

Attend the Mumbai Chapter of Art Education Roundtables (AER) 2019, a day-long symposium which examines the state of arts education in India presented by the Art1st Foundation, FICCI and Avid Learning

For Immediate Release

Art1st Foundation, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), and Avid Learning present **AER Mumbai 2019**, a day-long symposium which brings together a range of experts from the education sector, who will deliberate on the condition of arts education in India and its importance in the growth of children and students; present advocacy strategies to systematise arts education as a core subject and share new and emerging pedagogic visions and interventions within the field.

Please read on below for more on the symposium:

The symposium will feature two panel discussions and a hands-on workshop for the participants facilitated by experts from contemporary art, pedagogy, child psychology and art curation. This symposium is designed to highlight the unique history of Mumbai as a centre for education and assess its present condition by foregrounding different interventions that are making a difference. It will also present unique perspectives that advocate for a radical departure in the way art is taught by promoting an integrated vision.

The workshop intends to provide a platform for the participants to raise crucial concerns and issues related to arts education. These will be segregated into different clusters and groups which will be formed to discuss these issues and present solutions and alternatives.

Conceptualised and organised by the Art1st Foundation, AER 2019 is a series of roundtables on arts pedagogy that features leading voices from the fields of art history, art criticism, curation, pedagogy, film making, literature, activism, policy making, performing arts and education.

The Mumbai Chapter will consist of the following sessions:

Panel Discussion | The Integration of Art Education: Advocacy and Policy Making for Paradigm Shift

10:35 AM to 12:00 PM

Speakers:

Dr. Penny Hay, *Artist and Educator, Research Fellow, Centre for Cultural and Creative Industries; Senior Lecturer in Arts Education, School of Education, Bath Spa University and Director of Research*

Sangeeta Gole, *Pedagogue and Education Specialist, Founder-Director PEARLS and Advisor – Art1st Foundation*

Shaheen Mistri, *Social Activist and Educator, Founder – Akanksha Foundation*

Moderated by **Amrita Gupta Singh**, *Curatorial Advisor, Art1st Foundation*

Panel Discussion | Affecting Change through Arts Education: Reimagining Learning Environments

12:05 PM to 1:35 PM

Speakers:

Aban Bana, *Waldorf Educationist and President and Country Representative, Anthroposophical Society in India*

Abhishek Panchal, *Arts Program Co-ordinator and Visual Arts Teacher, The Gateway School of Mumbai*

Ritu Khoda, *Founder Director, Art1st Foundation*

Shruti Ramlingaiah, *Co-Curator, Students' Biennale*

Moderated by **Asad Lalljee**, *SVP, Essar Group, CEO, Avid Learning and Curator, Royal Opera House Mumbai*

Workshop | Developing Solutions and Strategies for Effective Art Education

Facilitators:

Amrita Gupta Singh, Asad Lalljee, Penny Hay, Ritu Khoda, Sangeeta Gole, Sharmila Samant

This upcoming seminar is also a continuation of the conversations begun in the **Art Orchestrators Symposium** held earlier this year by Avid Learning and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and delves, in a meaningful way, into the building of dynamic creative and educational art curricula for schools across the nation. This symposium, featuring some of the finest minds from India and abroad, promises to bring rigour to the discussions which will be conducted on a serious and intellectual level and aims to further advocacy in this area as well as further learnings in the art education space.

Asad Lalljee, *SVP, Essar Group, CEO, Avid Learning and Curator, Royal Opera House Mumbai* says, "In keeping with AVID's credo of supporting arts education with the broader vision of fostering the development of the creative sector, we have curated and presented three conferences in collaboration with FICCI around this topic with the aim of impacting change through legislation and curriculum reform. Our focus also encompasses the development of education for the performing arts and through the Royal Opera House, Mumbai, we are committed to facilitating dialogue and creating platforms and programmes that reimagine and revolutionize learning."

Where: Essar House – Podium, 11, K.K. Marg, Mahalaxmi, Mumbai – 400034

When: Saturday, 21st September 2019 | 9:30 AM – 10:00 AM – Registrations and Refreshments | 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM – Sessions

RSVP: www.avidlearning.in

Press Email/ Call: Dhvani Vyas on dhvani.avid@gmail.com / +91 9769877928

Schedule of the Day:

9:30 AM to 10:00 AM – Registrations and Refreshments

10:00 AM to 10:30 AM – Opening performance by Teach For India + Introductory Remarks + Keynote Address

10.30 AM to 10:35 AM – Film on Tushar Joag

10:35 AM to 12:00 PM – Panel Discussion | The Integration of Art Education: Advocacy and Policy Making for Paradigm Shift

12:05 PM to 1:35 PM – Panel Discussion | Affecting Change through Arts Education: Reimagining Learning Environments

