

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Title: **The 'Beyond Contemporary Art #2' Series**

**Episode 2: Redefining Freedom: Can Art Activism Change the World?**

**Avid Learning** in partnership with **Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan, Mumbai** presents the **Beyond Contemporary Art Series 2**. We're back with Episode 2 as we continue to push the boundaries beyond the primary infrastructures and mine deeper into the psyches and micro structures of the art world.

Our first episode in the Series probed established notions of art education and examined cultural production in and outside the arts, beyond the confines of formal training. A rich discussion on hybrid spaces like the artist colony, the artist residency, the artist-run space and the café followed.

Episode 2 is titled Redefining Freedom: Can Art Activism Change the World? and will feature Curator, Cultural Theorist and Jury Member of the 56th Venice Biennale, **Ranjit Hoskote**. He will be in conversation with Curator, Cultural Theorist and Joint Artistic Director of the 9th Gwangju Biennale **Nancy Adajania**. Together they will seek to engage with the question of political art: how it takes shape at the border between the art world and the larger public sphere, and how it sometimes goes out into the public sphere and takes its chances.

Artists have increasingly questioned what constitutes 'citizenship' and 'participation' and pressing for a transformation of the social frameworks, political systems and cultural institutions that define our collective being. This episode will historicise the relationship between art and activism across the 20th century, in an international context. This episode will also examine how artists help to create a new sense of the commons, by addressing the vacuum left behind by the deficits of representational democracy and the divisions produced by emerging illiberal demagogues.

Artists are concerning themselves with the subaltern, the dispossessed, the disenfranchised, often developing strategies of intervention that focus on agency, equity and freedom. Can the artist-as-citizen, the artist-as-activist change the world?

If these questions intrigue you as much as us- we hope to see you present and engaged, as always, as we seek to find answers while posing even greater questions to introspect on!

**Where:** Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan Mumbai

K. Dubash Marg, Kala Ghoda, Mumbai

**When:** 6:00 PM to 6:30 PM - Registration & Refreshments

6:30 PM to 8:00 PM - Discussion

**Date:** Tuesday, 20th September 2016

**RSVP:** +91 9769937710 (compulsory)

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**Bios:**

**Ranjit Hoskote** is a cultural theorist, curator and poet. He is the author of more than 25 books, including *Vanishing Acts: New & Selected Poems 1985-2005* (Penguin, 2006) and *Central Time* (Penguin/ Viking, 2014), and the monographs *Zinny & Maidagan: Compartment/ Das Abteil* (Museum für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt/ Walther König, 2010) and *Atul Dodiya* (Prestel, 2014). Hoskote has translated the poetry of the 14th-century Kashmiri mystic Lal Ded as *I, Lalla: The Poems of Lal Ded* (Penguin Classics, 2011). With Ilija Trojanow, he has co-authored *Kampfabgabe* (Blessing, 2007; in English as *Confluences: Forgotten Histories from East and West*, Yoda, 2012). With Nancy Adajania, he is co-author of *The Dialogues Series* (Popular, 2011), an unfolding programme of conversations with artists. With Maria Hlavajova, he is editor of *Future Publics: A Critical Reader in Contemporary Art* (BAK, forthcoming). Since 1993, Hoskote has curated 30 exhibitions of contemporary art, including two monographic surveys of Atul Dodiya (*Bombay: Labyrinth/ Laboratory*, Japan Foundation, Tokyo, 2001; and *Experiments with Truth: Atul Dodiya, Works 1981-2013*, National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi, 2013), a lifetime retrospective of Jehangir Sabavala (*National Gallery of Modern Art, Bombay and New Delhi, 2005-2006*), a historical survey of Indian abstraction, *Nothing is Absolute* (with Mehlii Gobhai; CSMVS/ The Prince of Wales Museum, Bombay, 2013), and a survey of 150 years of art by Parsi artists within the narrative of an emergent Indian modernism, *No Parsi is an Island* (with Nancy Adajania; National Gallery of Modern Art, Bombay, 2013-2014). Over 2000-2002, Hoskote co-curated the trans-Asian collaborative project, 'Under Construction' (Japan Foundation: Tokyo and other Asian centres). Hoskote co-curated the 7th Gwangju Biennale (2008) He was curator of India's first-ever national pavilion at the Venice Biennale (2011). And a jury Member of the 56th Venice Biennale

**Nancy Adajania** is a cultural theorist and curator based in Bombay. She is the author of *The Thirteenth Place: Positionality as Critique in the Art of Navjot Altaf* (The Guild, 2016) and contributor to the multi-author monograph on Sheba Chhachhi, *Arc Silt Dive* (Tulika, 2016). Over the last two decades, Adajania has analysed the relationship between art and politics by melding an art historical perspective with a politics of culture approach. She was Joint Artistic Director of the 9th Gwangju Biennale (2012) and has curated a number of exhibitions including, most recently, 'No Parsi is an Island' at the NGMA, Delhi (2016) and a cycle of video art for 'Sights and Sounds: Global Film and Video' at the Jewish Museum, New York (2015). In 2013 and 2014, Adajania taught the curatorial practice course at the Salzburg International Summer Academy of Fine Arts. She was research scholar-in-residence at BAK/ basis voor actuele kunst, Utrecht, 2010 and 2013. Adajania has proposed several new theoretical models through her extensive writings on media art, public art, the biennial culture, transcultural art practices, and the relationship of art to the public sphere. She has written consistently on the practices of four generations of Indian women artists.

**About Avid Learning:** Avid Learning, a public programming platform and cultural arm of the Essar Group, has conducted over 600 programs and connected with more than 55,000 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.

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**About The Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan Mumbai**

The Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan Mumbai is the cultural institute of the Federal Republic of Germany and has been working actively in the fields of art, cinema, theatre, dance and literature by supporting

programmes, that are interdisciplinary and promote cultural exchange of ideas. It has a state of the art gallery space, which focuses on contemporary art and photography.