

The Festival is supported by CSR initiative of Emami

Kolkata, 21st November 2022: Kolkata Centre for Creativity is all set to host the third edition of its annual arts festival—the AMI Arts Festival, an initiative that will celebrate the rich culture of Bengal’s legacy through art, music, food and more. AMI Arts Festival 2022 aims to touch the lives of people with hope and positivity. It is a celebration of the amalgamation of cutting-edge contemporary art and traditional crafts. The festival will start from 17th December 2022 to 25th December 2022 at Nazrultirtha from 12: 00 pm to 8:00 pm and will be open to all.

AMI Arts Festival is KCC’s annual free-for-all cultural festival that takes pride in its Indian cultural legacy and celebrates contemporary manifestations in the arts. Though locally rooted and trans-local in spirit, the festival hosts participants from across India and abroad to encourage the cross-pollination of ideas and creativity. The AMI Arts Festival becomes a melting pot of all kinds of arts, artists and programs, including multiple exhibitions, a delightful bazaar, musical concerts, folk performances, workshops, and virtual talk sessions.

“Our very own annual festival, the AMI Arts Festival has taken a major stride this year. For the first time, this free-for-all festival will be held for 9 days, once again at Nazrul Tirtha. Gauging AMI’s popularity, we decided to expand the festival in this edition - adding to the city’s festive spirit in December”, **says Ms Richa Agarwal, Chairperson Kolkata Centre for Creativity.**

Performance List:

- **Star Performances by**
 - Vishwa Mohan Bhatt
 - Anjan Dutt
 - Imon Chakraborty
 - Durnibar and Saurav Moni
 - Arko Mukhaerjee Collective

- **Slopes to Sea: A Journey through traditions across Bengal**

These diverse folk performances are being brought together by Music Composer, Singer, and Songwriter Subhadeep Guha in one ensemble performance on the inauguration of AMI Arts Festival 2022. As the name ‘Slopes to Sea’ suggests, the performance will begin with the folk forms from the hills of Bengal and gradually come down to the Bay of Bengal, highlighting the important folk forms of the different districts. So in effect, the performance will be a cultural mapping of Bengal showcasing a selection of 12 folk forms — interlinked in a single musical performance.



- **Tavam**

'Tavam' is a Kattaikkuttu performance by Kattaikkuttu Sangam and has been curated by Pickle Factory Dance Foundation. TAVAM has been imagined as two journeys in opposite directions: on the one hand, Arjuna's journey to Mount Kailasa in search of the Pasupati weapon and, on the other hand, the journey of five young rural women Kattaikkuttu performers into a socially forbidden, male-only theatre world.

- **Meepao with Multimedia**

'Meepao' is a dance in celebration of all the departed, especially the ones who are deemed inconsequential. Using minimal movements, 'Meepao' invites the spectator into a space where dancers and non-dancers alike can join in this celebration. It begins with simple movements of the feet. The movements repeat, as though creating its own ritual, and finds its depth and textures through the synchronicity of bodies dancing together to the beat of live music. They slowly transcend into a liminal space where the living ("mee") convey a message ("pao") of harmony.

Concept/Scenography/Choreography: Surjit Nongmeikapam.

- **Rang-e-Thar**

'Rang-e-Thar' will take us on a colourful and leisurely journey through the myriad flavours of traditional music from the deserts of western Rajasthan - rare, melodious folk songs to ecstatic spiritual and Sufi tunes to robust dance grooves. This unusual offering will be interspersed with an interactive engagement with the audience, both informative and anecdotal, providing insights into the lives of the musicians, their music and their instruments. Rang-e-Thar will be presented by SAZ, young musicians from the Langa community immersed in a vast and varied musicality and keeping their traditions alive in modern settings. SAZ features Asin Khan, superb vocalist and a most proficient young master of the Sindhi Sarangi; Zakir Khan, an astonishing Khartal player; Sadik Khan, among the finest dholak players Rajasthan has to offer.

SAZ is produced and managed by Divya Bhatia.

- **Mehfil-e-Qawwali**

A soulful Qawwali performance comprising live renditions of age-old compositions by Danish Husain Badayuni, the grandson of the legendary musician Ustad Nissar Husain Khan Sahib, that will pay homage to the rich legacy and tradition of this venerable art form and trace the histories and stories associated with it.

