

Toto Funds the Arts, Sangam House, DeshaKaala and Reading Hour

in partnership with

The National Gallery of Modern Art, Bengaluru

invite you to

Lekhana, a multilingual literary weekend

From 10 to 12 February 2012

Inaugural 5 p.m. on Feb 10 at the NGMA Auditorium

49, Palace Road, Bengaluru-560 052

Phone : 080-22342338, e-mail: ngma.bengaluru@gmail.com

On Feb 11 and 12, starting 10 a.m. there will be Readings, Panel Discussions, Performances, Screenings, Books, Student Contests and more, at NGMA and Smriti Nandan on Palace Road

Entry Free of Charge and Open to All!

Dear friends in the Bangalore literary community

We are delighted to announce that Toto Funds the Arts, Sangam House, Deshakaala and Reading Hour along with the National Gallery of Modern Art, have come together to organise Bangalore's first literary weekend, Lekhana.

The dates are February 10, 11 and 12, 2012 and the venue is the NGMA on Palace Road.

The theme for the weekend is "The City." There will be panel discussions, readings by local writers and by those from more distant lands, performances and a dedicated Lekhana bookstore (Smriti Nandan). And there are contests in writing and photography for young people as well.

Do join us as we bring together the many writers and the many literary cultures and languages that inhabit the city.

Admission is free and open to all. Bring your family and friends and enjoy Bangalore's many voices.

Lekhana is supported by Tally Solutions, the Sahitya Akademi and the Centre for Communication and Development Studies, Pune.

FRIDAY 10 FEBRUARY

4.00PM WORKSHOP: PUBLISHING CONTRACTS

LIBRARY

5.00PM INAUGURAL

READINGS: GOPALAKRISHNA PAI, KHALEEL-UR-REHMAN

RECITATIONS: CITY POEMS

AUDITORIUM

5.30PM PANEL: THE CITY IN LITERATURE -- MK RAGHAVENDRA

ANJUM HASAN, ZAC O'YEAH, KR USHA, SANIYA

OLD OFFICE

7.00PM REFRESHMENTS

7.30PM PERFORMANCE: FIVE GRAINS OF SUGAR

AUDITORIUM

SATURDAY 11 FEBRUARY

10.00AM PANEL: TRANSLATIONS AS CONVERSATIONS -- GIRIRAJ KIRADOO
LAKSHMI HOLMSTROM, RAHUL SONI, ARSHIA SATTAR, VANAMALA

(Supported by Pratilipi ---www.pratilipi.in)

LIBRARY

10.30AM READING: JAYANT KAIKINI, ARATHI HN (KANNADA)

TERRACE

11.00AM READING: FRANCESCA MARCIANO, DOUNA LOUP (ENGLISH,FRENCH)

LAWN

11.30AM PERFORMANCE: TRIVIAL DISASTERS PART 1

CAFETERIA

11.45AM TO 1.30PM BOOK EXCHANGE

CAFETERIA

11.45 AM PANEL: WRITING ABOUT WRITING -- ANJUM HASAN

RAHUL SONI, VIVEK SHANBAG

LIBRARY

12.00PM READING: KVK MURTHY, USHA RAJAGOPAL, KR USHA (ENGLISH)

LAWN

12.30PM READING: ARUNDHATHI GHOSH, ABHISHEK MAHUMDAR

(BANGLA,HINDI)

TERRACE

1.00PM READING: VASUDHENDRA, NAGRAJ VASTHAREY (KANNADA)

LAWN

1.30PM LUNCH

2.00PM PERFORMANCE: TRIVIAL DISASTERS PART 2

CAFETERIA

2.15PM DISCUSSION: THE CULTURE ELEPHANT -- NARESH AND S DIWAKAR

OLD OFFICE

2.30PM READING: JOSHUA MUYIWA, DEEPIKA ARWIND (ENGLISH)

TERRACE

3.00PM READING: CHRISTOPHER KLOEBLE, ANNA BRO (GERMAN,DANISH)

