

For Immediate Release

*“Divine nature gave us fields and forests, but human art built the cities.”
Roman polymath, Marcus Varro*

St+Art India, IFBE, and Avid Learning present **Sustainability NOW: Arts for Placemaking in Mumbai** – a discussion on upscaling and sustainably optimising public spaces through art in the city and thereby strengthening the connection between people and the places they inhabit.

Placemaking as a practice integrates the arts, design, architecture, and anthropology to uplift a place highlighting its unique history, people, character and culture. It can solve many of the challenges a growing mega-city like Mumbai faces and will continue to play a key role in making Mumbai a more inclusive, beautiful, sustainable, and liveable city.

The panel discussion features artists, changemakers, and experts including – Urban Designer and Co-Founder, Bombay 61, **Ketaki Bhadgaonkar**, Sculptor and Architect, **Arzan Khambatta**, Artist, Director and Co-Founder, St+art India Foundation, **Hanif Kureshi**, and Co-Founder, Art Walks Mumbai, **Alisha Sadikot**, in conversation with Filmmaker and journalist, **Naman Saraiya**.

This discussion will be a curtain-raiser for the **Mumbai Urban Art Festival** by **St+Art India** which takes place once every 3 years. The festival aims to build a contemporary public art heritage in the city through interdisciplinary art interventions and executions on the larger theme of sustainability from Nov 2022 to March 2023.

Please read below for more information on the event:

The speakers will discuss some of the most ambitious public art and restoration projects in the city—from painting murals on building facades and boundary walls to revamping the whole Versova Koliwada precinct — and the way they have been designed and executed to reflect the dynamic relationship between Mumbai and Mumbaikars. The panel will also share their insights on how sustainable upcycling techniques, blended with an understanding of the built heritage of the local environment, produce these new places that foster community engagement. The panellists will also talk about their understanding of Mumbai and its future growth trajectories, their projects focusing on building a better Mumbai, and their artistic interpretations that stem from the city.

The event will be followed by a brief Q&A session.

Event Details:

Where: IFBE, Ballard Estate, Mumbai

When: Wednesday, September 7th 2022

6.00 - 6.30 PM - Registrations

6:30 - 8.00 PM - Panel discussion

RSVP: www.insider.in

Contact: ayeshah.avid@gmail.com



Have you taken a tour of the *Bollywood Art Project* in Bandra featuring quintessential truck-style murals?; experienced an outdoor music concert in one of Mumbai's parks?; or taken a heritage walk through the recently revamped *Versova Koliwada* district?

Placemaking integrates the **arts, design, architecture, and anthropology** to uplift a place by highlighting its unique history, people, character and culture. It converts spaces into places turning them into centres of community bonding, social interaction and even tourist attractions.

Join us for a power-packed discussion with artists, changemakers, and experts on upscaling and **sustainably optimising public spaces through art** in the city and thereby strengthening the connection between people and the places they inhabit.

The talk is part of the ongoing **Sustainability NOW** series that examines the critical environmental issues of today and aims to convert audiences into changemakers for a greener tomorrow.



Urban Designer & Co-Founder, Bombay 61,
Ketaki Bhadgaonkar



Sculptor & Architect,
Arzan Khambatta



Artist, Director & Co-Founder, St+Art India Foundation,
Hanif Kureshi



Co-Founder, Art Walks Mumbai,
Alisha Sadikot



Filmmaker & Journalist,
Naman Saraiya

MODERATOR

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About speakers:

KETAKI BHADGAONKAR

Ketaki Bhadgaonkar is an Urban Designer and co-founder of Bombay 61 Studio. Bombay 61 Studio is an innovative and experimental urban solutions think tank. It facilitates the urban design and research projects with public participation as the key idea, creates and has been deeply involved in developing experiential architecture and design projects since 2013. Ketaki has always been passionate about exploring the evolution and future of dense, urban neighbourhoods. She believes that these neighbourhoods are like organisms and need a very critical and surgical approach. Ketaki uses her experience in the professional world to channel her passion for teaching in the academic world and is currently teaching at KRVI, Mumbai.