- **Borda Borda**

It is a story of two brothers. The younger one is truant, and the elder is an all-work Jack. One is nine, and the other, fourteen. Yet it is the younger that comes first in the exams every term, and the older repeats the story of his failure. The younger brother, now an aged man, recounts his childhood days in an interview before a camera. As we listen to the interview and watch it at the same time, the image of the ridiculous man in the elder brother fades into the larger-than-life image of a man who brings before us the essence of family ties, social bonding, education, and the values inherited. We listen, feel, and learn on the stage and across; so does, as it seems, the author himself having his story retold from letter to dramatics. One more thing before we end. The camera is made to capture the live moments in this play. The truth and experience revealed through an



actor on stage is projected upstage through an image with a ten-fold blow-up: the actor's face and its magnified image on the screen creates a third impression in the mind of the audience.

Actor: Goutam Halder

- **Journeys (by Sujoy Prosad Chatterjee and Shibasish Banerjee)**

'Journeys' is a work-in-progress production where life and arts meet in transit through words and melody. In such dismal times when a pandemic looms large on humanity, this production aims at talking about humanity. This is the new edition of JOURNEYS—a signature arts project by Interdisciplinary artist Sujoy Prosad Chatterjee and acclaimed composer-musician Shibasish Banerjee.

- **Based On A False Story: A Clown Performance (by Madhurima Goswami & Suroj Biswas)**

'Based on a False Story' gives expression to the situation faced by people on being browbeaten by world politics. At the very outset, a clown enters the audience and shows antics to attract their attention. Just when he is about to bring all of them under his spell, another clown enters. The 2nd clown creates a disturbance in the hitherto peaceful atmosphere. After long bouts of squabbles and fights, they both agree that this has to end and decide to divide the space. But the situation becomes more disturbed after the division. The squabbling escalates over minor issues. They finally came to the decision to create a buffer space in-between their respective areas. Then comes the stumbling block of what to do with the people (audience) in the buffer zone. The state of the general people/audience in this wrangling situation is the basis of the interactive performance 'Based on a False Story'.

- **Hip-Hop performance** by the Streetfood Music Set (Artists: Cizzy and Joesjoint)

- **Chhau Performance by Sima Mahato Mahila Chhau Samity**

- **Stand-up Comedy** by Calcutta Comedy Club

Exhibitions:

Art Exhibition I – Divergent Terrains

The AMI Arts Festival has invited visual artists to submit their artworks for the art exhibition-cum-fundraiser, exploring this year's theme—'landscapes'. The exhibition — titled '**Divergent Terrains**' — will be curated by eminent **curator Mr. Suresh Jayaram**, who is the Founder-Director of Visual Art Collective, 1Shanthiroad Studio.

Art Exhibition II

In collaboration with **Museo Camera Museum**, KCC is organising a never-seen-before exhibition of vintage cameras and exhibits from **The Visual Archives of Kulwant Roy** in Kolkata. We invite Kolkatans to experience visual storytelling through cameras through this open-to-all exhibition. **The director of Museo Camera, Mr. Aditya Arya** will be at the festival facilitating two rare photography workshops and will also be a part of a talk session encouraging the participants to research more, learn about and appreciate the art of photography.



Art Exhibition III – Living A Dark Night

Living a Dark Night, a project **conceptualised and curated by eminent printmaker Dr. Paula Sengupta**, was born in the wake of the deadly second wave of the pandemic. During the Festival, this exhibition will be hosted at KCC, giving a platform to students, fellow educators and artists to rise and raise their voices, harkening back to the original role of Printmaking, the most democratic of all art-making processes.

Art Exhibition IV - The Afterlife of Performance ft. Nikhil Chopra

AMI Arts Festival will also host an exhibition with multiple projections of Nikhil Chopra's durational performances titled 'The Afterlife of Performance'. The exhibition seeks to be approachable to one and all through exhaustive notes on the works themselves and on Chopra's practice in general — aimed at inspiring a conversation with the works themselves. Some young performers from Visual and Performing Arts backgrounds would be invited to interact with and respond to Nikhil Chopra's work and the environment based on the idea that the 'afterlife' of a live performance is potent enough to inspire new performances and live through them.

Keeping in vein with the surprise element in each of Nikhil Chopra's performances, we also hope to incorporate an element of surprise in the exhibition.