- LAWN
- 3.30PM READING: ANJUM HASAN, INDIRA CHANDRASHEKHAR (ENGLISH)
TERRACE
- 3.45PM BOOKSTORE OPENS AT SMRITI NANDAN
- 4.00PM PERFORMANCE: TRIVIAL DISASTERS PART 3
AT SMRITI NANDAN
READING: HL PUSHPA, MOUNESH BADIGER (KANNADA)
LAWN
- 4.15PM PANEL: NEW WRITING IN KANNADA -- VIVEK SHANBAG
JAYANT KAIKINI, RAGHUNATH, MS ASHA DEVI, K SATYANARAYANA
AUDITORIUM
- 4.30PM READING: SAMHITA ARNI, JAHNAVI BARUA (ENGLISH)
TERRACE
- 5.00PM READING: SANIYA, ASHUTOSH POTDAR, MILIND BOKIL (MARATHI)
LAWN
- 5.30PM POETRY SLAM
SMRITI NANDAN
- 6.00PM POETRY PERFORMANCE: CLAUS ANKERSEN
AT SMRITI NANDAN

SUNDAY 12 FEBRUARY

- 10.00AM PANEL: THE JOYS OF SHORT FICTION -- JAHNAVI BARUA
KR USHA, SHINIE ANTHONY, SAMHITA ARNI, ARUN KUMAR
(Supported by Reading Hour. www.readinghour.in)
LIBRARY
- 10.30AM READING: BRIGI, SUSHMA KUMAR (MALAYALAM)
TERRACE
- 11.00AM READING: VM MANJUNATH, VR CARPENTOR (KANNADA)
LAWN
- 11.30AM PERFORMANCE: TRIVIAL DISASTERS PART 4
CAFETERIA
- 11.45AM PANEL: THE WORD AND THE IMAGE -- SANJAY IYER
CHRISTOPH STORZ, JAIDEEP SEN, ANNAPURNA GARIMELA
OLD OFFICE
- 12.00PM READING: ZAC O'YEAH, DOMINIC FRANKS, ANJA SNELLMAN (ENGLISH,
FINNISH)
LAWN
- 12.30PM READING: LAKSHMI HOLMSTROM, KUTTI REVATHI, N SUKUMARAN
(TAMIL)
TERRACE
- 1.00PM READING: GAURAV MONGA, DW GIBSON (ENGLISH)
LAWN
- 1.30PM LUNCH
- 2.00PM READING: SHRIDEVI KALASADA, TBD (KANNADA)

LAWN

2. 00PM ONWARDS PLAY READINGS AT SMRITI NANDAN

PARTIAL MEMORY BY CHRISTOPHER KLOEBLE, THE TOILET

GODDESS BY EUGENE LEE, SANDHOLM BY ANNA CLEMENSEN BRO,

THE CAGE OF SPARROWS BY RAMNEEK SINGH, INNER LAWS AND

THUS SPAKE SHOORPANAKHA, SO SAID SHAKUNI BY POILE SENGUPTA.

2. 15PM PANEL: WHAT STOPS US FROM SAYING WHAT WE WANT TO SAY --
ASHISH RAJADHYAKSHA

SUSHMA VEERAPPA, KIRAN SUBBIAH, ASHUTOSH POTDAR

(Supported by the Centre for Communication and Development Studies,

Pune -- www.ccds.in)

LIBRARY

2. 30PM READING: GIRIRAJ KIRADOO, SANDEEP SHIKHAR, RAHUL SONI (HINDI)

TERRACE

3. 00PM READING: MUDNAKUDU CHINNASWAMY, CHINTAMANI KODLEKERE

(KANNADA)

