



Ministry of Culture
Government of India



राष्ट्रीय आधुनिक
कला संग्रहालय
NATIONAL GALLERY
OF MODERN ART

Quarterly Update

It gives me immense pleasure to present this Quarterly Newsletter of National Gallery of Modern Art, Bengaluru, a reflection of the energy, imagination, and inclusivity that continue to define our journey.

Over the past months, NGMA Bengaluru has evolved into a vibrant confluence of art, ecology, dialogue, and performance. Through Anubandha: Celebrate Nature in Art, we explored the deep and enduring relationship between art, nature, and self- bringing together gallery walks, workshops, screenings, and immersive engagements that invited visitors of all ages to rediscover the wild within and around us.

A significant milestone this quarter has been the unveiling of our inhouse collection, presenting over 200 iconic works in thoughtfully curated thematic sections. This renewed display is not merely a presentation of treasures, but an invitation to journey through the many narratives that shaped modern Indian art and its historical consciousness.

Our commitment to nurturing young minds found expression in children's theatre workshops, art-and-nature engagements, and collaborations that encouraged creativity, curiosity, and confidence. The performing arts continued to resonate within our spaces: from Carnatic recitals and thematic musical tributes to contemporary dance performances reflecting on sustainability and social responsibility.

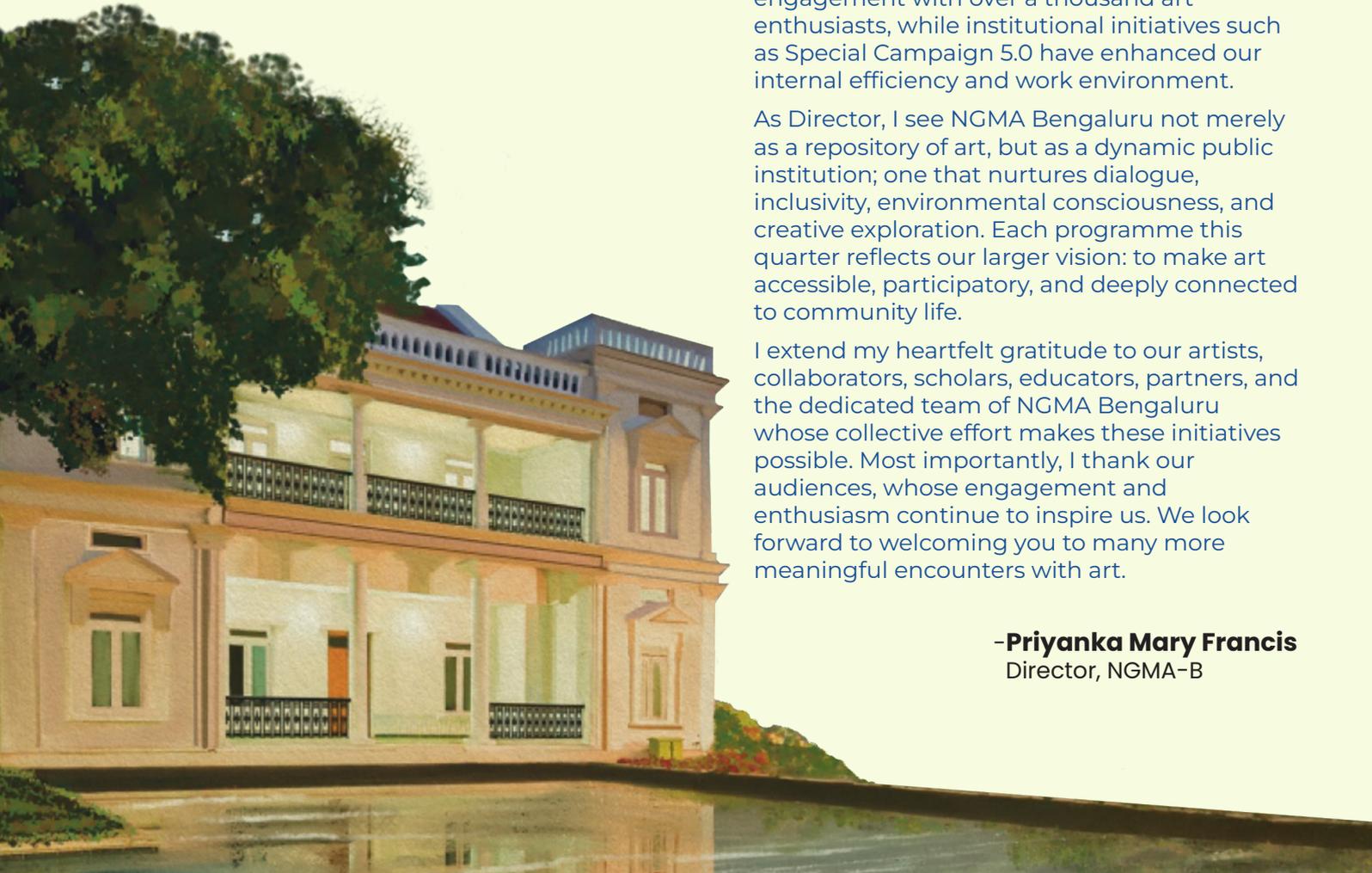
The gallery also served as a forum for critical thought and cultural dialogue. Conversations with distinguished artists and scholars, film screenings, and panel discussions created meaningful intersections between art, society, and lived experience. Commemorative events, including Gandhi Jayanthi, reinforced our belief that museums are living spaces where history, memory, and contemporary relevance meet.