Competitions:

Graffiti Competition (Theme: Aliens in Kolkata)

We are also inviting graffiti artists to let their creativity run wild while exploring the theme for this edition of AMI Arts Festival, '**Aliens in Kolkata**', at Art Street, Eco Park. The competition will be led by Mentor-Curator Sanatan Dinda, who is a renowned contemporary visual artist, body painter, installation artist as well as the convener of the Behala Art Festival.

Band Competitions

In this edition, we have announced two band competitions, inviting emerging band artists and students from colleges/universities to participate and perform in front of an eminent panel of judges and get a chance to win INR 1,00,000 prize money! The 2nd and 3rd runners-up will also win attractive cash prizes.

Talk Sessions

Virtual

"Discussing the Divergent Terrains in Landscape Painting" | **Speakers:** Shukla Sawant (Artist and Art Historian), Shivaji K Panikkar (Art Historian), Soumik Nandy Majumdar (Art Historian and Curator), **Moderator:** Suresh Jayaram (Curator, Arts Administrator and Author).

"How Photography has developed in terms of subject, seeing, and technology during the last 75 years" | **Speakers:** Sounak Banerjee (Contemporary Photographer and Educator), "How Photography has developed in terms of subject, seeing, and technology during the last 75 years" | **Speakers:** Sounak Banerjee (Contemporary Photographer and Educator), Samar Jodha (Photographer, TED speaker, Nat Geo Cover Shot Judge), Dinesh Khanna (Senior Photographer), **Moderator:** Aditya Arya (Founder-Director of Museo Camera), Dinesh Khanna (Senior Photographer), **Moderator:** Aditya Arya (Founder-Director of Museo Camera)



"LIVING A DARK NIGHT... IN CONTINUUM" | Panellists: Nilanjan Das (Printmaker), Pathik Sahoo (Artist), Srikanta Paul (Printmaker and Installation Artist), Kavita Shah (Artist and Art Educator), Nandini Chirimar (Visual Artist), **Moderator:** Dr. Paula Sengupta (Artist, Academician and Curator)

"Session with Kala Chaupal" | Panellists: Dr. Manu Gupta (Co-Founder, SEEDS), Priya Krishnamoorthy (Founder and CEO, 200 Million Artisans), Richa Agarwal (Chairperson, Kolkata Centre for Creativity), Leenika Jacob (Managing Trustee, Kala Chaupal) | **Moderator:** Rahul Kumar (Artist and Curator)

On-site

Talk Session on Indigenous Food

The discussion, facilitated by Dr. Boro Baski, will be on some of the traditional food of Santals and their cooking process and how over the generations the foods have started to lose its originality or have amalgamated with the foods of their neighbouring communities. The speaker, along with his four team members, will also present a performance based on their traditional food and lifestyle.

AMI Arts Awards

The AMI Arts Award is a prestigious award that is presented every year to recognise outstanding contributions by young artists and artisans in the fields of Craft, Contemporary Arts, and Performing Arts.

Workshops:

Visual Arts

[City As Play](#) - Printmaking Workshop by printmaker Nilanjan Das and 'Living A Dark Night' team of artists

[Salt Print Process](#) by Aditya Arya (Founder-Director of Museo Camera)

[Cyanotype Printing](#) by Aditya Arya (Founder-Director of Museo Camera)

[Handmade Papermaking](#) by Ruma Choudhury (Founder of PaperNest)

Performing Arts

[Choreographing Yangshak](#) by choreographer and contemporary performer Surjit Nongmeikapam

[Introduction to Kattaikkuttu](#) by Kattaikkuttu actor Perungattur P. Rajagopal

[Exploring the Essence of Acting](#) by Arts Manager and Theatre Director Divya Bhatia

Canadian Film Festival

For the first time, AMI Arts Festival will host a Canadian Film Festival in collaboration with the Canadian High Commission and the National Film Board of Canada on 23rd and 24th December at Nazrul Tirtha. Four films with a Canadian-Indian connect based on burning issues of LGBTI rights, environment, violence against women and youth engagement for world betterment will be screened during these days.



1. [The Syed Family Xmas Eve Game Night](#) / LGBTI RIGHTS

2021 | 11 min

Fawzia Mirza – Pakistani Canadian American Film and TV actor with screenwriter Kausar Mohammed - Bengali-Pakistani writer, actress, and comedian

All cards are on the table when a queer Pakistani Muslim woman brings her Puerto Rican girlfriend home for the first time on the family's annual game night.

