

**Does the seclusion of an e-residency and the novelty of hybrid cultural residency formats inspire artists or pose a challenge to their creativity? Find out in a discussion on the new structures of residencies.**

**Residencies Across Borders**  
**Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> December 2021**  
**6:00 – 7:30 pm**  
**Zoom Live Session**  
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**<date>, Mumbai:** Italian Cultural Centre, TARQ and Avid Learning present **Residencies Across Borders**, a live discussion on how the shift from traditional to contemporary forms of curating residencies came about, and as importantly, are they here to stay? On the panel are:

*Architect and Co-founder of SqW:Lab* **Goto Katsushi**,  
*Administrator of Inlaks Shivdasani Foundation*, **Amita Malkani**,  
*Author, Poet and Co-curator of Bridge of Stories*, **Sumana Roy**,  
*Artist and Co-founder, SqW:Lab*, **Vishwa Shroff** and  
*Author and Co-curator of Bridge of Stories* **Matteo Trevisani**  
in conversation with Art Writer **Reema Gehi**

India's community of artists and writers is no stranger to challenges. From the regular flux of fakes and frauds, to weak infrastructure and a government not interested in them, India's cultural ambassadors have never had it easy. But even as the place of culture was being questioned during a global crisis, art and books are where most people turned to for cheer and inspiration.

In the months paralysed by the pandemic, households began to thrive in digital spaces and artists and writers responded by adapting to yet another challenge.

A survey conducted by Res Artis and UCL in May 2020 revealed that COVID-19 greatly impacted the arts residencies landscape, with more than half of the planned residencies cancelled or otherwise modified due to the pandemic. Previously marked by immersive interactions that defied borders, art and literary residencies began to explore formats that now also included interactive technologies and new storytelling techniques.

Join our panel as they discuss whether the seclusion of an e-residency and the novelty of hybrid cultural residency formats inspire artists or pose a challenge to their creativity? In the face of lockdowns, limitations of distance and different time zones, what will it take for culture to not just survive, but thrive? The panel will examine how hybrid residencies inspired unconventional collaborations by creative organisations and cultural institutions, and will ask whether a virtual residency can persuade in the same way that sights and sounds of a new place do.



One could ask, 'Where is the place for culture in a crisis?' In the months paralysed by the pandemic, we turned to art for cheer and books for inspiration. As households adapted to new ways of living, the world of cross-cultural residencies saw its own transformation. Previously marked by immersive interactions that defied borders, art and literary residencies began to explore formats that now also included interactive technologies and new storytelling techniques.

Join our panel as they trace this shift from traditional to contemporary forms of curating. They will examine how newer formats have inspired unconventional collaborations, and ask whether a virtual residency can persuade in the same way that sights and sounds of a new place do.

Find out whether the seclusion of an e-residency or the novelty of hybrid formats pose a challenge? Or does the possibility of a metaverse give artists and writers a canvas that's truly limitless?

#AVIDONLINE **LIVE**

					
Founder, SqW:Lab & Architect <b>Goto Katsushi</b>	Administrator of Inlaks Shivasani Foundation <b>Amita Malkani</b>	Author, Poet & Curator, Bridge of Stories <b>Sumana Roy</b>	Founder, SqW:Lab & Artist <b>Vishwa Shroff</b>	Author & Curator, Bridge of Stories <b>Matteo Trevisani</b>	Art Writer <b>Reema Gehi</b>

DATE: **THURSDAY, 16 DECEMBER '21**  
TIME: **6:00 PM - 7:30 PM (IST)**  
RSVP: [www.avidlearning.in](http://www.avidlearning.in)



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**About the Panelists:**

**Goto Katsushi** is a practising architect/urbanist working in Mumbai and Tokyo and the director of design and research firm, Squareworks, Mumbai. He is also the co-founder of SqW:Lab, a research fellowship programme for cultural practitioners worldwide based in Mumbai. One of his recent projects with the Lab include *project #7 Southlands* which was nominated for INSIDE Award, World Architecture Festival 2018 and Dezeen Award 2018. Goto is a respected speaker at major international architecture and design summits and some of his recent presentations include *Duality in Drawing - the potential of discursive drawing responding to the complex city* at the triennial UIA Congress 2017 in Seoul; and *Public Library as Public Space* at Biennale Spazio Pubblico Space 2019 in Rome.

His current research focuses on the domesticity associated with the materiality of an ideal-family home and the intersection of politics of public domain and interior urbanism. He holds an March in Housing and Urbanism from AA School of Architecture, London; is assistant professor at Meiji University, Tokyo; and visiting associate professor at CEPT University, Ahmedabad.