Our outreach has expanded both physically and digitally. The launch of our WhatsApp Community has strengthened our engagement with over a thousand art enthusiasts, while institutional initiatives such as Special Campaign 5.0 have enhanced our internal efficiency and work environment.

As Director, I see NGMA Bengaluru not merely as a repository of art, but as a dynamic public institution; one that nurtures dialogue, inclusivity, environmental consciousness, and creative exploration. Each programme this quarter reflects our larger vision: to make art accessible, participatory, and deeply connected to community life.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our artists, collaborators, scholars, educators, partners, and the dedicated team of NGMA Bengaluru whose collective effort makes these initiatives possible. Most importantly, I thank our audiences, whose engagement and enthusiasm continue to inspire us. We look forward to welcoming you to many more meaningful encounters with art.

-Priyanka Mary Francis
Director, NGMA-B



Exhibitions & Public Engagement

1. Anubandha Celebrate Nature in Art

12 – 21 December 2025

Spreading the connection with art through nature, mindfulness, and poignant interactions

Anubandha: Celebrate Nature in Art invited everyone to the exploration of the natural world through a range of formats, including gallery walks, well curated workshops in movement and design, and interactive DIY Nature Corners where one could craft field notebooks or practice leaf-rubbings. It was an opportunity to delve in scientific curiosity through docu-dialogues, wildlife film screenings, and live performances, while also discovering new perspectives at the dedicated photo exhibition. Regardless of one's experience level, the events celebrated the powerful bond between nature, self, and art by presenting countless ways to connect with the wild.



13 December



14 December



20 December



21 December



2. NGMA Bengaluru Unveils Its Permanent Treasures

The gallery's heritage and modern wings have been transformed into a sprawling area featuring over 200 iconic works from our permanent holdings. Through the expert curation of Darshan Kumar YU, we showcased this rare, nuanced voyage through India's modern history, anchored by the thematic exhibitions: Shaping the Soul: Figuration and Narrative in Modern Indian Art, Prelude to a Nation: Art and the Independence Movement, Foundations of Modernity in Madras and Becoming Other: Human-Animal-Nature.



Children's Corner

Interactive, imaginative, and insightful sessions designed especially for children and young minds

1. Theater & Art Workshop (For Kids)

18 October, 22 November & 20 December 2025

We hosted a vibrant Theater & Art Workshop facilitated by theatre practitioners Naveen and Murtuza, designed specially for children aged 9 to 14. The interactive program combined the magic of theatre with the freedom of visual arts, providing young minds a space to explore self-expression, build confidence, and ignite creativity.