1:35 PM to 2:35 PM – Lunch

2:35 PM to 2:45 PM – Icebreaker session with Abhishek Kulkarni

2:45 PM to 5:00 PM – Workshop | Developing Solutions and Strategies for Effective Art Education

5:00 PM to 5:15 PM – Vote of thanks

About the Speakers

After school and college in Bombay, **Aban Bana** studied Anthroposophy, Waldorf (Rudolf Steiner) Education and Eurythmy for five years at the Goetheanum, College for Spiritual Science in Dornach, near Basel city in Switzerland. Then followed some teaching assignments in Steiner schools in Basel and London. With this knowledge and experience, Aban returned to India to introduce Waldorf (Rudolf Steiner) Education and Eurythmy, (art of movement) based on Dr Rudolf Steiner's Spiritual Science, Anthroposophy. Aban first worked in New Delhi and Bombay, where there was considerable interest in this alternative and holistic form of school education. In Hyderabad, the first Waldorf/Steiner School Sloka was co-founded in 1997 by Aban. Here she gave courses and workshops for parents and future teachers and today the school has over 500 children. Then followed Tridha in Mumbai and three more schools in Hyderabad/Secunderabad. Today there are twenty-four Waldorf schools all over India and several Kindergartens as well. Aban speaks several languages and gives talks and conferences in India and in Europe. Many of her articles have been published in newspapers and magazines. Since 1999, each year in May, Aban conducts the Waldorf (Rudolf Steiner) Education Seminar for two weeks in Khandala. Most of the Waldorf teachers in India have had their first lessons at this seminar, which welcomes all above the age of eighteen, not just teachers, because Waldorf is a way of life to experience one's self as responsible world citizens. Since 2011 Aban is President and Country Representative of the Anthroposophical Society in India.

Abhishek Panchal is an experienced Visual arts educator, Illustrator & administrator with a demonstrated history of working in the Arts Education and Arts management industry. Deeply inclined towards Curriculum design & Innovation, Interdisciplinary collaborations, Arts curation and Advocacy in the Arts, Abhishek has played mentoring and leadership roles as an administrator, independent Arts program facilitator and he is currently the Arts Program Coordinator and Visual Arts Teacher at The Gateway School of Mumbai - a school dedicated to empowering children with learning challenges, where he works with students across the school. In his experience of 7 years, Abhishek has been a travel grant recipient from the Tata Trust to participate in an international arts residency in Brazil, and he has developed and curated successful educational collaborations between 14 creative professionals and his students at the Gateway School of Mumbai and has a 100% student success ratio in the IGCSE Art & Design examination. Abhishek has curated 2 Visual Art showcases and also been the Production head for a school musical. Very recently he has been a recipient of the Excellence in Teaching Award, a scholarship award that allowed him to pursue a Masters degree in Art education from the Boston University College of Fine Arts.

Amrita Gupta Singh is an art historian, researcher, and writer involved in art education, archiving and cultural management. In 2002, she joined the Mohile Parikh Center (MPC), Mumbai, and became its Program Director in 2005. In this capacity, she has curated a wide range of seminars, scholarly talks, panels, workshops, exhibitions, study groups and public art projects for diverse audiences, including teachers and children. She currently runs V-IDEO: Ideas Worth Sharing, an online archive of short videos on Indian Art. The MPC offers its academic and curatorial expertise to V-IDEO. Over the past decade, she has contributed art writings for books, art journals and periodicals such as Art India, TAKE and Critical Collective, among others. She was a Visiting Lecturer at the J.J. School of Arts, Mumbai (2003), Fellow, ArthinkSouthAsia (2010-11) and Contributing Editor to ArtFair magazine (2010-2012). She received a grant from the India Foundation for the Arts (2013-15) to document the art practices of North-East India, and is continuing research in this area. Essays from this research are forthcoming in the book, 20th Century Indian Art, co-edited by Partha Mitter, Parul Dave Mukherji and Rakhee Balaram. Most recently, she is curatorial advisor to the Art1st Foundation for its Art Education Roundtables (AER), and is curating its Guwahati chapter scheduled for November 2019.