LAWN

3. 30PM READING: TBD

4. 15PM PANEL: BODY AND BIOGRAPHY -- AMMU JOSEPH

GIRISH KARNAD, JOSHUA MUYIWA, KUTTI REVATHI, MAMTA SAGAR

AUDITORIUM

5. 45PM CLOSING SESSION: WRITING A LIFE

GIRISH KARNAD READS FROM HIS RECENTLY PUBLISHED MEMOIR

AUDITORIUM

FRIDAY 10 FEB, 5.30PM

THE CITY IN LITERATURE -- MK RAGHAVENDRA

ANJUM HASAN, ZAC O'YEAH, KR USHA, SANIYA

The panel will discuss the representation of Bangalore in literature and the arts, whether the city has a character which sets it apart from the other cities in India. What it has meant to those who have lived in it or those dependent on it? Various categories of residents – not only classified according to the lengths of their stay here and the economic classes to which they belong but also to the different parts of the city to which they owe allegiance – may have responded to the city in different ways. Do the arts also tell us anything about it and about their relationship with one another? Another issue that could be interesting is whether perceptions of the city – as reflected in various texts – have, conversely, influenced the way the city has transformed over time.

SATURDAY 11 FEB, 10.00AM

TRANSLATIONS AS CONVERSATIONS -- GIRIRAJ KIRADOO

LAKSHMI HOLMSTROM, RAHUL SONI, ARSHIA SATTAR, VANAMALA

Apart from giving us access to texts that are far away from us in space and time, what else do translations accomplish? Do translations enable us to start conversation with each other as we read each other's works? Do we discover our differences or our similarities in these conversations? Is English becoming the link language of and for Indian literatures?

Translations are conversations, almost by default: any act of translation has to be some kind of conversation between two or more individuals, texts, languages, societies, cultures and sometimes, nations. It acquires a completely different significance in a (post)-colonial context just as it always does when the target language is 'dominant' in more than one ways. We wish to explore the politics of self that colors a translative conversation, the state of 'creative' bilingualism in India and the identity of a translator. We also wish to discuss the decreasing interest in translations across 'indigenous' languages.

SATURDAY 11 FEB, 1200PM

WRITING ABOUT WRITING -- ANJUM HASAN

RAHUL SONI, VIVEK SHANBAG

We are trained in literature and we teach it; we are die hard book lovers; we are familiar with literature in more than one language; we read in multiple languages and in translation; we translate ourselves and the work of other writers; we write in more than one language; we run journals and edit other people's writing. Everyone on this panel has a rich and complex relationship to literature—strands of the web inevitably crisscrossing and overlapping with the other. I would like to bring all these various strands to focus on one question: how do we write about writing? Or how do we write about writing in India in 2012 given the opportunities (more books being published than ever before, for instance) and challenges (limited review space, for instance). We will talk about strategies for book reviewing; our favourite critics; how we have tried to create platforms for critical writing; where we feel critical writing in English/Kannada/Hindi might be lacking; and why we write about writing.

SATURDAY 11 FEB, 2.30PM

THE CULTURE ELEPHANT-- NARESH NARASIMHAN AND S DIWAKAR

The presentation asks the audience to reflect on the various sources and dynamics of the cultural form that characterise the city of Bangalore. Arguing that the form and experience of culture as necessarily multiple and shaped by one's mode of social participation, the presentation goes on to explore how cities can be designed to promote occupying of urban spaces for varied and inter-connected cultural expressions. Instead of focusing on a certain elite 'Creative Class' within the city who acts as the cultural and economic vanguard, the presentation champions a more broad-based approach to create urban opportunities for diverse intercultural encounters.

SATURDAY 11 FEB, 4.15PM

NEW WRITING IN KANNADA -- VIVEK SHANBAG

JAYANT KAIKINI, RAGHUNATH, MS ASHA DEVI, K SATYANARAYANA

There is an abundance of new writers in Kannada and they come from different social backgrounds, have varied educational qualification and pursue different professions. The diversity of experiences being brought into Kannada literature will be the focus of this panel. At a period in time when publishing opportunities are plenty, it is important to consider what rigour or training is required for a new writer to be of a certain caliber. Also to examine if these writings have the language to capture new experiences. The panelists include critics, editors and writers who have engaged themselves with New Writing in Kannada and understand the importance of nurturing new talent.

