

Explore the Synergies between Art, Science and Technology in the Second Episode of A. R. T. 2020

*“Science and Art tend to coalesce in aesthetics, plasticity, and form. The greatest scientists are artists as well.” -
Albert Einstein*

For Immediate Release

National Gallery of Modern Art, Mumbai, Ministry of Culture, Government of India, Nehru Science Centre, Mumbai and Avid Learning present **Intersections between Art, Science and Technology** the second episode of AVID’s newest Art Series **Art Redefined Today (A.R.T) 2020**.

The description of the discussion is as below:

Join *Artist and Researcher* **Abhishek Hazra**, *Founding Member and Director of Khoj International Artists Association* **Pooja Sood** and *Director, Nehru Science Centre, Mumbai* **Shivaprasad Khened** who will be in conversation with *Science Educator, Entrepreneur and Curator* **Jaya Ramchandani**.

The concept of art has evolved today. Can it now be considered an amalgamation of various disciplines like design, science and technology? There certainly are shared interests and concerns in the fields of art, science and technology. Biology, anatomy, taxonomy, medicine as well as environmental science are concerns for many artists and tools like Artificial Intelligence, VR and drone photography are being incorporated into new artistic practices. How can we define artistic practice around the incorporation of technology innovation-including lesser known mediums of art, such as sound art? How may we adapt art to fluid material boundaries?

Arguably, according to curators and educators, Art is almost a scientific platform to develop alternative points of view. According to the artist, art is a slow tool which does not act at once, it is a kind of laboratory producing an alternative scheme of thinking, and this, in turn, requires that artists constantly analyze themselves, deconstruct their stereotypes. Is the language and process of art making changing- seeing residencies as incubation labs? Will artists and scientists- both creative innovators in their own right lead the response to issues of the day like Climate change, the pandemic etc.?

Will art-making and creativity in the future be problem-led and in development of solutions through cross-disciplinary, mutual exchange? What are some of the critical or philosophical perspectives on the impact and direction of science and technology with relation to art? Art and science both, to be useful must arguably go beyond exhibition spaces, science labs and publications. What will the different modes of production and dissemination, for both be? What will technology’s role be?

As the world evolves to newly adjust with the COVID pandemic as well as with the ongoing crisis of climate change – the medical and the environmental have and will become greater concerns for artists. Technology has also gained greater traction in the artistic realm as a mode of artmaking as well as a mode of engagement. The artist, the scientist and the technologist are becoming hybrid figures as their roles- previously defined- now elide and interchange.

So, what can be termed “Art” in 2020 and post? Will legitimate genres of art in the near future now include science, medicine and tech and have a research-based element?

These speakers will unpack the conceptual synergies between science and art, the rise of research-based creativity, the collaborative role of art and science in dealing with issues like pandemics and climate change, the ascendance of art-tech and much more.

Read more about the Series below:

This four-part series that seeks to re-energise conversations around Art and the future of Art by engaging with emerging issues and trends and also focusing on taking the conversation beyond – into the stratosphere of Indian contemporary art of tomorrow. Topics to be touched upon include Meme Art and the Future of Art Engagement, Redefining Traditional Art in today's world, Identity and Body politics in 2020 and Intersections between Science, Technology and Art.

We are proud to collaborate with two venerated institutions from these seemingly disparate fields of art and science to present this cross-disciplinary and inclusive discussion.

Join us to learn more about the fascinating intersections between art, science and technology that will determine future trajectories for all these disciplines as well as for culture at large.

