

**Join us for a fascinating panel discussion which examines the role of technology in understanding art, anthropology and history in the Age of Man**

*“Technology is humanity's biggest challenge”*

- Yuval Noah Harari

**For Immediate Release**

We live in an era of unprecedented human modification of the Earth's geology, biosphere and atmosphere. Human beings now more than ever before control and shape all aspects of our planet. This is the Anthropocene- the Age of Man. In our time of dominance and influence how do we harness technology to better understand ourselves as a race and species which is making significant impact on our planet's future today? What role does technology play in empowering us, but also aiding research that helps us understand, define and redefine ourselves better? How do millennial artists, anthropologists, authors and researchers react to and understand humankind with the intervention and aid of technological advancements? How have technology, science and innovation changed the way art is practiced, produced and distributed and what is their impact on how history is authored?

*The description of the discussion is as below:*

**Sunaina Kejriwal, Director, Kamalnayan Bajaj Art Gallery** and **Avid Learning** invite you to **AnthropoTech** a fascinating panel discussion probing the role of Technology in understanding Art, Anthropology and History in the Age of Man.

This panel discussion is presented in conjunction with the ongoing exhibition, *The Future is Here*, curated by *Art Curator Dr. Arshiya Lokhandwala*, which examines the millennial experience of nine Indian artists who came of age with cable TV, the computer, Internet and cell phones and who have technology wired into their DNA. (the Exhibition is on till 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019)

The curator of the show along with *Professor Industrial Design Center, IIT Mumbai Dr. Sumant Rao* and *Author and Co-Founder & Editor of Live History India Mini Menon* will be in conversation with *Historian Murali Ranganathan*.

These experts will examine questions like: How are artists harnessing technology to create works that respond to our changing world and our influence on our planet as a collective species? Do historians of today have to reflect on the future as much as the past? Do they need to evaluate and monitor the impact of human activity while also using technologies to reevaluate our linkages with the past that have led to our ascendance as a species? How has anthropology- the study of who we are- evolved to look simultaneously at the past, present and the future? How has our history been rewritten and reevaluated due to the availability of sophisticated technologies available? They will also discuss new age concepts like cultural technology, Ancient DNA and genetics, and cultural evolution occurring in tandem with biological evolution.

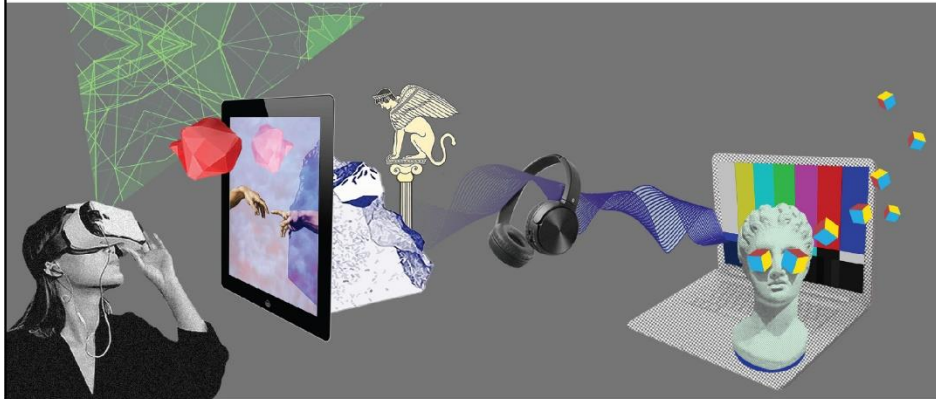
Join us for an innovative discussion that re-evaluates the way we study, record and perceive ourselves as a race and a species in this exciting epoch of Man.

**Where:** Kamalnayan Bajaj Art Gallery, Bajaj Bhavan, Ground Floor, 226 Nariman Point, Mumbai

**When:** Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> February 2019 | 6:00 PM – 6:30 PM - Registrations and Refreshments | 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM – Discussion

**RSVP:** [www.avidlearning.com](http://www.avidlearning.com)

**Press Email / Call:** Ayesha Dadachanji on [ayeshah.avid@gmail.com](mailto:ayeshah.avid@gmail.com) / +91 9820155297



## AnthropoTech

***/'an-thro'po:tech/***

*noun*

**The role of Technology in understanding Art, Anthropology and History in the Age of Man**

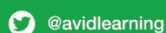
How have technology, science and innovation changed the way art is practiced, produced and distributed and what is their impact on how history and archaeology help us understand ourselves? **Sunaina Kejriwal, Director, Kamalnayan Bajaj Art Gallery** and **Avid Learning** invite you to a fascinating panel discussion probing how millennial artists, anthropologists, authors and researchers react to and understand humankind with the intervention and aid of technological advancements. This panel discussion is presented in conjunction with the ongoing exhibition, *The Future is Here*, curated by Art Curator **Dr. Arshiya Lokhandwala**, which examines the millennial experience of nine Indian artists who came of age with cable TV, the computer, Internet and cell phones and who have technology wired into their DNA. The curator of the show along with **Professor Industrial Design Center, IIT Mumbai Dr. Sumant Rao** and **Author and Co-Founder & Editor of Live History India Mini Menon** will be in conversation with **Historian Murali Ranganathan**. Join us for an innovative discussion that re-evaluates the way we study, record and perceive ourselves as a race and a species in this exciting epoch of Man.

