



National Gallery of Modern Art, Bengaluru

Government of India

NGMA BENGALURU
e-NEWSLETTER

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A view of the Gallery Building

From the desk of the Director:

The National Gallery of Modern Art, Bengaluru (NGMA Bengaluru) is the most recent of the three NGMAs to open to the public. The setting is perfect—it is housed in the gracious Manikyavelu mansion in the midst of a beautiful three and half acre garden in the centre of Bengaluru. The Gallery was inaugurated in February 2009. The first major event in the new Gallery was the showcasing of the prestigious exhibition from the V&A Museum, London, “*Indian Life and Landscape by Western Artists*” during April – May 2010.

There has been no looking back since then. Many interesting cultural and educational events have been held in the ensuing months and NGMA Bengaluru is now very much in the news. The recently started art reference library, the interesting events organized in the auditorium and the educational programmes arranged around the collection of marvelous paintings have made NGMA Bengaluru a focal point for art lovers.

Welcome to the first issue of the e–newsletter of NGMA Bengaluru. This newsletter is a quarterly which will be released in the months of September, December, March and June.


Sobha Nambisan
Director

Art Education Programme for School Children

Since most schools do not have a functional arts education, it was thought worthwhile encouraging schools to bring their students to the Gallery by preparing innovative art education modules, which targeted children of different age groups. The objective of this programme is to hone the observation skills of school children and to improve their appreciation of art.

As part of the activities, and in accordance with the needs of the children and the schools, storytelling and visual enactment of paintings by the children have also been included. A complete year's list of events has been drawn up and interested schools have been allotted days for visiting the Gallery. Many children have written after their visits to say how much they enjoyed their visit to the Gallery.

An extremely happy outcome of this venture is that Government schools have responded with great enthusiasm. Every Friday

has been reserved for children from Government schools and a detailed calendar has been drawn up for every Friday from the first week of August 2010 till the last week of February 2011, indicating the name of the school and the number and grades of the children. Many of the children have shown promising talent and have drawn pictures which are remarkable in their likeness to the original works of art.



Original paintings and copies by school children



School children at NGMA, Bengaluru with the Director and Programme & Exhibition officer

Guided Gallery Walks

The bi-weekly guided tours for discerning gallery viewers were started in August. The tours are conducted by the two assistant curators, and are held on Wednesday afternoons and Saturday mornings. They offer insights into the various nuances of Indian art. The Wednesday tour introduces the language of visual arts and covers form, harmony, color, balance and other key aspects of art. The tour on Saturday offers a chronological history of Indian art, starting with the Mughal miniatures, to the formation of the Bengal school and the nationalist uprising in the arts, till the present day. Though the initial response to these guided tours was muted, word soon got around, and a sizeable number of people now undertake the tours every week. The feedback on these tours has been extremely encouraging.



Assistant Curators with visitors during the gallery walk

Film screening

The NGMA auditorium has been almost continuously in the spotlight since June, when the *Colors* film festival, began on the 6th of the month. Seven films on artists were screened during the festival which was a collaborative venture with Bangalore Film Society. Previous to that, on the 5th of June, a special preview of films on environment and climate change was held in collaboration with the British Council. In July the auditorium became a hub of activity with the Shakespeare Film Festival which was organized in partnership with the British Council and the Bangalore Film Society.

A total of thirteen films have been selected for this festival, many of them from the BBC production of Shakespeare's plays. In addition, there are films by directors such as Tom



A scene from 'Hamlet'

Stoppard, Aki Kaurismaki and Kurosawa, who have adapted some of the plays into films. The festival, which has brought avid film fans, lovers of literature, as well as general viewers streaming into the auditorium, continued till the 18th of September.

Talks and seminars

NGMA Bengaluru has been holding several well attended talks and lectures by eminent scholars and writers



Dr. Annapurna Garimella



Vikramajit Ram

On 16th June Shaheen Merali, a curator of international repute, gave a slide lecture on *Cinema Verite Redux*. Dr. Annapurna Garimella gave a lecture titled *Miniature as style, a small revolution?* on 13th August. A reading *Stupa Song* by Vikramajit Ram from his book—*Dreaming Vishnus—A Journey through Central India*, was organized in collaboration with the Mahua Art Foundation on the 28th of August.

NGMA art reference library

The NGMA library has finally begun to take shape! The process of acquiring books and stocking the library is under way, and a few



NGMA library

hundred books are already in place. Interested readers are welcome to browse, and give their suggestions on books and periodicals which could be purchased for the library. There is no membership fee, but borrowing of the books is not permitted, as the library is solely for reference purposes. Flanked by beautiful wide balconies shaded with trees, the library is ideal for a day of browsing—more so since it is strategically placed right above the cafeteria!

Upcoming events– September, October and November

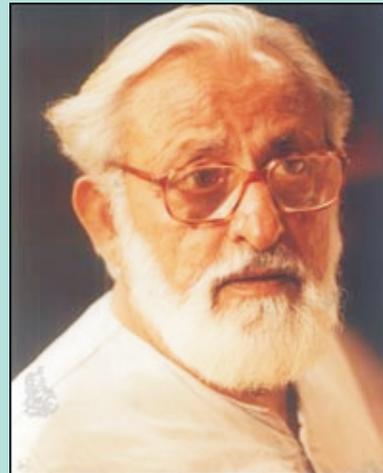
Special Guided Walks

From the 9th of October, special guided walks will be conducted by the assistant curators. These walks will each cover a specific subject, and will be for a period of two months. They will be conducted on alternate weeks for a duration of two hours each. The subject for the special walks for the months of October and November is *Landscapes in Indian Art*.

The second set of special guided walks will commence in December and will be on the *History of Indian Sculpture*. In addition to the special guided walks, the regular gallery walks on Wednesdays and Saturdays will continue, at the stipulated times.

Film Screenings

The Shakespeare film festival continued till the 18th of September. 19th September saw the screening of M.S Sathyu's film *Ijjudu*.



M.S. Sathyu, director of film *Ijjudu*

October will usher in the *Art 21* film festival, a series of documentary films on visual arts and 21st century artists of the United States.

The films will be screened on Saturdays and Sundays from the 10th of October.

Events : Spanish National Day Celebrations

The NGMA premises will host the Spanish National Day celebrations in October. The festival, which will be held from the 12th to 15th of October, will afford Bangaloreans the rare opportunity of seeing the screening of Spanish films.

Guided Gallery Walks

- ✦ Every Wednesday -3 pm
- ✦ Every Saturday -10.30 am

SPECIAL GUIDED WALKS

October—November - *Landscapes in Indian art*

Timings :

- > 9th October, Saturday -3 p.m
- > 21st October, Thursday - 3 p.m
- > 13th November, Saturday - 3 p.m
- > 25th November, Thursday - 3 p.m

TALKS AND EVENTS

September 2010

Talk by Dr. Indira Chowdhury :
“*Art like science knows no boundaries - Homi Bhabha and the world of art*”, September 28th, 6 p.m

October 2010

Spanish National Day Celebration 12th-15th October, screening of Spanish films.

FILM SCREENING

September

- ✦ 18th *The Winter's Tale* . BBC Production, directed by Jane Howell, 3 p.m
- ✦ 19th Kannada film *Ijjudu* , directed by M.S Sathyu, 11:30 a.m

October—November 2010

- ✦ *Art 21 Film Festival*—Saturday (3.30 p.m) and Sunday (11.30 a.m) beginning from October 10.