The subject of this short study is one of India’s foremost abstract painters, Achuthan Kudallur. An avid reader, film buff and writer of short stories, Achuthan is very much an intellectual in the French sense. This film follows him down memory lane to his childhood experiences in a small village in ‘God’s Own Country’, where the influence of strong reds in all traditional Keralan art forms left an indelible impression on him that
finds expression in many of his paintings today. We glimpse at some of his early figurative works as well as a good many of his more recent abstract paintings. "Colours should not be sacrificed for the sake of a theme, colours should themselves define a theme" says the colourist, who believes in visual culture and intuition while working. In a revealing interview, Achuthan articulates how various art forms have shaped his views on painting and the purpose of life.

Echoes of Freedom: the art of RB Bhaskaran

Duration: 30 mins, Language: English, 2006

This is a study of the work of the multi-talented, Chennai-based RB Bhaskaran – noted educationalist, administrator and former Chairman of the prestigious Lalith Kala Akademi, New Delhi. He is also an internationally renowned ceramicist, printmaker and painter. By means of images of his works done over the last four decades, as well as interviews, Echoes of Freedom explores Bhaskaran’s different styles and techniques. Though them it also conveys his philosophy of art, in particular, his views about what constitutes ‘Indian’ art and his rejection of ‘isms’ in art. When it comes to art, Bhaskaran is a firm believer in passion.

Sthapathy’s Mangai: the art of Vidyashankar Sthapathy

Duration: 32 mins, Language: Tamil, Sub-titled in English 2009

It’s a documentary on a renowned metal sculptor, Vidya Sankar Sthapathy who lives and works in Kumbakonam, Tamilnadu. The sculptor was born into a family of traditional icon sculptors stretching back at least 300 years. His ancestors worked on the famous Big Temple in Tanjavur, and Srirangam Temple in Trichy.

The film traces the different period of vidya Shankar’s life and art – his childhood, student days at arts college in Madras, where he studied and worked with many famous artists, his struggles and hardships as a young artist, In particular it focuses on his break with his family’s traditional form of icon making and his development of what he calls his ‘own grammar’ of making contemporary sculptures.
Images of his popular series of bronzes ‘Mangai’ (women) are used extensively throughout the film. The film was shot in Tanjavur, Kumbakonam, Srirangam and Chennai.

Break for 15min

Perumals People:

the art of P Perumal
Duration: 29 mins, Language: Tamil, Sub-titled in English 2012

P. Perumal is an important painter who emerged from the Madras college of Arts and Crafts in the 60’s. Born in a village near Srivilliputhur in Tamilnadu, he trained under KCS. Paniker, Roy Chowdry and other masters of that period. Perumal like many others searched for cultural roots and emerged with striking individualistic style.

This film traces the artistic journey and his paintings from the 60’s onwards

Golden Flute:

the art of

Dr. Alphonso Arul Doss
Duration: 30 mins, Language: English 2014

Painter and professor Dr. Alphonso Arul Doss graduated from the Government College of Arts & crafts, Madras in 1957 and taught painting in the same institution for many years.
Alphonso has been the recipient of numerous awards including the National Award in 1988. His works are part of many galleries and art collectors all over the globe. He has held several one-man shows in India, USA, Japan, Korea, Singapore, Bangkok.

**Black Mirror:**

**The Art of C Douglas**

Duration: 30 mins, Language: English 2014


All the above films are directed by Gita,

Gita began making short documentary films in 2005. She regards film-making as an extension of fine arts, which is also their subject matter. She has documented famed contemporary Indian artists and eminent painters of the “Madras Art Movement”. She regards film making as an extension of fine art which is also the subject matter.

**22nd at 4.00 PM**

**K C S Paniker: Rhythm of Symbols**

Directed by P K Sreenivasan
The film talks about Paniker's style of art and throws light on his achievements.

K C S Paniker is from Ponnani, a village in the Malabar Coast, but was born in Coimbatore. 
Paniker lived and worked mostly in Chennai, then known as Madras. 
His Ponnani stay was only for three years during his schooling at Achutha Varrier School.

Paniker became the principal of Madras College of Fine Arts and crafts, after Devi Prasad Chowdhary under whom he studied painting.

In 1966 Paniker founded the Cholamandal artists village in Injambakkom, near Chennai City Madras). 
Cholamandal artists village, the first ever Artists colony in India was established.

Arnawaz 
Directed by Girish Karnad 
Duration: 17 mins, Language: English, 1989

Experiment and serendipity were what brought Arnawaz to art in the first place. Born into a Parsi family in Madras, Arnawaz Driver used to draw and sketch casually and randomly at home until a friend of the family urged her parents to let her study art.

It was at Cholamandal, the artists’ village that had long been Paniker’s dream, that Arnawaz came into her own as an artist. She began to work with furious intensity on Van Gogh-like seascapes before she had even heard of the Dutch painter. Then she started doing delicate pen-and-ink sketches and ink-and-water washes. Again, chance played its part, through a drop of ink, a blot, and water -- as the ink spread, she discovered a strange new medium that was to become peculiarly her own.

The Open Frame: a film on S G Vasudev 
Directed by Chetan Shah 
Duration: 57 mins, Language: English

The Open Frame is a documentary film that tracks the artistic and personal journey of S.G. Vasudev. 
Directed by Chetan Shah, the film is structured around Vasudev’s creation of a
painting from start to finish. It enables the viewer to witness the entire process through which his paintings emerge: from the way he prepares the blank canvas to the different stages through which the canvas then passes, with colours and textures being added and removed to produce the distinctive character of a Vasudev artwork.

The film also provides glimpses of the intricate processes through which his famous copper reliefs and tapestries are produced in collaboration with master-craftsmen. And it introduces viewers to the exciting spaces where Vasudev works.

Interviews with eminent art historians, long-time colleagues and lifelong friends provide insights into Vasudev the artist and the person. The viewer comes away from the film with not only a perspective on the artist’s creative process and his body of work, but also an understanding of his multiple and ongoing efforts to contribute to and help nourish the art environment and community and to forge links between the art world and the society in which it is situated.

This cinematic portrait of one of India’s leading senior artists is a visually rich celebration of colour and texture thanks to the painterly cinematography of Navroze Contractor. The research and interviews conducted by Lata Mani add to the significance of the film as a record of significant developments and debates in the world of Indian art. Music is an important part of the film, as it is of Vasudev’s work, with an original score composed by Prasanna interspersed with carefully selected tracks of classical music.

**A Gathering At The Carnival Shop**
Inspired by the work of the artist K Ramanujam
Directed by Mochu
Duration: 35 mins, Language: English
Courtesy: India Foundation for the Arts

*Early morning, 1973, close to the sea; the artist Ramanujam disappears into his drawing, after turning into a black dog. Many speculations follow, on images, immortality and dreams.*

*Ramanujam lived and worked at the Cholamandal Artists' Village in Madras, situated along the south-eastern coast of India. The village was set up in 1966 by a group of young artists from The Madras College of Art, under the guidance of their teacher K.C.S Panicker. It was a radical imagination, where a fusion of community living and contemporary art was tried out in a systematic manner for the first time in the country.*
The works produced by the artists there significantly contributed to The Madras Movement of Art.