Asad Lalljee is SVP Essar Group and CEO of Avid Learning, a public programming initiative and creative platform under the Essar Group. Asad brings several years of advertising, publishing, marketing and business development experience, both in international and domestic markets. Prior to relocating to India, Asad worked for 14 years as one of the 'Mad Men' advertising executives on New York's Madison Avenue. He was with McCann-Erickson, and earlier with Hill Holiday, a subsidiary of advertising giant IPG. Under Asad's leadership AVID has distinguished itself with a wide variety of arts and cultural programming and is currently at the forefront of India's cultural hub. AVID has grown its curatorial practice by leveraging international cultural collaborations through the diplomatic core and partnering with the existing ecosystem by creating opportunities at some of the country's and region's largest cultural platforms including JLF, The Serendipity Arts Festival and The Kala Ghoda Arts Festival. Asad co-curated the Literature Section at Kala Ghoda for two years. Asad's career also demonstrates his passion for technology and new media. Under his leadership AVID has a robust social media presence and uses social media as an integral channel for learning. In 2016, Asad was appointed curator of the newly restored Royal Opera House, Mumbai for which he has successfully designed a robust program. Under Asad's guidance the Royal Opera House, Mumbai has re-established itself as a performance space of international quality, a cultural venue par excellence and a prime example of restored and renewed city heritage. In 2018 Asad was inducted into the prestigious FICCI Art and Culture Committee as a distinguished member. FICCI is the largest and oldest apex business organization of Indian business with a glorious history of nine decades. FICCI cuts across 72 different sectors and has started working for the cause of the Indian Art and Culture Industry since 2015. Asad holds a B.A. in Economics from St. Xavier's College (Mumbai) and an M.A. in Global Marketing Communications from Emerson College (Boston).

Dr. Penny Hay is an artist and educator, Research Fellow, Centre for Cultural and Creative Industries; Senior Lecturer in Arts Education, School of Education, Bath Spa University and Director of Research, 5x5x5=creativity (arts research charity). Signature projects include School Without Walls, House of Imagination and Forest of Imagination. Penny's doctoral research focused on how we support children's learning identity as artists. She is a member of the Creativity in Education Research Group, Research Centre for Cultural and Creative Industries, Bath Spa University, RSA Innovative Education Network, Crafts Council Learning Advisory Group and Visiting Lecturer at Plymouth College of Art. Dr. Hay is Co-Investigator on the AHRC Global Challenges Research project 'Rethinking waste and the logics of disposability: Compound 13 Lab' in Mumbai.

Ritu Khoda is a social entrepreneur, award-winning author, producer of critically acclaimed films, TEDx speaker and founder of Art1st and Little Light. Inspired by her son's interaction with art in his early years, Ritu's passion for the visual arts met pedagogy and Art1st was born. Art1st holds the child at the centre and balances on the pillars of Art Education, Advocacy and Policy, and Publications and Films. Ritu began challenging the existing paradigm of a myopic outlook of arts in schools by developing a full-fledged Visual Arts Curriculum for PreK to Grade 8. She created a common platform for sharing new thinking and research in art education through initiatives at various levels- Interactive lab for preschoolers, Studio Explorations for elementary school children, the Partner a Master: Artist-Mentor Program for teenagers and the Open Minds platform for educators. Through these initiatives, she has been able to systematise art education at the school level, enhance the capabilities of teachers and define new standards for teaching and learning arts at the school level. To complement the Art Education Program, she introduced children to the exciting world of Indian visual art through her award-winning books Raza's Bindu, Ambadas's Dancing Brush and Eye Spy Indian Art, and has produced critically acclaimed films on Indian artists. Little Light, on the other hand, grew from Ritu's spiritual practice and compassion towards children. Through her pedagogical experience through Art1st, Little Light was built around the Pedagogy of Self, a curriculum that seeks to make children more centred and balanced in a world concentrated towards its extremes. Ritu holds a master's degree in business administration from IIM Kolkata and a B.A. (Hons.) in Psychology from Lady Sri Ram College, New Delhi.

Dr. Sangeeta Gole is the Founder partner of PEARLS (Professional Enrichment and Reflective Learning Systems) an educational enterprise set up in May 2017. An educationist with experience in teaching and training both in the rural and urban schools, she has served the education sector for the last 30 years in her capacity as a Teacher, Headmistress and Educational advisor to schools across Maharashtra and as Assessor across India. Her work experience extends across different types of educational institutions and with government projects in Maharashtra under SSA and RMSA. Dr. Gole is a validated facilitator for British Council's Core Skills development programs and have conducted training all over India. Dr. Sangeeta Gole is a Ph.D. in Education (Enhancing Human Resource Practices in Schools) who is committed to life-long learning and continually research on ways and means to help transform schools into learning organizations.

Shaheen Mistri grew up in five countries around the world, and returned to India when she was 18 to start Akanksha. For 17 years, she worked with teachers and students, building Akanksha to provide 4000 children from low-income communities the kind of education that would maximize their greatest potential. Today, Akanksha serves 6500 children through their School Project and after-school centres in Mumbai and Pune. In 2008, Shaheen founded Teach For India, with an audacious vision of providing an excellent education to all children across India through building a pipeline of leaders committed to ending educational inequity in India. Today, Teach For India directly impacts approximately 38,000 children across seven regions in India. Shaheen serves on the boards of Akanksha Foundation, and Simple Education Foundation. Shaheen has been an Ashoka Fellow and is the author of the book, *Re-drawing India*. She has a Bachelor's Degree from St. Xavier's College, Mumbai and a Master's Degree from the University of Manchester.