SUNDAY 12 FEB 10.00AM

THE JOYS OF SHORT FICTION -- JAHNAVI BARUA

KR USHA, SHINIE ANTHONY, SAMHITA ARNI, ARUN KUMAR

In this discussion, various aspects of the short story will be discussed such as the scope of the short story, the crafting of one, the difficulties of publishing short fiction and on a lighter note, the panellists will share with the audience their own personal favourite short stories and authors. The short story is a powerful and, thus surprisingly, neglected genre in fiction. There have been periods of time in history when it has achieved a certain prominence or when it has been fashionable, but it suffers today in the shadow of its mightier cousin, the novel. Yet, to write a short story or to read a good one is to understand how deceptively simple this craft is and what skill is demanded of the writer. And the intense, enduring pleasure that a good short story brings to the reader is difficult to replicate. Through this discussion, the panellists take the audience on an exploration of the enigmatic world of the short fiction, hoping, in the end, to ignite freshly the many, subtle delights of the short story.

SUNDAY 12 FEB, 1200PM

THE WORD AND THE IMAGE -- SANJAY IYER

CHRISTOPH STORZ, JAIDEEP SEN, ANNAPURNA GARIMELA

The panel concerns itself with the encounters, dialogues, and mutual collaboration (or hostility) between verbal and visual languages. It reflects upon the relations between words and images from a variety of perspectives, both theoretical and practical. The panel will explore the relationship between the literary and the visual, within a larger sense of the arts, philosophy, and literature. How do verbal and non-verbal forms of expression 'speak' to each other? Do they have troubled contact? Are they isolated because of their essential incompatibilities? Or have they had a symbiotic co-existence, words and images collectively making for us a cultural map, and a cultural future? Panellists, equally drawn from the world of the image and that of the word, will perhaps strengthen the grounds for meaningful 'discourse' among larger publics.

SUNDAY 12 FEB, 2.30PM

WHAT STOPS US FROM SAYING WHAT WE WANT TO SAY -- ASHISH RAJADHYAKSHA

SUSHMA VEERAPPA, KIRAN SUBBIAH, ASHUTOSH POTDAR

Increasingly, as we move into new definitions of State and new social structures, there are growing concerns around what some have called too much freedom, or what others see as valued 20th century social rights running rampant. Even as we face, and do battle to, orthodox restrictions on free expression by the State on say social networking sites, we have also begun noting the downside of unrestricted freedoms, for example in the explosion of media practices that have dropped many professional standards of responsible reportage. There has been a growing sense that, if we don't want draconian state measures, it is better to have self-imposed restrictions, and develop, as it were, a personal model code of conduct, rather than have someone else impose any such code

upon us. Several new-generation social and cultural rights are getting premised on assumptions that the State may not always be the best agency to deliver, or even ensure, that such rights are enforced in everyday life. So what does personal self-restriction mean in this kind of situation? What else, apart from a draconian state, stops us from saying what we want? Are we placing an ever-growing set of restrictions upon our own practice for fear that, if we don't, the state will?

SUNDAY 12 FEB, 4. 15PM

BODY AND BIOGRAPHY -- AMMU JOSEPH

GIRISH KARNAD, JOSHUA MUYIWA, KUTTI REVATHI, MAMTA SAGAR

The controversy over some Tamil women writers' poems not so long ago (which followed a similar furore about Telugu women writers' poems some years earlier) suggests that there is still some discomfort in certain quarters about women taking on sexual politics in their writing. And, traditionally, few women writers – including senior, well-known literateurs – have written autobiographies. Yet the recent publication of some autobiographies, some by women, that do deal with bodies and sexuality suggests a shift of sorts. Or does it? The Lekhana session titled Body & Biography aims to explore what is going on in this area today, through the experiences and observations of writers themselves.