

## **Illustrating the reality, one comic at a time. Tune into yet another conversation at AVID Online: Cartooning for Social Change**

Indian comics may have begun their journey with mythological characters and lores but they soon shifted their gaze to the realities of the world. From the 'Common Man' by R K Laxman to Shankar's line drawings, cartoonists have attempted to showcase the lives of Indians and the socio-political issues of the contemporary world.

Comics through their witty sense of humour have not shied away from taking on figures of authority while entertaining and educating the masses. They are serious and an entertaining medium for exchanging thoughts that can boost efforts to address the complex topics and navigate through them, bringing about a wave of change.

To understand the power these cartoons hold, to discuss how comics use this medium to reach out to a wider audience and how to better engage with social issues,

**Avid Learning** and the **Consulate General of Switzerland in Mumbai** present an online presentation and conversation: **Cartooning for Social Change**.

This conversation will delve into democratising the art of comic-making and how artistic and verbal talent can be used to create memorable, thought-provoking social commentary that influences and reflects public opinion.

Moderated by *Author* **Varud Gupta**, this session will be a conversation amongst *Cartoonist and Founder World Comics India* **Sharad Sharma**, *Visual Artist*, **Ita Mehrotra**, *Filmmaker & Comic Writer*, **Aarthi Parthasarthy** and *Editorial Cartoonist and Comics Reporter* **Patrick Chappatte**.

Join us to discover the role of cartooning as an artistic vehicle to galvanise change and empower communities!

**Date:** Wednesday, 8th June 2022

**Time:** 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM (IST)

**Duration:** 90 minutes (including Q&A)

**Format:** Live Session on Zoom

**Register:** [www.avidlearning.in](http://www.avidlearning.in)

**Press:** ayeshah.avid@gmail.com



One of the most important applications of comics is that they can be an inviting medium to engage in complex conversations and sensitive topics. It has the power to creatively talk about social issues in digestible formats, hence, ensuring that the message reaches a wider audience. The panelists will discuss the art of comic-making and ways to create comics with thought-provoking social commentary.

Tune in to discover how cartooning can be an artistic vehicle and a catalyst for change and empowerment for communities!

#AVIDONLINE **LIVE**

				
Editorial Cartoonist and Comics Reporter <b>Patrick Chappatte</b>	Visual Artist <b>Ita Mehrotra</b>	Filmmaker and Comic Writer <b>Aarthi Parthasarthy</b>	Cartoonist and Founder, World Comics India <b>Sharad Sharma</b>	Author <b>Varud Gupta</b>

DATE: **WEDNESDAY, 8 JUNE '22**  
TIME: **6:00 PM - 7:30 PM (IST)**  
RSVP: [www.avidlearning.in](http://www.avidlearning.in)

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## About The Speakers

**Patrick Chappatte** draws for the Swiss newspapers Le Temps in Geneva and Neue Zürcher Zeitung. He also works for Le Canard Enchaîné in France, Der Spiegel magazine in Germany and the Boston Globe in the United States. For almost 20 years he was the regular cartoonist for the International Herald Tribune and the New York Times, until the latter newspaper decided to stop publishing political cartoons in 2019. Chappatte is also a pioneer of cartoon reportage, with more than thirty published reports, from Nairobi's slums to Guatemala's gangs, as well as American death rows. For the past fifteen years, with the help of the Swiss Foreign Office, he has been organizing "Plumes croisées" projects all around the world, to encourage a dialogue on Human Rights through drawings. Chappatte chairs the Freedom Cartoonists foundation in Geneva (formerly the Swiss Cartooning for Peace Foundation) which, together with the City of Geneva, awards the biennial International Editorial Cartoon Award. Kofi Annan used to be the Foundation's honorary president. After spending time in New York and Los Angeles, he currently lives and works in Geneva.

**Ita Mehrotra** is a visual artist, researcher and educator. Her non-fiction comics and illustrated text have been published and exhibited by Zubaan Books, Goethe Institute, Fumetto Festival, thewire.in and KHOJ, among others. Ita's recent book 'Shaheen Bagh, A Graphic Recollection' (Yoda press, 2021) voices moments and memories from the vast anti CAA uprising across India over the winter of 2019. Ita has worked with various grassroots organisations and community schools across India and is currently Director of Artreach India, a not for profit that works at the intersections of art, inclusive education and community development.

**Aarthi Parthasarathy** is a filmmaker and writer, and has written a number of comics and short graphic stories. She founded Falana Films, a Bangalore-based creative film and animation studio. She created the webcomic Royal Existentials and is also part of Kadak Collective, a group of South Asian women graphic artists and writers. She is one of the editors of the Bystander Anthology, an independent comics anthology released in 2021 by 50+ South Asian comic artists, writers and illustrators.

**Sharad Sharma**, a Delhi-based cartoonist, conceptualised the idea of Grassroots Comics in the early nineties, which is now a global movement. In his leadership, World Comics India trained over 100,000 common people in grassroots comics methodology across the globe. This methodology is now being widely used as a tool for communication and comics journalism. This simple yet powerful tool has encouraged not just media students and NGOs activists but also the common people including the homeless, street vendors, refugees and sexual minorities to document their part of story.

**Varud Gupta** is the award-winning author of the graphic novel Chhotu: A Tale of Love and Partition (Comic Con India "Best Writer") and the travelogue Bhagwaan Ke Pakwaan: Food of the Gods (Gourmand award for "Peace"). His words have also appeared in America's Test Kitchen, National Geographic, and Mint Lounge. His career as a writer began after quitting a short-lived career as a management consultant to travel and eat his way across the globe. When not writing, he is usually experimenting in the kitchen, collecting Instant Noodles, or playing Dungeons & Dragons. He received his bachelors in Finance from New York University and has taught at the Indian Institute of Art and Design, The Center for Fiction, and Gotham Writers.

## **Partner Information**

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