18 October



22 November



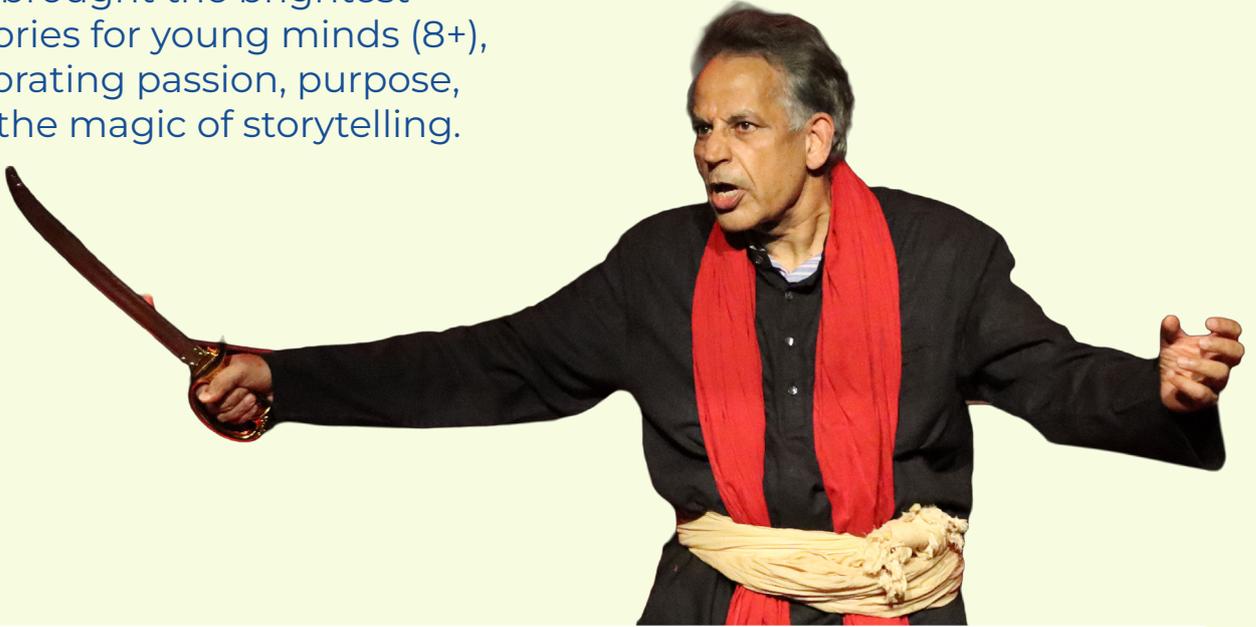
20 Decemberr



2. The Star

14 November 2025

In collaboration with Bangalore Little Theatre, we presented *The Star* a heartfelt theatrical tale inspired by Satyajit Ray's short story, commemorating Children's day. It marked a delightful experience that brought the brightest of stories for young minds (8+), celebrating passion, purpose, and the magic of storytelling.



3. Birds & Nature Art & Games

15 November 2025

The special Birds & Nature session, an art-and-games experience designed for young bird lovers (ages 8–12), was presented in collaboration with Early Bird. Children had the opportunity to observe, sketch, play, and step into the world of birds through engaging, guided activities.



Music & Performing Arts

Performances celebrating classical traditions, contemporary interpretations through music, dance, and theatre.

1. Mysuru Sangeetha Sugandha Carnatic Vocal Concert

3 October 2025

We hosted Mysuru Sangeetha Sugandha, a Carnatic vocal concert by Vid. Paavani Bharadwaj, accompanied by Vid. C V Shruthi on violin and Vid. Sunil Subrahmanya on mridangam. The evening was filled with timeless music, setting the perfect tone for the Mysuru Sangeetha Sugandha festival.



2. Echoes of a Golden Empire

11 October 2025

A thematic concert that paid a musical tribute to the grandeur and cultural brilliance of the Vijayanagara Empire. Featuring a blend of classical compositions and evocative performances, the evening brought the spirit of a bygone era to life again. Through music, narrative, and atmosphere, the concert celebrated the empire's rich legacy of art, architecture, and devotion.