2. [Beyond Climate](#) / ENVIRONMENT

Ian Mauro, 2018 | 48 min

British Columbia is on the front lines of climate change... From burning forests, melting glaciers and acidic oceans, citizens across Canada's Pacific coast are living with the realities of climate change, and show what's at stake if we fail to get BEYOND CLIMATE. Narrated by David Suzuki and shot throughout the province, the collective wisdom of Indigenous leaders, local communities, scientists and policymakers is featured along with imagery of the region's beautifully rugged landscape. Addressing many of the pressing issues facing BC – from pipelines, LNG, salmon and Indigenous rights – the film is a timely contribution to the province and the country as we grapple with climate change, the paramount issue of our time. Completing Dr. Ian Mauro's trilogy of climate documentaries in Canada, the film challenges us to think beyond the climate crisis, and encourages a transition to a vibrant, resilient and low carbon society.

3. [To Kill a Tiger](#) / VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Nisha Pahuja, 2022 | 2 h 5 min

In a small Indian village, Ranjit wakes up to find that his 13-year-old daughter has not returned from a family wedding. A few hours later, she's found stumbling home. After being dragged into the woods, she was raped by three men. Ranjit goes to the police, and the men are arrested. But Ranjit's relief is short-lived, as the villagers and their leaders launch a sustained campaign to force the family to drop the charges. A cinematic documentary, To Kill a Tiger follows Ranjit's uphill battle to find justice for his child. In India, where a rape is reported every 20 minutes and conviction rates are less than 30 percent, Ranjit's decision to support his daughter is virtually unheard of. With tremendous access, we witness the emotional journey of an ordinary man facing extraordinary circumstances. A father whose love for his daughter forces a social reckoning that will reverberate for years to come.

4. [Hannah's Story](#) / YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Juanita Peters, 2007 | 29 min

At the age of 5, Hannah Taylor spotted her first homeless person in the back alleys of Winnipeg. This experience not only troubled her, but it drove her to do nothing less than change the world. The Ladybug Foundation, the charity Hannah helped establish, has raised over a million dollars to date. With her huge heart and can-do attitude, she preaches a simple message of "Share a little of what you have and always care about others." As this short documentary proves, we all have a lot to learn from Hannah's story.



About AMI Arts Festival 2022: AMI Arts Festival 2022 is organized in collaboration with Nazrul Tirtha and Biswa Bangla. This is KCC's very own cultural festival that takes pride in Bengal's cultural legacy and celebrates its contemporary manifestations in the arts. As the prevailing darkness slowly recedes, AMI Arts Festival 2022 aims to touch the lives of people with hope, positivity and celebrations. The festival will also bear a reflection of the flagship programs organised by KCC throughout the year. Though locally rooted, being trans-local in spirit, the festival hosts participants from across India and abroad to encourage the cross-pollination of ideas and creativity. The third edition of AMI Arts Festival will be a melting pot of exhibitions, a delightful art and craft bazaar, music concerts, workshops, film screenings, and a virtual conversation series.

About Kolkata Centre for Creativity (KCC)

A unit of Anamika Kala Sangam Trust (AKST), Kolkata Centre for Creativity (KCC) is a multi-disciplinary interactive art and creativity Centre located in Kolkata, West Bengal. It is the first in Eastern India to make Art accessible to visually impaired and differently-abled under their 'Art for All' initiative. Spearheaded by Richa Agarwal as its Chairperson, the 70,000 sq. ft. centre champions the art and cultural landscape of contemporary India since November 2018. It comprises an Amphitheater, Exhibition & Learning Spaces, Dance studio, Conservation Lab, Books & Materials Library, Creative Culinary space, Craft & Design outlet and a Skill Development Maker's section. Integrating several expressions of art and design to highlight their common creative core – KCC encourages visitors to explore, interact and design ideas on various art forms. KCC works in the areas of Capacity Building, Well-Being, Conservation & Restoration, Craft & Design, Culinary, Visual and Performing Art. It acts as a catalyst for Artistic enhancement through Displays, Presentations, Fellowships, Laboratories, Residences, Conservation, Research and Discourses.

The programs at KCC are designed on the principles of Cultural Diversity, Gender Equality, Conservation of the Environment and Inclusion of people with different abilities.

The Centre offers free entry to the public and is open between 11 am to 6 pm. For more information about exhibitions and the conferences, please visit www.kolkatacentreforcreativity.org