ARZAN KHAMBATTA

Arzan Khambatta is an Architect by profession and a sculptor by choice. Encouraged by his parents, he started sculpting in his teens by scouting the streets, garages, construction sites for scrap metal, and welding them into pieces of art he fondly christened “SCRAPTURES”– A word that has become synonymous with Arzan.

What started off purely as a hobby, slowly began to yield income when his first buyer, Architect Dara Mistry bought his first piece for 2000 Rs. He got his first public response when he opened SCRAPTURES to the public at the Jehangir Art gallery. There was no looking back after that. Commissioned works started pouring in, the first one being the MOGHUL outside the jewel of India at the Nehru centre commissioned by Noshir Talati. Now Khambatta’s works are found in corporate houses, hotels, and private collections around the world and range from six inches to seventy feet in height, The most prominent ones being THE LEGEND, a sculpture made from the scrap of INS Vikrant, which pays tribute to the ship itself, and the DOLPHINS at Worli. One of his largest works is a 3.5-ton, 25 feet diameter suspension in an atrium of a building in Pune. Currently, 13 solo shows and over 100 group shows and charity auctions around the country and the globe, Arzan has embarked on a venture that is close to his heart, namely Photography. He also made a small film titled “DECIBEL”, a whacky view of noise pollution in our city. This movie has had successful screenings at the Kaala Ghoda festivals.

Besides sculpting and photography, Arzan dabbles in a number of activities namely designing props and sets for experimental plays, and designing and making trophies, he is an avid Iyenger yoga practitioner, loves travelling abroad, and extensively by road in India, he loves food, friends and family, he teaches sculpture and creativity to kids at his studio, he cycles extensively and is currently solving a jigsaw puzzle that has 18 thousand pieces. A large part of his time he spends imparting his craft to children from all strata of society, be it the IB schools or the NGO children from slums and the streets of Bombay. He is passionate about his work and takes up challenges, which defy his own creativity with every new piece he sculpts. His favourite saying is “THE IMPOSSIBLE JUST TAKES A LITTLE LONGER”.

HANIF KURESHI

Hanif Kureshi is Artist Director at St+art India Foundation. An artist and a designer working with Street Art and typography, Hanif absorbs the surroundings into his works and evokes a sense of memory grabbing the attention of the viewers. He has an ironic and sarcastic approach, working in multiple mediums combining into a single composition. His ongoing project, hand-painted type, attempts to conserve and archive the vernacular street typography of India, which he felt is a characteristic medium of Indian traditions seeming to be lost. Hanif is also the co-founder of St+art India Foundation which aims to make art accessible to a larger audience through a series of Street Art festivals. His work has been exhibited at the London Design Biennale, Venice Biennale, Centre Pompidou Paris, Triennale Design Museum, Milan, and Sikka Art Fair Dubai among others. In 2016, GQ magazine named Hanif as one of the 50 most influential young Indians.

ALISHA SADIKOT

Alisha Sadikot is a museum and heritage educator who uses walking tours as a tool to encourage creative public engagement with Mumbai's urban histories, art and museum collections. Specifically through Art Walks Mumbai, which she co-founded and runs, Alisha aims to broaden, deepen – and just make more fun – conversations on art in the city. Formerly, Alisha was Curator, Education & Outreach, at the Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Mumbai City Museum.

NAMAN SARAIYA

Naman Saraiya is a Mumbai-based filmmaker, writer and journalist working across South Asia. His journalism and film work appears on VICE, Deutsche Welle, Red Bull Music, St+art Festival, and Purpose Climate Lab amongst others. Exploring the intersections of culture and identity, Saraiya's work moves across music, gender, mental health, politics, caste and class, technology and food. He is the director of **Kya Bolta Bantai**, which charts the rise of gully rap in India. Saraiya's upcoming work includes the documentary series, **My Daughter Joined A Cult**, for Discovery+ and a feature-length exploration of India's gun culture, part of a pan-Asia series for VICE World News, titled **Point Blank**.