3. Yele Oota (The Grand Meal)

16 October 2025

NGMA Bengaluru marked World Food Day with “Yele Oota (The Grand Meal)”, a powerful contemporary dance performance exploring food inequality, wastage, and our shared responsibility towards sustainability.



Nature, Ecology & Environmental Engagements

Programmes that connected art with biodiversity, sustainability,
and environmental awareness

1. Patterns in Nature

4 October 2025

In collaboration with The Naturalist School, Patterns in Nature was presented by Mr. Karthikeyan S at the NGMA Campus. An exploration of fascinating designs of the natural world and interactive activity connected art, learning and nature.



2. Connecting to Birds and Nature through Art

17 October 2025

As part of Young Birders Month, NGMA, in collaboration with Early Bird, presented a workshop titled “Connecting to Birds and Nature through Art” led by Abhisheka Krishnagopal. The session was designed to equip educators with creative, art-based techniques to help children form deeper connections with birds and the natural world.



3. Connecting to Birds and Nature through Art

8 November 2025

The Nature Immersive Experience at NGMA Bengaluru, held in collaboration with The Naturalist School, was an exploring gateway to the rich flora and fauna within the gallery premises. Led by Chandu Bandi, a software engineer and passionate naturalist, the walk unleashed the city’s hidden ecological stories.



Workshops, Walkthroughs & Community Engagement

Participatory programmes and experiences
encouraging learning

1. A Special Walkthrough for the 1965 IAS Batch

5 October 2025

The 1965 IAS batch reunion brought together 22 distinguished members at NGMA Bengaluru for a day of art and connection. The NGMA-B curatorial team led a walkthrough of Sanhitha and Kaal Netra – Sacred Matrices, and a serene tree walk through the campus guided by Karthikeyan S and Priya from The Naturalist School.



2. Penciljam

19 October 2025

We hosted a unique on-location Community Sketching Session in collaboration with Penciljam. Artists of all levels, from beginners to seasoned sketchers, gathered on NGMA campus with curiosity and a love for drawing.



Talks, Conversations & Public Dialogues

Thoughtful sessions featuring artists, scholars,
and cultural practitioners

1. A Presentation by Sheela Gowda

10 October 2025

We hosted a presentation by Sheela Gowda, the esteemed recipient of the Sam Gilliam Award 2025, where she shared insights into her creative journey, artistic processes, and the socio-political contexts that inform her practice. The evening continued with a fascinating conversation between Sheela Gowda and L.N. Tallur.



2. Let's Talk Series: for the time being

25 October 2025



A special evening of dialogue and reflection titled “Let’s Talk Series: for the time being.” The event featured Bose Krishnamachari, co-founder of the Kochi-Muziris Biennale, who introduced the upcoming 6th edition of KMB. This was followed by a conversation between Nikhil Chopra (Curator, KMB 2025) and Joshua Muyiwa, poet, writer, and journalist, as they explored themes of art, performance, and the evolving cultural landscape.



3. Nation, Region & Modernity

21 November 2025



In collaboration with Somberikatte, we hosted a pivotal panel discussion on NATION, REGION, MODERNITY: The Art of K. Venkatappa. The session was an invitation to delve into the newly published book spotlighting K. Venkatappa, an important yet often overlooked figure in mainstream art history. The discussion highlighted his significant contributions to understanding early modernity in India. The panel featured Janaki Nair, Ashish Rajadhyaksha, Sherin B.S., Deeptha Achar, and Pushpamala N. The conversation was moderated by Suresh Jayaram.



Film Screenings & Docu Dialogues

Screen-led explorations of society, ecology, and artistic legacy

1. Gaur in My Garden & Living with Elephants

25 October 2025

We hosted a special film screening, in collaboration with the Naturalist School, that explored our profound connection with nature through the documentaries “Gaur in My Garden” and “Living with Elephants.” The screening was followed by an interactive session with Bijoy Venugopal, who delved into themes of coexistence, conservation, and the art of storytelling.



