

National Gallery of Modern Art, Bengaluru

invites you to

*ART LIKE SCIENCE KNOWS NO BOUNDARIES :
HOMI BHABHA AND THE WORLD OF ART*

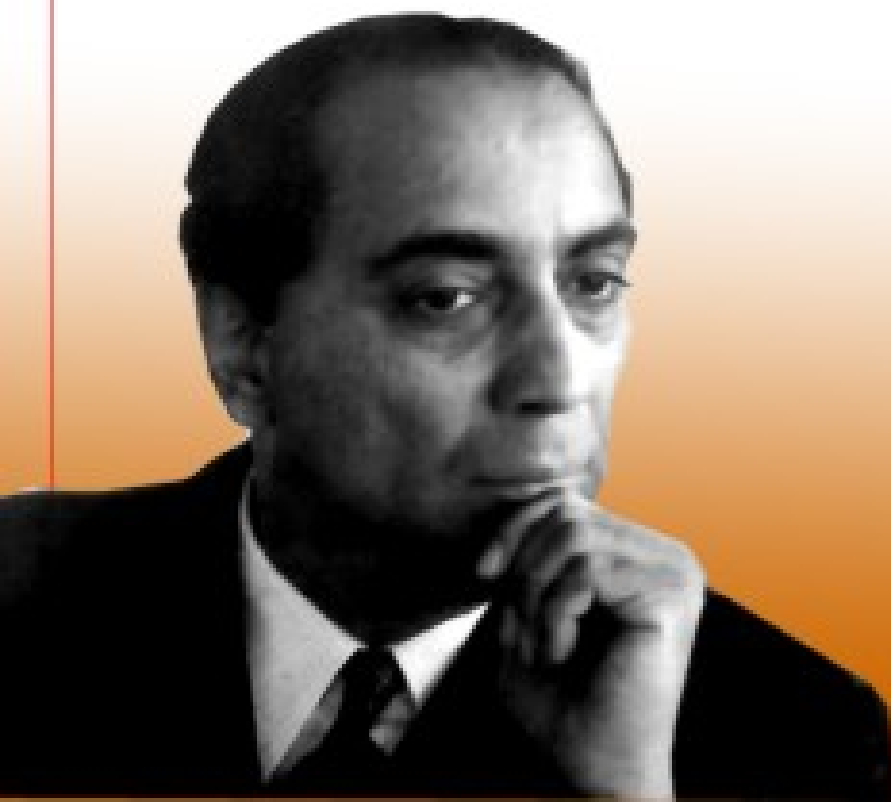
a lecture by

Dr. Indira Chowdhury

28th September 2010, 6 p.m.

venue

National Gallery of Modern Art
Manikyavelu Mansion, Palace Road, Bengaluru-52
phone: 080-22342338



www.ngma.org
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Dr. Indira Chowdhury

Dr. Indira Chowdhury is founder of Archival Resources for Contemporary History (ARCH), Bangalore. Formerly professor of English at Jadavpur University, Kolkata, she has a PhD in history from the School of Oriental and African Studies, London (1993). Her interest in lexicography led her to compile the Indian English Supplement included in the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary in 1996. Her book, *The Frail Hero and Virile History*, (Oxford University Press, 1998) was awarded the Tagore Prize in 2001. She translated Ashapurna Debi's major novel, *The First Promise*, (Orient Longman, 2004).

Art like Science knows no boundaries: Homi Bhabha and the World of Art

Homi Bhabha is remembered as one of India's most outstanding scientists and scientific organizers but his much-admired skills as artist and his deep interest in art and his role as a connoisseur and art collector is today all but forgotten. The title of this talk is taken from Bhabha's letter to Maulana Azad written in 1947, shortly before India became independent, where he had argued in favour of an expansive and "internationalist" approach to identify an "Indian" artist. This talk accompanied by an illustrated slide show will focus on Bhabha's interest in art, his formal training and early aspiration to become an artist and go on to reflect on the his role as a patron in his later life. Taking up the context of modernity in Indian art, the talk will locate and contextualize the role played by the collector in defining and shaping a collection. More significantly, the location of Bhabha's art collection within a scientific institute – namely, the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Bombay, leads us to speculate on Bhabha's model of institution-building.