

Human Power: Arts for Social Change (Press note)

Through the arts we can challenge some of society's deepest assumptions and see past our individual differences to discover how connected we truly are!

Photographer Paolo Regis' recent Exhibition, 'Human Power' uses movement and the blurring of images to represent oneness in diversity and the incredible power of the human spirit. Dancer and Choreographer **Astad Deboo** complements this artistic philosophy with his experimentation of form in time and space and his spiritual bent of mind.

Experience the potential of art to capture the unity of diverse people and take away all that divides them, in an enriching Walkthrough and Discussion with Good Earth and Avid Learning around the photographic exhibition Human Power. **Paolo** and **Astad**, will be in conversation with Academician, Filmmaker and Dancer, **Jeroo Mulla** as they journey across continents, and share their diverse global experiences in using art as a medium for social change and upliftment.

Date: Friday March 27th, 2015

Time: Registration and Refreshments: 6:00PM - 6:30 PM
Discussion- 6:00PM onwards

Location: Good Earth, 11-12, Raghuvanshi Mills Compound, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai, Maharashtra 400013

Entry: Free

About Avid Learning

AVID Learning, a public programming platform of the Essar Group. At AVID, our constant endeavor is to bring the best of Indian and International programs, projects and events in the fields of culture, art and heritage to our discerning audience. Since our inception in 2009, AVID has conducted over 400 programs and connected with more than 40,000 individuals, a mix of students, homemakers, corporates and creative enthusiasts. 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. Another very important aspect is that the AVID Team is highly driven and thrives on collaboration. AVID has supported and partnered with various arts and cultural events, such as Kala Ghoda Arts Festival, India Art Fair, Art Dubai, Jaipur Literature Festival, Tata Literature Live, TEDx Gateway, Social Media Week, FOCUS festival and many more. AVID also developed intellectual properties Multipolis Mumbai, AVID Spectrum and AVID Ideology which are a series of conversation on how arts and culture are changing in the city. Avid Learning aims to spread Inspired Learning as wide as its resources allow. To get more details on AVID, would request you to visit our website www.avidlearning.in.

About the Panelists

Astad Deboo name is synonymous with Contemporary Indian Dance, a style that he pioneered at a time when innovations in Indian Dance were not welcome. Astad describes his style as contemporary in vocabulary and traditional in restraints. His dance training in Kathak and Kathakali and, his studies in the USA, UK, Germany,

Japan and Indonesia has resulted in a technique which is very much his own. His signature style is characterised by intense focus, concentration and technical virtuosity, along with distinctively Indian aesthetic of evoking the rasa. Astad's 47 years career has taken him to 70 countries. He has been mentored by the great choreographers of contemporary dance Pina Bausch, Alision Chase and his gurus Prahald Das and E.Krishna Pannicker. He has also performed with Pink Floyd for a fund raiser, has been commissioned by Pierre Cardin and has worked with Bollywood directors Mani Ratnam, Vishal Bharadwaj and the legendary painter M.F. Hussain. He was bestowed by Sangeet Natak Akademi, the major arts organisation of the Govt of India award for creative dance and the Padma Shri by the government of India recognising him as the pioneer of Contemporary dance. His deep humanity for the last 27 years of mentoring the deaf students, the street children of Salaam Balaak Trust New Delhi and his on going work with the traditional performing art of Manipur has been remarkable.

Jeroo Mulla: Professor Jeroo Mulla has been the Head of the Department of the Social Communications Media department at the Sophia Polytechnic, Mumbai and has been teaching photography and film appreciation for over thirty years. She has served as a jury member for the 57th National Film Awards, and is currently on the Advisory Board of Women in Film and Television (WIFT), Mumbai Chapter launched in 2012. She was appointed to the Film Censor Board as an Advisory Panel member in 1987. Jeroo was honoured in 2007 with a Fellowship and a Gold Medal by the Association of Business Communicators of India in recognition of her long and distinguished career in communication practice, the only woman to be so honoured in the ten awardees from all over India. She has spoken at various public platforms including at the National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), National Centre of Performing Arts NCPA, Max Mueller Bhavan and at the FICCI Global Convention (2002).

Paolo Regis was born in Vercelli (Italy) in 1979. Once receiving his Diploma at I.T.G. he went on studying Photography and Visual Communication at the famous CFP Bauer School in Milano. Paolo has worked with the biggest brands and publications in European fashion, publishing his work in noted international fashion magazines such as Vogue Italia, Maxim, Anglomania and All Access Magazine amongst others, while shooting celebrities such as Sienna Miller, Grace Jones, Naomi Campbell, Giorgio Armani, Vivienne Westwood and many others. Now based between Milan, London and New York, Paolo Regis has worked for clients like Phillips, BRW & Red Bull and high profile fashion clients such as Dsquared, Preview, Diesel, Melting Pot, Guess. His continuous interest in the potential of photography as a medium of artistic expression inspired him to work in fashion photography as well as portrait and landscape, exploring the many aspects of our modern society. While travelling countries such as India, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, the Emirates, Africa, the US or Brazil and Japan, he continuously developed his photographic style. He is also currently the official photographer for His Holiness, the Dalai Lama.