

Published Date:	24 Jun 2023	Publication:	The Telegraph [Kolkata]
Journalist:	Debanjoli Nandi	Page No:	6
MAV/CCM:	948,096/131.68	Circulation:	29,000

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KOLKATA CENTRE FOR CREATIVITY CELEBRATES THE JOY OF LEARNING TOGETHERNESS

MUSIC

What: Indian Ocean's Tu Hai Tour at Hard Rock Cafe, Calcutta

Where: Hard Rock Cafe, Park Mansion, 57-A, Park Street
When: Tonight, 8.30pm onwards

What to expect: An evening filled with excitement as the legendary Indian rock band, Indian Ocean, embarks on their highly-anticipated Tu Hai Tour. With a career spanning over two decades, the sensational band continues to create ripples in the music industry. Known for its exceptional fusion of Indian classical music, rock, jazz and other genres, Indian Ocean promises a night to remember. Keeping music lovers fuelled will be some Hard Rock Cafe delicacies, like Cuban Sliders, Southwest Chicken Flatbread, Wings, the Original Legendary Burger, BBQ Bacon Cheeseburger and many more. Pair the delicacies with signature cocktails such as Hurricane, Classic Caribbean Mojito, Ultimate Long Island Iced Tea, Passionfruit Mai Tai, Southern Rock and Tropical Margherita.

Organiser speak: "We proudly present the legendary band Indian Ocean live on our stage. At Hard Rock Cafe, we are passionate about delivering exceptional live music experiences, and hosting Indian Ocean is a true honour. Known for their groundbreaking fusion of rock, folk, and Indian classical music, Indian Ocean has captivated audiences worldwide for decades, and now they are here to ignite our stage with their unparalleled talent," said Ankur Saraogi, owner of Hard Rock Cafe, Calcutta.

Kolkata Centre for Creativity is organising its third edition of Learn Together from June 24 to July 5 on the fourth floor of the cultural centre on the EM Bypass. This year the theme is 'What is in our gait? The Performative and Queer', which aims at addressing the aspect of "performative" (if there is any) in the LGBTQIA+ community. The artworks and performances in this latest curation will be navigating the "potentially performative and transformational emotions of varied representations of diverse gender and sexual identities". Eighteen selected visual artists, including Anup Let, Archan, Nabarun Raha, Pallavi Aseri, Prasenjit Chandra, Sahitya Dutta, Subhanil Roy, Suchandra Das, Utpal Halder, Rudra Kishore Mandal, Indrani Banerjee, Seabrato Mandal, Deepak Dhiman, Adhidarshan T, Sawan Taank, Jugal Kumar, and Lakshya Bhargav, will display their work at the inaugural ceremony. In the evening, multidisciplinary artist and curator Sujoy Prasad Chatterjee will be moderating an engaging conversation, "Why do we need the boxes", with adman Kanchan Datta, activist Bappaditya Mukhopadhyay, scholar and poet Abhirup Mukhopadhyay, and actor Solanki Roy on the panel.

Sujoy told t2: "As a curator of the festival I would say it's going to be an engaging project where we will show art is about expression. In this world we

have an adverse cultural tapestry around us. Expressions have different conduits of manifesting, of transforming and even of transmitting.... This place is to express yourself. There is a lot of discrimination that happens because of misgendering and misinformation. I am glad KCC has given me the opportunity to see, oversee, select and curate works out of such brilliant minds. As a curator I unlearned a lot of things while I was going through these artworks and the performances that we chose."

Richa Agarwal, chairperson, Kolkata Centre for Creativity, said: "Learn Together III provides an extraordinary platform that allows KCC to celebrate the vibrant spirit and creative brilliance of the LGBTQ+ community and its allies. By incorporating art, culture, and thoughtful discussions, our goal is to foster inclusivity, understanding, and appreciation. We are honoured to have Sujoy Prasad Chatterjee curating this edition, ensuring an experience that will undoubtedly leave a lasting impact on participants and audiences alike."

Reena Deewan, director, KCC, said, "We are really glad that visual artists from all over India are participating in this event. Under one roof, the audience will see so many perspectives. The name 'learn togetherness' suggests everything. We are going to learn how to be together and how to welcome everybody."

Debanjoli Nandi

Pictures: Rashbehari Das



Curator Sujoy Prasad Chatterjee



Reena Deewan, director, Kolkata Centre for Creativity



Richa Agarwal, chairperson, Kolkata Centre for Creativity



Artwork by Subhanil Roy



Artwork by Seabrato Mandal



Artwork *Otherwise Straight Acting* by artist Rudra Kishore Mondal