When: Thursday, 23rd July 2020 | 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

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About the Speakers

Abhishek Hazra's art practice traverses a diverse yet closely interconnected mesh of interests. Social histories of science and an ironic fascination with the lived lives of theoretical 'toolboxes' are some of his ongoing preoccupations. Increasingly interested in performativity while being ambivalent about privileging 'liveness' and 'embodiment', his recent lecture-performances explore speculative histories of knowledge formations through the figure of the amateur enthusiast. Abhishek has exhibited widely that include MACBA, Barcelona, Kochi-Muziris Biennale 2016, Experiment Marathon-Serpentine Gallery, London and Reykjavik Art Museum, Kunstmuseum Bern, Bose Pacia, New York, MAXXI Museum, Rome, GallerySKE, Bangalore, KHOJ, Kiran Nadar Museum and OCAD, Toronto. He has been a Charles Wallace scholar and an artist-in-residence in various residences including Gasworks, London, Art Omi, New York and SymbioticA, Centre of Excellence in Biological Arts, Perth. Abhishek has also been the recipient of multiple awards including the 2011 Sanskriti Award for Visual Art.

Pooja Sood is an established leader in the arts and culture sector in South Asia. She is a founding member and Director of Khoj International artists Association which is an independent art organisation based in New Delhi. Core to her work is the belief that alternative and experimental arts practices are essential elements of civil society discourse in a democracy and her professional practice is built around fostering the institutional and cultural infrastructure necessary to support artists whose work is of critical relevance to society. Sood's interventions have helped shape the field of alternative contemporary art practice, enabled innovation in

collaboration and institution building and pushed experiments in curatorial practices, at critical moments in South Asian contemporary art. She is deeply committed to building solidarities between artists in India and the global south by fostering critical spaces for creative expression and dialogue. Over the past three decades, she has straddled the corporate, NGO and the governmental art sectors with equal facility, developing core competencies in international cooperation, institution building, strategic planning, curating, fundraising and capacity building.

Shivaprasad Khened is currently the Director of the Nehru Science Centre, Mumbai. He has served as Director of Science Museum in Delhi and Bangalore and National Gallery of Modern Art, (NGMA) Mumbai. He is credited with more than 50 scientific papers, exhibition catalogues and articles. He has curated several exhibitions on varying subjects and his latest exhibition is the Cricket Connects: India–UK exhibition. The “Information Revolution” gallery, which he co-curated won the Dibner award instituted by the Smithsonian. His other curatorial works include; Our Technology Heritage, Our Science and Technology Heritage, 100 Years of Nobel Prize, Human Genome and Beyond, Our Body Guards (Immune System), Pulses the Smart Food, Cricket Connects exhibition for Australia and South Africa. He is also involved in the setting-up of the National Museum of Indian Cinema in Films Division campus. One of the exhibition that he curated “Sir M Visvesvaraya: The Legendary Nation Builder”, was selected for the “Pride of India” award for exhibition, which he curated and exhibited during the 102nd India Science Congress, at the Mumbai University. He is the recipient of the Smithsonian scholarship (1988) and the 16th NES, Jagadguru Shankaracharya, H.H, Sri Jayendrasaraswathi, National Eminence Award (2017). Under his able leadership, Nehru Science Centre received the prestigious National Award (2017) for the Best Communication Campaign (External Publics) instituted by the Public Relations Society of India for the exhibition “The Future of Food: Pulses”.

Jaya Ramchandani is a science educator, entrepreneur, and curator. She teaches physics, general science, and maths to students and adults alike. She co-founded Sirius Interactive (siriusinteractive.co.in) a language solutions provider for researchers, and The Story Of Foundation (www.thestoryof.org), an interdisciplinary, informal learning project for 21st century inquirers. Jaya has been involved in a number of innovative science education projects such as UNAWA's Universe in a Box (www.unawe.org), AstroEdu (astroedu.iau.org), a peer-reviewed astronomy education platform, and, more recently, Sublime’s Teaching for Artistic Innovation program (tfai.in) as a curriculum designer. She is a proponent of interdisciplinary approaches to learning, with a special interest in encouraging dialogue and partnerships between multiple stakeholders to impact education policy.

