



Ministry of Culture
Government of India

सत्यमेव जयते



राष्ट्रीय आधुनिक
कला संग्रहालय
NATIONAL GALLERY
OF MODERN ART

NEWSLETTER

– The NGMA-B Quarterly Update –
October - December 2024

As the year draws to a close, we wrap up one major exhibition, Haripura Panels featuring a comprehensive collection of a series of artworks by Nandalal Bose. The last quarter has been an eventful one for those of us at NGMA Bengaluru and art lovers from the city and beyond, with a multicultural milieu of events, insightful discussions on the relevance of Gandhi's ideology and the freedom movement to interactive art workshops.

NGMA Bengaluru has also made strides into meeting travellers and commuters, making our presence felt in the Kempegowda International Airport, and we will soon see representation at two Metro stations.

We step into another year with the continuation of a retrospective of JMS Mani in Namma Mestru: The Artistic Voyage of JMS Mani, and we look ahead towards more ways to keep Modern Indian art alive.

— **Priyanka Mary Francis**
Director, NGMA-B



HARIPURA PANELS



The Haripura Panels by Nandalal Bose, an exhibition curated in-house from the National Treasures collection, concluded this quarter. Each of the 77 panels that was a part of the exhibition was commissioned by Mahatma Gandhi in 1938, and each features a different profession. Although some of these professions no longer exist, Nandalal Bose's art is as relatable as ever, as some of the many visitors over the 13-month-long exhibition expressed. The exhibition was inaugurated on 3rd November 2023 and drew art lovers from across walks of lives, expanding the public understanding of what Indian modern art can look and feel like. After several tributes and outreach events inspired by the art, the Haripura Panels by Nandalal Bose finally concluded close to the end of the quarter, on 15th December 2024.

October 26



Panel Discussion on Tropes of Visual Culture in Arts, Architecture and Literature

NGMA-B organised a panel discussion where art educators engaged the gathering with their insights into contemporary Indian representations in Nandalal Bose's Haripura Panels.

A Musical Tribute to the Haripura Panels by Nandalal Bose

In this collaboration with the Ganesh Shivaswamy Foundation and Anantpravahah, Vaishnava Janato, a melodic interpretation of the paintings of the Haripura Panels of Nandalal Bose was performed.

October 26



CURATORS' NOTE

The retrospective exhibition of Jaati Muniswamy Subramani (JMS Mani), a renowned artist and educator from Karnataka, is a tribute to his significant contributions to the state's art scene. Hosted by the National Gallery of Modern Art, Bengaluru, the exhibition has been meticulously curated, showcasing a carefully selected collection of over 900 artworks from thousands in the artist's family collection.

JMS Mani, who was deeply involved in the arts as both an artist and as the principal of the Ken School of Art in Bengaluru, left behind a rich legacy that this exhibition highlights. The curatorial approach for the exhibition reflects the intimate atmosphere of his studio, which was treated as a "treasure box", preserving the artist's life and work with incredible care.

The exhibition not only sheds light on JMS Mani's individual artistry but also explores his role as an educator, offering insights into the art pedagogy that flourished under his guidance. It also gives a glimpse into the broader art historical landscape of Karnataka in the '70s and '80s, drawing connections to the influences of his own teacher, R M Hadapad (1936-2003), the founder and principal of the Ken School of Art, under whom JMS Mani studied.

The inauguration of the exhibition at NGMA Bengaluru was met with overwhelming enthusiasm and was attended by numerous artists, students, and friends of JMS Mani, and was a testament to the lasting impact he had on the local art community. This exhibition not only serves as a celebration of his artistic achievements but also as an important moment of reflection on his role in shaping Karnataka's artistic heritage.