2. Ananya Drishya Screening

7 November 2025



In collaboration with Ananya Drishya, we hosted a special screening that featured six contemporary artists: Amshu Chukki, Babu Eshwar Prasad, Murali Cheeroth, Prakash Lakshiman, Ramesh Chandra, and Ravi Shah, who shared their creative journeys and methodologies they developed during the Covid lockdown.

3. Docu Dialogues Watch Talk Share

22 November 2025

NGMA, Bengaluru hosted Docu Dialogues, where five remarkable short films guided audiences through the forgotten edges, contested spaces, and fragile beauty of India's grasslands. Through the screenings and a post-film discussion, the audience explored how these landscapes shape biodiversity, livelihoods, and the future of our cities.



4. Whispers of Earth: A Celebration of Girish Kasaravalli's Cinematic Legacy

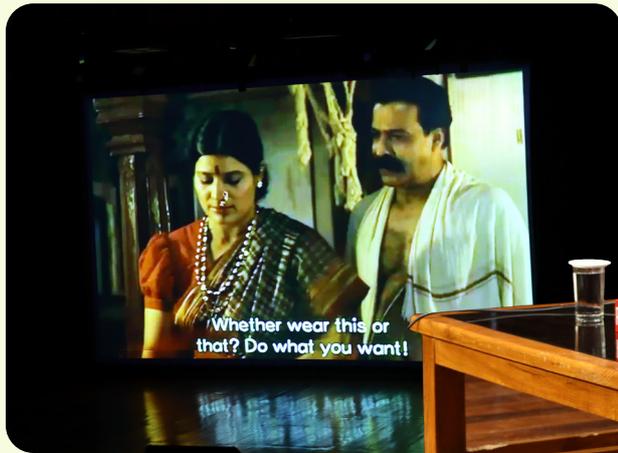
22 November 2025

Ghatashraddha



12 December 2025

Thayi Saheba



13 December 2025

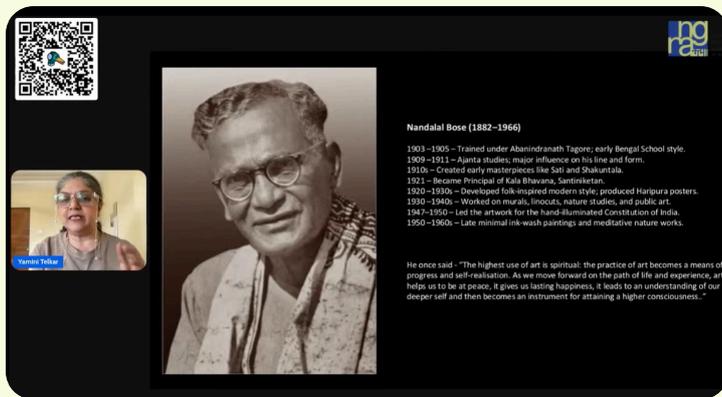
Kanasemba Kudureyaneri



We presented special screenings of the internationally celebrated cinematic legacy of Girish Kasaravalli, giving reflections on tradition, identity, rural life, and social change through post-film discussions.

Online Art Appreciation Sessions

Monthly digital engagements expanding access to art history and modern Indian art discourse. Each session was led by art historian Yamini Telkar and live-streamed across NGMA Bengaluru's official platforms.



On Gaganendranath Tagore

25 October 2025

Nandalal Bose (1882–1966)

1903–1905 – Trained under Abanindranath Tagore; early Bengal School style.
1909–1911 – Ajanta studies, major influence on his line and form.
1910s – Created early masterpieces like Sati and Shakuntala.
1921 – Became Principal of Kala Bhavana, Santiniketan.
1920–1930s – Developed folk-inspired modern style; produced Harpura posters.
1930–1940s – Worked on murals, linocuts, nature studies, and public art.
1947–1950 – Led the artwork for the hand-illuminated Constitution of India.
1950–1960s – Late minimal ink-wash paintings and meditative nature work.

