

## **Through the Lens: An Intimate Look at Memory, Family, and Personal Narratives**

In the ever-flowing river of time, memories are valuable pieces of our lives. They are fragments of our experiences, shaping our identities and coloring our understanding of the world. But memories, like whispers in the wind, can fade with time.

Photography is a powerful bridge against oblivion. A photograph can capture a fleeting moment, a cherished experience, or a loved one's face. Within a photograph lies a doorway to personal narratives, a portal to bygone eras. Family histories come alive through these captured moments with photographs becoming tangible threads connecting generations, preserving legacies, and allowing us to piece together the memories.

**Art Musings** and **Avid Learning** present **Echoes of Time: The Art of Memory Archiving**, a panel discussion on how images evoke fading memories delving into the depth and intimacy of personal identity and familial bonds with visual artists and creative practitioners including *Contemporary Indian Photographer Sheetal Mallar* and *Artist, Photographer, and Filmmaker Philippe Calia*. The conversation will be moderated by *Photographer, Writer, and Educator Zahra Amiruddin*. Post the discussion, Sheetal will lead the curatorial walkthrough of the exhibition.

The panel discussion celebrates **Sheetal Mallar's** ongoing exhibition **'Braided'** and the release of her self-published photobook, which features photographs, drawings, and text, exploring intergenerational intimacies. After the successful release of the book at Printed Matters, a big supporter of self-publishing authors and artists, at the LA Art Book Fair in 2023 in the USA, Sheetal also exhibited the photographs as well as the book with Art Musings at the India Art Fair, 2024.

Talking about this project, which has been 12 years in the making, Sheetal says *"I had been away from home for a long time. I wanted to look at the bonds we share with our maternal lineage. I believe it is a circle that's just as vulnerable, as it is strong. It's been cathartic for me, looking at relationships that have been at my core. In some ways, this work has been an attempt to reconnect back with them and find my way back home and to parts of myself that I had lost. I wanted to look at memory, loss, and aging as a woman."*

**Photography** has always been a crucial focus of Avid Learning's curatorial philosophy having presented workshops and programs exploring its different facets including - Street, Digital Fashion, Mobile, Architectural, Photobooks & Archiving, and Photojournalism in the past. In our latest endeavor, we look at how photographs preserve family histories, document life stories, and construct narratives that endure through time.

Join us for an evocative exploration of memory and identity through the lens of photography.

**When:** Thursday, 2nd May 2024

6:00 PM - Registrations | 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM – Panel Discussion

**Where:** Art Musings, Colaba, Mumbai

**RSVP:** [www.avidlearning.in](http://www.avidlearning.in)

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## Speakers Bio –

**Philippe Calia** is an artist, photographer and filmmaker, currently based in Bangalore.

His work has received several awards and has been exhibited in various museums, galleries and festivals across Europe and Asia, including the Rencontres d'Arles (France, 2023) ; Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg (Germany, 2023); SIFP (Singapore, 2022); UP Gallery (Taiwan, 2021). In India, he is represented by TARQ gallery (Mumbai)

His work primarily gravitates around two poles - the urban experience and the notion of memory. Often manoeuvring at the intersection of the still and moving image, as well as figuration and abstraction, he often incorporates mundane visual material through gestures of quotation, collage or erasure. Manners of perceiving, preserving and commemorating are always central to his approach.

Since 2013, Calia has been collaborating as a photo editor with PIX, a platform for contemporary photography in South Asia. Between 2015 and 2020, he co-directed BIND, the first platform for photobooks in India with a public library based in Bombay (today JOJO Library).

In her work, **Sheetal Mallar** focuses on the delicate, unspoken relationships that bind people to places, and on the layers of active and latent signals by which individuals signal their identity and aspirations. She has developed an extended portraiture of various urban subcultures and professional groups, exploring the tension between the individual personality and the collective context. Several of her ongoing projects engage with the interpersonal relationships and culture, topography, and narratives of popular Indian cinema. Sheetal explores the relationship between the individual personality and the collective context. Mallar's photographic work has appeared in Architectural Digest, Verve, Motherland and Invisible Photographer Asia, among other publications and platforms. Mallar has exhibited in Goa Photo and the Terra di Cinema Festival, Sicily. Solo exhibitions include 'Transients', 2020 with Art Musings. Her self-published book 'Braided' premiered at the LA Art Book Fair in 2023 as well as the 2024 edition of the India Art Fair, with Art Musings.

**Zahra Amiruddin** is an independent writer, photographer, and professor of photography who has been working in the field for nine years with a specialisation in visual practices and contemporary art. Apart from being featured in national and international publications, her main areas of interest include ethnographic studies, astronomy, personal narratives, and family histories. She has shown her work in solo as well as group exhibitions across Greece, South Korea, Indonesia, and India and is currently developing a collaborative project with [Eight Thirty](#), a women's photography collective. Last year, her work was published as the supporting text in a photobook about North Korea titled '[Between Doors](#).'