

Our planet relies on the ecological balance that governs and directly impacts many diverse environmental aspects. Loss of biodiversity and destruction of natural habitats are a direct threat to maintaining this balance. The extinction of one species of plants and animals in one particular ecosystem can potentially have dire consequences for the entire local ecosystem. Its ripple effect can also be felt in other ecosystems across different regions and its impact on human activities – from both a natural as well as economic perspective – is significant.

Due to the expressive nature of the arts, artists and performers are often also seen as activists; devoting their creative output to a cause they support. The arts – in this respect – have the power to move people, to raise awareness and support, shape opinions and perspectives and draw attention to urgent issues of our planet.

So what is the connection and relationship between nature conservation and the arts? And how can various disciplines within the arts be used to spread messages of sustainability?

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (CSMVS) and **Avid Learning** present the next edition of the Sustainability NOW series with a virtual live panel discussion – **Sustainability NOW: Arts for Wildlife Conservation**, which will look at the significant role the visual and performing arts play in responding to environmental issues and crises.

Sustainability Now was conceptualized as a platform to unpack pressing environmental issues of today and aims to convert audiences into change makers, active catalysts and custodians of a greener future.

*Artist, Photographer, Founder Director, Toxics Link, **Ravi Agarwal**, Founder Director, Sustainable Alternatives for Rural Accord (SARA), **Arunkumar H G**, Filmmaker, **Priya Thuvassery** and Filmmaker and Founder, *Untamed Planet*, **Malaika Vaz**, will be in conversation with Actor, Director and Creative Consultant, **Anahita Uberoi**.*

These speakers will look at the various ways in which the arts lend their support to conservation efforts – from using the visual arts and filmmaking to raise awareness to leveraging the performing arts to garner support through various programs, festivals, initiatives and fundraisers. Addressing the power of the arts to connect with humankind on a deeper level, they will elaborate on the various ways in which artists are devoting their work to support the cause of conservation.

Tune in for an engrossing session that takes a closer look at the importance of the arts in the fight for conservation!

When: Thursday 23rd September 2021 | 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM (IST)

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#SUSTAINABILITYNOW

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya, Mumbai



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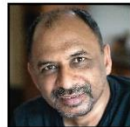


Sustainability Now was conceptualized as a platform to unpack pressing environmental issues of today and aims to convert audiences into change makers, active catalysts and custodians of a greener future.

We present the latest edition in this series, **Arts for Wildlife Conservation** - A discussion which will look at the significant role the visual and performing arts play in responding to environmental issues and crises. The arts have the power to move people, to raise awareness, shape opinions and draw attention to urgent issues of our planet. In these unprecedented times that we're living in, what is the connection and relationship between conservation and the arts?

Tune in for an engrossing session that takes a closer look at the importance of the arts and to learn about the exemplary work our changemakers are doing - in the fight for conservation!

#AVIDONLINE **LIVE**



Artist, Photographer,
Founder Director,
Toxics Link
Ravi Agarwal



Founder Director,
Sustainable Alternatives
for Rural Accord (SARA)
Arunkumar H G



Filmmaker
Priya Thuvassery



Filmmaker & Founder,
Untamed Planet
Malaika Vaz



Actor, Director &
Creative Consultant
Anahita Uberoi

MODERATOR

DATE: **THURSDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER '21**
TIME: **6:00 PM - 7:30 PM (IST)**
REGISTER: **www.avidlearning.in**

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About the Speakers

Ravi Agarwal has an inter-disciplinary practice as an artist, environmental campaigner, writer and curator. His work has been shown widely, including at dOCUMENTA XI, the Biennials of Havana (2019) Yinchuan (2018), Kochi (2016), Sharjah (2013) etc. He has curated large public art projects such as the *Yamuna-Elbe*, twin city project (2011), and *Embrace our Rivers*, an Indo- European project (2018), and was the photography curator for the Serendipity Arts Festival 2018 and 2019. He is the curator for the forthcoming exhibition *New Natures* to be held in Mumbai by the Goethe Institute, in January 2022.

Ravi is also the founder director of the environmental NGO Toxics Link, and recipient of the UN-IFCS Award for Chemical Safety and the Ashoka Fellowship. Toxics Link has played a pioneering role in

issues relating to environment and health at various levels, including helping formulate policies and regulations across waste streams, chemical safety and to establish best practice models on the ground. (www.toxiclink.org, www.raviagarwal.com)"

Arunkumar H. G completed his Bachelors and Masters degrees in Fine Arts (Sculpture) at Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda. In 2014 he set up the Centre for Knowledge and Environment (www.saracentre.org) in the Western Ghats region of Karnataka, India. Arunkumar's solo shows include: *Con-struction* at Gallery Espace New Delhi, *In-site*, Aicon Gallery New York, 2018; *Seed of Reckoning* Mumbai Art Room, Mumbai 2012; *Tract*, Nature Morte, New Delhi, 2010; *Feed*, Nature Morte, New Delhi, Sakshi Gallery Mumbai 2006.