— **Darshan Kumar YU and Amrutha R**

Curators of Namma Mestru:
The Artistic Voyage of JMS Mani

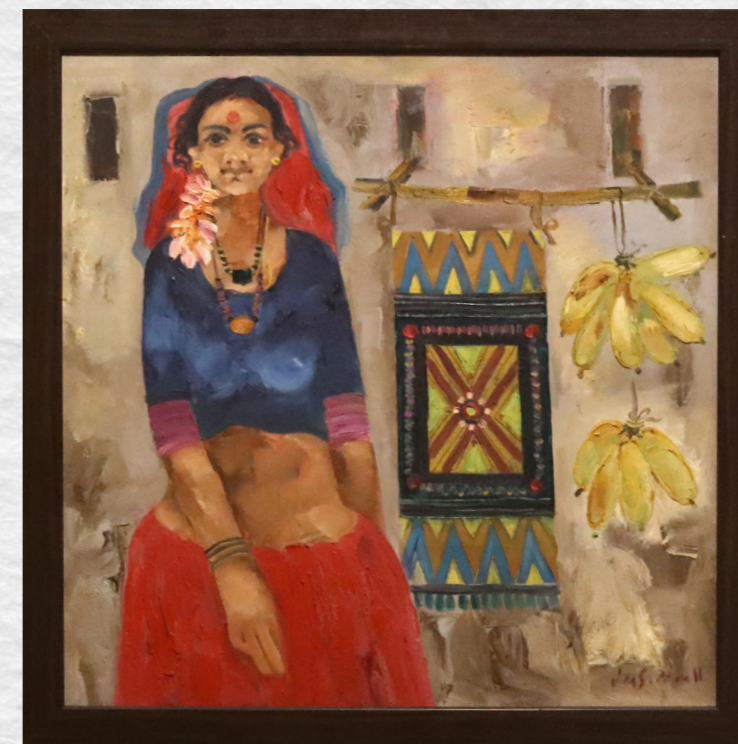


Namma Mestru: The Artistic Voyage of

JMS Mani

(1948-2021)

Curated by Darshan Kumar YU & Amrutha R, Dy. Curator, NGMA Bengaluru



Namma Mestru: The Artistic Voyage of JMS Mani, an exhibition curated in house, was inaugurated in the presence of the president of Karnataka Lalitha Kala Academy P Sampath Kumar, senior artists and art historians, and wife of the late artist Jaati Muniswamy Subramani—Smt Rani S. The inaugural programme was opened by a stunning performance of Dollu Kunitha, a traditional dance form from Karnataka, by an all-women troupe. The exhibition showcases his wide collection of art, nearly 900 pieces, he created throughout his life. This exhibition reflects how artist JMS Mani devoted his entire life to art, and art alone.



Gallery Walks and Outreach Events



Linocut Printmaking Workshop

November 30



NGMA - B organised a linocut printmaking workshop by Rajesh Mani, which was an excellent opportunity for art enthusiasts to delve into printmaking while celebrating the influence and legacy of one of Karnataka's most celebrated artists JMS Mani.



December 7

Special Gallery Walk by Ramesh Chandra

Ramesh Chandra—artist, art educator and student of JMS Mani—shared his insights into his mestru as he led the gallery walk at NGMA Bengaluru's retrospective.

Reverse Painting Workshop

A workshop on reverse painting, facilitated by Ranjitha Mani in conjunction with Namma Mestru: The Artistic Voyage of JMS Mani, an exhibition curated in house, was an enriching experience for all.



December 1

Special Gallery Walk by Colleague, and Students of JMS Mani

A second special gallery walk was led by artist and colleague of JMS Mani Sheela Gowda, and artists and students of the mestru: Surekha, Alaka Rao, Naveen Kumar and Chaitra Puthran shared their insightful perspectives.



December 14



December 28

Gesture Drawing Workshop

A workshop on drawing motion and minimal strokes was facilitated by George Supreeth and Smitha Shivaswamy of Penciljam.

Workshops and Events

Ink Drawing Workshop

Nearly 50 participants experimented with ink as a medium to create nature-inspired landscapes with artist and facilitator Rizwan Mohammed.



November 9

Aaraam-a?

NGMA-B, in association with FAHI foundation hosted the second "Aaraam-a?", a self care workshop using art for mindfulness and self-expression.

October 5



Kasadinda Rasa

NGMA Bengaluru hosted an immersive art workshop for children.



November 17

November 16



Workshop on Chittara

NGMA-B organised a workshop that explores symbols of Chittara—an art form traditionally practised by the Devaru community of Karnataka—organised by NGMA Bengaluru and facilitated by CFRIA.

Salam Robi

This Bangalore Little Theatre production in collaboration with NGMA-B, nudged the audience into rediscovering the timelessness of Rabindranath Tagore's stories for children.

November 24



November 13



Other Kohinoors, The Rocks of Hyderabad

NGMA-B screened a 49-minute documentary which was made on the distinct rock formations that have shaped the identity of the region around Hyderabad over the ages.

October 4



Gandhi Jayanti

NGMA- B celebrated Gandhi, with a series of events celebrating his life and principles. These activities aimed to engage the community in understanding Gandhi's impact on Indian history and contemporary society.