**Amita Malkani** has been the Administrator of the Inlaks Shivdasani Foundation for the past 14 years. The Foundation is primarily a scholarship-granting body for graduate students intending to study overseas. Amita coordinates the selection of outstanding young Indians for scholarships, grants and awards, both overseas and in India. The Foundation also supports individuals in fine arts, dance, theatre, film studies and music. Amita began her career in market research and went on to conduct social research for the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad. She has also conducted research for international publishing companies looking at developing the Indian market. Amita is also a part-time potter.

**Sumana Roy** is the author of the much-acclaimed book *How I Became a Tree*, an exquisite work of nonfiction on plants, trees and our place in the natural world. Her other books include *Missing: A Novel*, *Out of Syllabus: Poems* and *My Mother's Lover and Other Stories*. Sumana is associate professor of English and creative writing at Ashoka University.

**Vishwa Shroff's** artistic practise is firmly rooted in drawing, with a proclivity towards architectural forms that serve as compelling take-off points for a deeper contemplation on memory and our relationship with the material world. Her works seek to explore the narratives of lived experiences that lay embedded within surfaces.

Shroff trained at The Faculty of Fine Arts, MSU, Baroda in 2002 and at the Birmingham Institute of Art and Design (UK) in 2003. She has had seven solo exhibitions in India, the UK and USA, including the recently concluded 'Folly Measures' at Tarq, Mumbai as well as several group shows. She also participated in a number artist residencies such as Swiss Cottage Library, London, UK (2017); Paradise Air, Matsudo, Japan (2015); Clarke Griffiths Levine, Birmingham, UK (2012) and is currently in residence at the Laurenz Haus Foundation, Basel, Switzerland. She is a recipient of the UNESCO-Aschberg Bursaries for Artists, 2011 and the Josuken Housing Research Grant, 2020. Shroff is the co-founder of SqW:Lab and lives between Mumbai and Tokyo.

**Matteo Trevisani** is editor of Edizioni Tlon and editor of the Italian literary magazine Nuovi Argomenti. He also writes for la Lettura del Corriere della Sera, Sirene, Ultimo Uomo, K, and L'indiscreto, among other publications. His writing *Libro dei fulmini* for Edizioni di Atlantide was a finalist in the 2017 Premio Berto and the Premio Biblioteche di Roma, while his *Libro del sole* was the winner of 2019 Comisso Under 35 Award. His most recent book is *Libro del Sangue*, published in 2021. Matteo lives and works in Rome.

**Reema Gehi Desai** has been a writer on the arts for over a decade. She has previously worked with the Times of India Group (2011-2020) and Hindustan Times Media Group (2007-2009). She has completed her Masters in Journalism Studies (with a special focus on arts journalism) from Cardiff University, United Kingdom. Reema recently edited a book on art writings (to be published shortly) and completed an apprenticeship with an art and philanthropy attorney. An avid theatre enthusiast, Reema also served as the co-director of India's premier youth theatre fest, Thespo, in 2008, and worked in the press and marketing team of the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in 2010.

#### **About Partners :**

##### **Istituto Italiano di Cultura in Mumbai**

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##### **TARQ**

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**Istituto Italiano di Cultura in Mumbai** is part of a worldwide network of 83 Italian cultural centres around the world with the goal of promoting Italian culture, heritage and language. One of two such offices in India (along with New Delhi), the Istituto in Mumbai was established in 2013 and is located in South Mumbai.

The Istituto organizes cultural events, concerts and exhibitions by which providing an “open window” to the cultural and social aspects of Italy. Most important, Istituto Italiano di Cultura fosters interactions between Italian and Indian culture and their communities in the artistic, scientific and academic domains.

Promoting Italian culture in India also involves learning about Indian culture, and fostering cultural exchanges. In order to reach a wider community and a diversified audience, the Istituto regularly collaborates with the main cultural institutions and partners in south-western India.

**TARQ** was founded in 2014 by Hena Kapadia on the values of creating a meaningful conversation around art and its myriad connotations and contexts. It was envisioned as something of a laboratory - an incubator for young contemporary artists which would work towards pushing the boundaries of how contemporary art in India is exhibited and perceived. TARQ's youthful and experimental ethos encourages collectors, novice and seasoned alike, to approach art collecting through a perspective that marries thoughtfulness with an inquisitive eye for aesthetics and artistic processes.

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Since its conception, TARQ has endeavoured to create a robust outreach program that ties in with the gallery's exhibitions and overall raison d'être. The program is an amalgam of educational initiatives in the form of workshops, gallery walk-throughs and talks. Our intention is to engage with a diverse audience to develop an informed viewership for contemporary art in the future."