He has also participated in numerous group exhibitions in India and abroad, most importantly: Kochi Muzris Biennale, 2018; BAT at Bhubaneswar, 2018; *'Embrace Our Rivers'* Goethe-Institute / Max Mueller Bhavan Chennai, 2018; The artist has additionally participated in several national and international artists' residencies.

Priya Thuvasser

An independent documentary filmmaker and television producer based in New Delhi, Priya's body of work has focused on women and gender, her stories windows into myriad experiences of the body, the environment, the community, mapped from a gender and feminist perspective. Priya has been directing, producing and editing documentary films & television programmes for New Delhi Television, Fox Traveller, CNA, National Human Rights Commission of India, Films Division of India, Public Service Broadcasting Trust & Khabar Lahariya for over a decade now.

She has been Co-Director of the IAWRT Asian Women's Film Festival, New Delhi, from 2019-2020 and is currently a board member for IAWRT India chapter 2020-2022. She is also recognized as a Canon Cinema EOS Platinum Associate. Currently, she is working as an executive Producer at Chambal Media, India's First Rural Media Network. Priya has a Master's in Mass Communication from the Anwar Jamal Kidwai Mass Communication Research Centre, at Jamia Millia Islamia University, New Delhi.

Malaika Vaz is a National Geographic Explorer, TV presenter and wildlife filmmaker. Since founding Untamed Planet in 2017, Malaika has presented, directed and produced films on endangered species, illegal wildlife trafficking and the human-wildlife interface for global media networks like National Geographic, Al Jazeera, Discovery Channel and Animal Planet. She is passionate about creating policy impact in the field of wildlife conservation, and works along with organisations like WildAid and the Wildlife Trust of India on investigating and combating wildlife trafficking. Malaika's recent projects as a Producer, Director and Presenter involve Al Jazeera's **Wild Recovery**, **Living with Predators** on National Geographic Wild across 100 countries and the BBC's acclaimed series **Planet Defenders**. Malaika is an advocate for The Earthshot Prize - the world's biggest environmental prize founded by The Royal Foundation and aimed at incentivising conservation action.

Anahita Uberoi is an actor, director and creative consultant who has worked extensively in New York, Mumbai and Germany over the last 33 years. She has worked as an assistant director in New York on fifteen productions, both On Broadway as well as Off Broadway in Mumbai, her performance in *Agnes Of God* was nominated for the Mahindra Excellence in Theatre Award. Some of her other plays include the *Dining Room*, *Kabaret*, *Seascape with Sharks and Dancer*, *Bombay Black*, *Going Solo 1 and Going Solo 2*, *Chaos Theory*, *Bombay Talkies* and the long running *Class of 84*. She has directed *Gaa Re Maa*, *Bombay Black*, *Mothers Have 9 Lives*, *Going Solo 1*, *Going Solo 2* among others. Also acted in films such as *Kapoor and Sons*, *Everybody Says I'm Fine*, *Lets Talk*, *White Noise*, *Jism*, *Paap* and *Holiday*. Her short film, *Afterglow*, which she acted in has won the national award as well as several international awards. She has conducted theatre workshops in Mumbai and other cities across India. She directs all of Sanctuary Nature Foundation's events and has been a creative consultant for Book My Show. During the pandemic, she has curated online performances and workshops and has been part of several panels as well as given solo talks on the performing arts, the environment and creativity.

Partner Information

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CSMVS

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Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (CSMVS), formerly known as the Prince of Wales Museum of Western India, is one of the premier art and history museums in India. Founded in the early 1900s, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya is one of the premier cultural institutions in the country. Today this building is listed as a Grade I Heritage Building and has been awarded the '2010 UNESCO Asia – Pacific Heritage Award' for Cultural Heritage Conservation. It has been awarded first place for Heritage Building Maintenance by the Indian Heritage Society. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (CSMVS) aims to create awareness and sensitivity towards our rich heritage through a visitor-friendly museum for the purposes of education, study and enjoyment of the public. The Museum offers a perfect leisure day out for all its visitors where you can engage with a world-class art collection and participate in fun-n-learn activities.