November 9



Ar-bo-re-tum

Visitors wander under grand canopies as part of the arboretum walk at NGMA Bengaluru, Tour of Trees, guided by Mr B S Chandrashekar of Institute of Wood Science and Technology.

November 26



Constitution Day

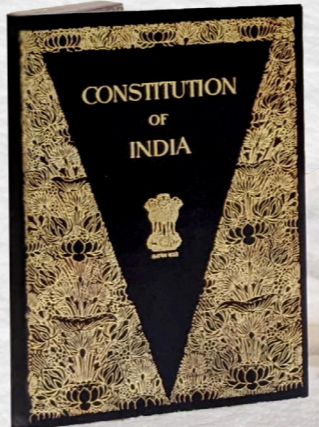
Officers and staff of NGMA Bengaluru gathered to read the preamble to mark Indian Constitution Day.

November 24



Launch of Art Detective Cards

The launch of Art Detective, a play-when-you-visit game by NGMA Bengaluru and designed by ReReeti was widely attended and some young ones wrapped up their evening with a round of Art Detective.





BLR Hubba celebrates the city's art, culture, heritage, and spaces. As an institution that embodies most of these attributes and a landmark on Bengaluru's cultural map, NGMA Bengaluru was a natural choice to host an exhibition and several events spread across 16 days.

CELEBRATING THE ARTS

(29 November - 15 December)



From Bangalore, with Love
NGMA Bengaluru hosted this exhibition of postcards of the Bangalore of a bygone era, curated by Clare Arni, Archana Hande and Suresh Jayaram.

Remember Remember
NGMA Bengaluru hosted Remember Remember, dreamy vignettes set in nondescript Indian cities that explore what it means to hold on to our stories, music and poetry—and sometimes to let them go



Kuvempu 120: Beginning of the Journey
An evening of reflection upon Kuvempu's universal vision and of how Sriramayana Darshanam speaks to our times.



Guru Shishya: Dr. Poornima Kulkarni & Vanishree Dhanvantri
NGMA-B witnessed a beautiful music performance by Dr. Poornima Kulkarni and Vanishree Dhanvantri, as a part of BLR Hubba's Guru-Shishya series.

Guru Shishya: Nagaraj Rao Havaldar & his son Omkar Havildar
NGMA Bengaluru hosted a two-hour Hindustani music performance by Nagaraj Rao Havaldar and his son Omkar Havildar.



Helios
Helios, a contemporary theatre piece, which tells the story of a teenager on a road trip to the city in a stolen car as a boy drives a chariot, leading the sun across the sky was performed at NGMA-B.



Guru Shishya: Pandit D Kumar Das & Dr. Aditya Pallakki
NGMA-B hosted a music performance by Pandit D Kumar Das and Dr. Aditya Pallakki as a part of BLR Hubba's Guru-Shishya series.



Penciljam: Outdoor Drawing

Artists and art enthusiasts documented the arts, culture and heritage overflowing at NGMA Bengaluru.



Mela Chiraagaa'n

Mela Chiraagaa'n celebrated the essence of 'Sanjha' Punjab where all religions coexist with an evening of Sufi poetry, music and narrative.



Kalyana Sougandhikam

Natanakairali Pavakathakali Ensemble brought alive the tale of Bheema searching for a rare flower.



Playback Theatre

Playback Theatre, where the audience shared personal stories and watched them being transformed into an improvisational acting, was performed at NGMA Bengaluru.



Duryodhana Vadham

The traditional glove puppet theatre performance at NGMA Bengaluru by Natanakairali Pavakathakali Ensemble was a delight to witness.



Exordium

Exordium, an ensemble performance of Indian dance theatre, was part of the arts, culture and heritage festival.



When Walls Dance

NGMA-B hosted When Walls Dance, which blended a story of the Worli community, with their art, maps and Bharatanatyam.



Important Visits



October 3

Regular Visits from Underprivileged Children

NGMA Bengaluru organised an educational field trip for underprivileged children from Government Girls Home, Bangalore Rural and Bangalore Urban. This one-day trip consisted of a presentation on the timeline of art in India, followed by a guided gallery walk, and a drawing session.

Special Visit

Junhi Han, Chief of Sector for Culture, UNESCO New Delhi, soaked in the art and heritage at the gallery. She was hosted by the curators as well as the director. She was especially appreciative of the documentation of modern visual art at NGMA Bengaluru.

October 22