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**RSVP:** [www.avidlearning.in](http://www.avidlearning.in) (Prior registration required)



### About the Speakers

**Dr. Arshiya Lokhandwala** is an art historian (Ph. D. Cornell University), curator, and founding director/curator of Lakeeren Gallery (1995–ongoing) in Mumbai, India. Her recent museum curatorial projects include *After Midnight: Indian Modernism to Contemporary India 1947/1997* (2015) at the Queens Museum, and *Of Gods and Goddesses. Cinema. Cricket: The New Cultural Icons of India* for the RPG foundation in Mumbai, and *Against All Odds: A Contemporary Response to the Historiography of Archiving Collecting, and Museums in India* at the Lalit Kala Academy, in Delhi in 2011. She has curated over 100 shows at Lakeeren Gallery, which include an international program of excellence including artists from India, Pakistan, Iran, Germany & Mexico City. Dr Lokhandwala writes on the globalization, feminism, performance and new media with a specialization in biennale and large scale exhibitions.

**Sumant Rao** is a Professor, Industrial Design Centre, IIT Bombay. With 26 years professional and teaching experience in animation, special effects and communication design, his work spans commercials, corporate films, short films, film titles, feature films (both live action and

animated), book design & illustration, demonstrations, training, workshops and teaching animation and special effects. An Aerospace Engineer, a Communications Designer and Founder Director of Animagic Special Effects, he is currently a Professor in IDC, IIT Bombay. One of his many areas of interest is making information on India's rich cultural heritage available to all. 'Revisiting Ajanta' is one such project where he explored appropriate design interventions for the Ajanta Caves. He is currently working on the creation of a Virtual Experiential Museum on Ajanta in collaboration with the Nehru Science Centre, Mumbai. Notable Projects include: Short and Feature Films like *Raju & I* (National Award for Best Animation Film, & many other international awards), *Hey Ram* (National Award for Best Special Effects). *Eklavya* and *Hey Ram* were India's entries for the Oscars.

**Mini Menon** is the Co-Founder and Editor of Live History India, a first of its kind digital platform focussed on creating and putting out globally benchmarked, multi-media content on Indian history and cultural legacy. Since launch, Live History India has reached over 100 million people across across India and the world. It has also brought together over 150 historians and experts on its platform. An award winning journalist and author, Mini has reported on the changing face of politics and business in India for the last 18 years Her last assignment was as Executive Editor of Bloomberg TV India. In 2013 Mini's first book, 'Riding the Wave' was published by HarperCollins. Mini has been awarded the Rajiv Gandhi Award for Excellence, as a young achiever and in 2009 she was adjudged the Best Business News Anchor by the Indian Broadcasting Federation. A History student from St Stephen's College, Delhi University, Mini has also been a Chevening Scholar.

**Murali Ranganathan** researches the nineteenth century with a special focus on Bombay/Mumbai and western India. His current areas of interest include Bombay print history and culture, photography, newspapers and periodicals, business history, and public performance. His publications include *Govind Narayan's Mumbai: an urban biography from 1863* (Anthem Press, 2008), a translation of the iconic Marathi urban biography *Mumbaiche Varnan*, supplemented by a biography of Govind Narayan, biographical sketches of Mumbai men and organizations of the nineteenth century, and notes. He has edited and introduced two books connected with the urban history of western India: *Collected works of J V Naik: reform and renaissance in nineteenth century Maharashtra* (Asiatic Society of Mumbai, 2016) and *J R B Jeejeebhoy's Bombay Vignettes: explorations in the history of Bombay* (Asiatic Society of Mumbai, 2018).

## About Partners

**Kamalnayan Bajaj Hall and Art Gallery** is an initiative of the Jamnalal Bajaj Seva Trust of the Bajaj Group. Situated in the financial hub of India, Kamalnayan Bajaj Hall and Art Gallery is a landmark at Nariman Point, in south Mumbai. The Hall, a multipurpose venue, hosts social, cultural, educational, commercial, and literary events. The Art Gallery facilitates aspiring and established artists to exhibit their creative expressions. The endeavour strives to promote the spirit of the art and its appreciation. The venue was set up in 1980 in the memory of Kamalnayan Bajaj, a philanthropist, industrialist, multifaceted human being and an ardent promoter of art, culture and literature. Kamalnayan Bajaj was the elder son of Jamnalal Bajaj, a freedom fighter, social reformer, humanitarian and a devoted follower and adopted fifth son of Mahatma Gandhi.

**Avid Learning**, a public programming platform and cultural arm of the Essar Group, has conducted over 1000 programs and connected with more than 125,000 individuals since its inception in 2009. Driven by the belief that Learning Never Stops, AVID's multiple formats like Workshops, Panel Discussions, Gallery Walkthroughs, and Festival Platforms create a dynamic and interactive atmosphere that stimulates

intellectual and creative growth across the fields of Culture & Heritage, Literature, Art and Innovation.

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