Sharmila Samant is a visual artist from Bombay, India. She graduated in Sculpture from the Sir J.J. School of Arts in 1989 and a Diploma in Interior Design and Decoration at the L.S. Raheja College of Architecture, 1990, a fellowship at the Kanoria Center for Arts, Ahmedabad, 1992-93 then a Residency at the Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten, Amsterdam, in 1998-2000 which was followed by a residency at the Gasworks, London, 2001. She works with a variety of mediums and forms such as installations, performance, and photography. Globalization, identity and consumer culture are issues central to her works. Samant has worked with activist groups and communities engaging in both collaborative and participatory art projects expressing her deep sensitivity towards suppressed and marginalized voices. She is the co-founder of a Mumbai-based collective called the Open Circle, which aimed to create a platform for meaningful dialogue among artists on an intercultural level and sought to address and engage with contemporary socio-political issues via an integration of theory and practice. Negotiating in both private and public spheres, Samant has engaged in collaborative and participatory art projects with various communities while exploring ideas of exchange, accessibility, and authorship. Her installations and video works have been part of many prominent exhibitions in biennales, museums, artist-led spaces and alternative venues in India and abroad. Samant has curated international events, screenings, and exhibitions individually and in collaboration. Since 2011 she is an advisor to Art1st Foundation, that has been working towards strengthening visual literacy, creative skills, cultural awareness and art pedagogy for children and educators. She is on the academic council of the G5A Foundation for contemporary culture, Mumbai which supports contemporary art and culture, good governance and sustainability since 2013. She is also on the advisory body of Arthshila, Patna based cultural initiative since 2017. She was invited to join as the core faculty, at the Department of Art, Design and Performance of the Shiv Nadar University, to set up the MFA programme since 2013.

Shruti Ramlingaiah is a Curator based in Mumbai. She was Co-curator for exhibition "Making as Thinking", Students' Biennale (2018-2019) an initiative of Kochi Biennale Foundation, Fort Kochi. Shruti has worked with range of private and public museum and galleries from Mehrangarh Museum, Jodhpur and National Gallery of Modern Art, Mumbai. She has received the Getty Foundation Travel Grant Award as part of this to attend conference in Stockholm, 2018. In December 2017, she curated *Hinge* at Priyasri Art Gallery, Mumbai. She has worked as research assistant and translator on projects in Bengaluru and Mumbai, 2013- 2014. She contributed art review to magazines- *ARTIndia* and *Art Journal Contemporary*, Mumbai.

About Partners

Established in 1927, **The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)** is the largest and oldest apex business organisation in India. Its history is closely interwoven with India's struggle for independence, its industrialization, and its emergence as one of the most rapidly growing global economies. A non-government, not-for-profit organisation, FICCI is the voice of India's business and industry. From influencing policy to encouraging debate, engaging with policy makers and civil society, FICCI articulates the views and concerns of industry. It serves its members from the Indian private and public corporate sectors and multinational companies, drawing its strength from diverse regional chambers of commerce and industry across states, reaching out to over 2,50,000 companies. FICCI provides a platform for networking and consensus building within and across sectors and is the first port of call for Indian industry, policy makers and the international business community. The key focus of FICCI Creative Industries Division is to drive policy in the arts both at the state and national level. In order to do so we have set up an annual conference to bring together members of our diverse community to discuss, network and build a sustainable group that can set in place best practices, safeguard our culture and diversity, reaffirm our traditions of being inclusive and work with governments and others to look at tax,

infrastructure, and other needs for the sector.

Art1st was established in 2009 with a vision to create and develop learning environments that nurture and strengthen imagination, visual literacy, creative skills and cultural awareness of children and educators. At Art1st, art is considered a powerful medium through which we can understand ourselves and transform the world around us. Their work draws inspiration from the abundant traditions of Indian visual art, be it folk or fine art, photography or performance. It highlights the significant contribution that these arts have played in India's aesthetic, socio-cultural and political history. Contemporary artists, authors, designers, filmmakers, educators and historians from across the country serve as mentors and collaborators. Their work focuses on supporting schools and educators to implement a strong visual arts curriculum that Art1st has developed independently; publishing children's books on Indian art and artists; producing films that celebrate the journeys and perspectives of India's contemporary artists; establishing studio workshops for children to learn first-hand from India's established and emerging artists and organising public seminars and discussion forums on Indian visual art and artists. Their work continually promotes the joy and transformative nature of art.

Avid Learning, a public programming platform and cultural arm of the Essar Group, has conducted over 1100 programs and connected with more than 130,000 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.