About Partners

The National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA) Mumbai, Ministry of Culture, Government of India is a repository of the cultural ethos of the country and showcases the changing art forms through the passage of the last 160 years starting from about 1857 in the field of Visual and Plastic arts. The first NGMA was opened in New Delhi at the historic Jaipur House, in the presence of Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and artists and art lovers on March 29, 1954. The National Gallery of Modern Art, Mumbai was opened to the public in 1996. It hosts various exhibitions and also has its own art collections comprising paintings, sculptures and graphics with a focus on Indian and International artists. It is located in the precinct of the former auditorium the Sir Cowasji Jehangir Public Hall and the Institute of Science. This architecturally marvellous building was designed and built by the famous British architect George Wittet which has been completely redesigned keeping only the facade edifice that was Public Hall. It has hosted eminent artists like, K.H. Ara, F. N. Souza, Gaitonde, S.H. Raza and M.F. Hussain and contemporary artists like, K.G. Subramanyam, Sudhir Patwardhan, Nalini Malini, Atul Dodiya and

Sudarshan Shetty. The NGMA in Mumbai is run and administered as a subordinate office to the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, which has two branches one at Mumbai and the other at Bengaluru.

Nehru Science Centre, Mumbai, a constituent unit of National Council of Science Museums (NCSM) functioning under the aegis of Ministry of Culture, Govt of India, has 4 more science centres in Nagpur, Bhopal, Dharampur and Goa under its administrative umbrella. The Centre organizes regular extensive science education programmes, activities and competitions for the benefit of the common people and students in particular and reaches successfully over 700,000 people every year providing them hands-on experience and thereby making them to enjoy the basic principles and marvels of science & technology. Spread over 14 acres of land, the Centre provides a natural and free environment for students to learn, familiarize and spend creative holidays and science educators & communicators an opportunity to have a glimpse of innovations in science education. This science centre is a trend setter in the field of science popularization and extension educational activities & is the first interactive science centre of NCSM. For details please visit <https://nehrusciencecentre.gov.in/>

Avid Learning, the cultural philanthropy arm of the Essar Group founded in 2009 has, over the past decade, grown into one of Mumbai's leading public programming platforms and is firmly entrenched in the country's wider cultural ecosystem. Our thoughtfully curated and diverse events embrace the spirit of collaboration to bring together the best of Indian and international writers, artists, intellectuals, cultural experts, policymakers and industry leaders across Visual Art, Literature, Culture and Heritage, Education, Design & Technology and the Performing Arts through engaging and dynamic formats like panel discussions, workshops & master classes, roundtables, lecture demonstrations, festival platforms, symposiums & conferences, multidisciplinary performances and walkthroughs. To date, AVID has conducted over 1250 programs and connected with more than 150,000 individuals, a widely eclectic group of life-long learners including students, patrons, practitioners, influencers, thought leaders and cultural & creative enthusiasts in Mumbai, Delhi, Jaipur, Bangalore, Goa and Gujarat. We have also made our mark internationally, with events and collaborations in Dubai and New York. We regularly collaborate and partner with institutions, organisations and initiatives like the National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), (CSMVS) Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), one of the apex bodies that impact cultural policy and the creative sector as a whole. We have been at the helm of programming at the Royal Opera House, Mumbai India's only surviving Opera House since its reopening in 2016. We believe in the importance of arts for social change and we regularly offer our support and platforms for Social Advocacy. In April 2020, we launched **AVID Online**, an online further learning campaign on our social media platforms for our followers to engage with a range of varied topics across the breadth of the arts. Our eclectic faculty of experts, thought leaders, practitioners and innovators continue to share their learnings, expertise and knowledge on our social media platforms with tailored content featured weekly for AVID's online community and beyond. In collaboration with long-term and new partners, we have since dimensionalised the campaign by re-introducing our existing offline formats and IPs and enhancing them for digital engagement. We have taken our content live with engaging masterclasses and virtual panel discussions and also built robust tangential campaigns and series in support of worthy causes and highlighting topical issues. To keep updated on our programmes, like us on <https://www.facebook.com/avidlearning/>, follow us on <https://twitter.com/AvidLearning> and Instagram: @avidlearning or log onto <http://www.avidlearning.in> #LearningNeverStops!

Watch all past AVID Online episodes on our dedicated YouTube Playlist:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLYt7Q44R5xkd4dRefvV3nFloOHEePgLAZ>