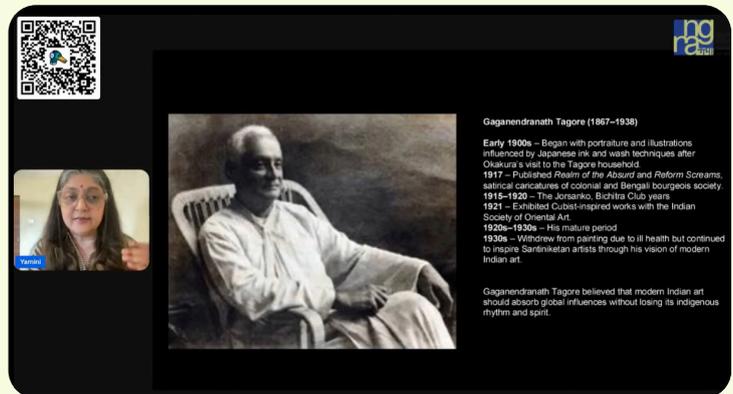
He once said: "The highest use of art is spiritual: the practice of art becomes a means of progress and self-realisation. As we move forward on the path of life and experience, art helps us to be at peace. It gives us lasting happiness, it leads to an understanding of our deeper self and then becomes an instrument for attaining a higher consciousness."

On Gaganendranath Tagore

25 October 2025

On Nandalal Bose

29 November 2025



On Nandalal Bose

29 November 2025

Gaganendranath Tagore (1867–1938)

Early 1890s – Began with portraiture and illustrations influenced by Japanese ink and wash techniques after Okakura's visit to the Tagore household.
1917 – Published *Reform of the Absurd and Reform of the Sordid*, satirical caricatures of colonial and Bengali bourgeois society.
1915–1920 – The Jorasanko Bichitra Club years.
1921 – Exhibited Gubai-inspired works with the Indian Society of Oriental Art.
1920s–1930s – His mature period.
1930s – Withdrew from painting due to ill health but continued to inspire Santiniketan artists through his vision of modern Indian art.

Gaganendranath Tagore believed that modern Indian art should absorb global influences without losing its indigenous rhythm and spirit.

On Amrita Sher-Gil

17 December 2025



On Amrita Sher-Gil

17 December 2025

Festivals, Special Initiatives & Commemorations

1. Gandhi Jayanthi Celebration

4 October 2025

We held two special events to commemorate Gandhi Jayanthi and honor the life and legacy of Mahatma Gandhi. The evening began with An Ode to the Mahatma, curated by Mamta Sagar, where Kaavya Sanje poets shared poems, stories, and anecdotes inspired by Gandhi's ideals. This was followed by Sharing Fond Memories - Mamta Sagar in conversation with Ela Gandhi, granddaughter of Mahatma Gandhi and Kasturba. Ela Gandhi shared personal memories and reflected on the lasting global impact of Gandhian values. Together, the events celebrated Gandhi as both a historical icon and a living inspiration.



2. Mental Health and Art: From Hope to Healing

24–25 October 2025

In collaboration with NIMHANS, we presented a two-day programme exploring how art can transform struggle into strength, featuring exhibitions and expert-led discussions.



3. A Three-Day Makeover Workshop & Performance Series

30 & 31 October, 1 November 2025

A vibrant celebration of traditional performance forms: Therukoothu, Kathakali, and Yakshagana bringing the Mahabharata to life over three immersive days.



Prize Distribution Ceremony Seva Parv 2025

31 October 2025



Hosted in collaboration with IGNCA Bengaluru, celebrating participants of the painting competition-workshop under Viksit Bharat Ke Rang, Kala Ke Sang, concluding with a Kathakali performance.

Highlights

- Our commitment to public outreach saw the inception of a WhatsApp Community, a digital space that now hosts a vibrant network of 1,000+ NGMA-B enthusiasts.
- Special Campaign 5.0 was successfully completed with all targets achieved, leading to cleaner spaces, better record management, improved efficiency, and a healthier work environment.

All workshops, events, and programs are curated and organized by NGMA Bengaluru