

DAK-CHOLA ARTS & MUSEUM MANAGEMENT INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME (2026-27) COMMENCES IN JULY

The Dak-Chola Arts & Museum Management Internship programme will commence on July 15, 2026. The programme is an immersive hands-on learning experience that introduces emerging professionals to the various areas of museum practice, through academic sessions and cross departmental exposure.

JULY 31 - AUG. 1 : VASTRA UTSAV



The festive season is fast approaching and it's time to shop from your favourite homegrown brands at Vastra Utsav. This two-day annual event organised by Friends of DakshinaChitra (FOD) will offer a unique experience with its niche selection of brands offering ethnic and indo-western apparel in pure cotton and linen, handwoven saris, fabrics, dupattas and blouses. The curation will also include handcrafted products including copper jewellery, antique and vintage silver pieces and elegant home furnishings and gift items. Get ready to shop for one-of-a-kind items that promise to be showstealers and conversations starters. Proceeds from the sale go towards funding programmes at DakshinaChitra. Vastra Utsav will be held at the Sri Kuchalambal Kalyana Mahal, No. 24, McNichols Road, Dassapuram, Chetpet, Chennai-600031, from 10a.m. to 8p.m. Do come and check it out!

AUG 27 : CHILDREN'S HERITAGE QUIZ

It's time to put on your thinking hats for the signature Children's Heritage Quiz held at DakshinaChitra. The quiz is an annual feature and winning teams will receive exciting prizes along with trophies. The various rounds will cover diverse topics such as General Knowledge, Heritage & Culture, Current Affairs and identifying artifacts. There will also be audio-video and buzzer rounds. The quiz is open to students of 6th, 7th and 8th standard. There is no participation fee. Nawabzada Mohammed Asif Ali, Heir Apparent and Dewan to Prince of Arcot will be the quiz master.



Workshops for Adults

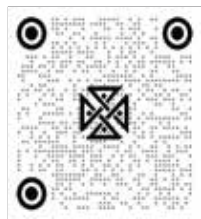
Date	Workshop	Age group	Fee
July 12	Glass Sculpting	15 years & above	Rs. 1500/-
July 26	Soft Stone carving	15 years & above	Rs. 1500/-
Aug. 9	Palm leaf Decoration - Hanging Thoranams for thresholds	15 years & above	Rs. 1500/-
Aug. 23	Thappattam & Silambattam	15 years & above	Rs. 1000/-
Sept. 13	Palm Leaf Ganesha making workshop (Vinayagar)	15 years & above	Rs. 1500/-



For registration and queries, kindly contact Adhi Vishnu at 9600021262 and Priyadarsini S at +91-6369593315.

Stay updated on our programme schedules

Scan the QR code with your smartphone camera to view the complete programme schedule for this quarter. Updates and announcements can be found on this link. For queries, kindly contact Tara Rachel at +91-9952894859. Check out our instagram handle : @dakshinachitra.heritagemuseum and YouTube channel : @dakshinachitramuseum



CALL FOR DONATIONS

Our cultural programmes are possible through your support. Donations and CSR funds can be made to the Madras Craft Foundation via NEFT. For bank details and more information, contact Ms. Lalitha Krishnan at 9677190587 or lalitha.k@dakshinachitra.net.

OUR GRATITUDE TO...

Our special thanks to Mobis India Foundation, Muthoot Finance, Ford Motor Company, Cholamandalam Investment & Finance Co.Ltd., India Motor Parts Accessories Ltd. (IMPAL), Kotak Mahindra Bank, Carrlane Manufacturing Company and Chemfab Alkalies Limited for their CSR support and TTDC for their support to our programmes every year. We thank Meinigar Media Pvt Ltd., Story Builder Cont and Bidyut Sarkar for contributing towards the Interns' Exhibition. Our sincere thanks to R. Padmanabhan, Lakshmi Vishwanathan and Sujaya Menon, Central Institute of Classical Tamil, Pradeep Chakravarthy, Shruthi Parthasarathy, Vidhya Sridhar, R. M. Palaniappan, Takshila Educational Society, Jyotirmoy Bhattacharya and Bessie Cecil for their donations to our museum and library collections.



DakshinaChitra is a plastic-free zone.

DakshinaChitra
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Tel: 2747 2603
www.dakshinachitra.net

For further information, contact
Tara Rachel Thomas at +91-9952894859

DakshinaChitra is open daily
from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Closed on Tuesdays.
Weekends : 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

DakshinaChitra is the project of
Madras Craft Foundation.

Design and Content :
The Phoenix Company

ON WEEKENDS
WE ARE OPEN
TILL 7 PM

Madras Craft Foundation
If undelivered, please return to

Madras Craft Foundation
G3 Madhuram Flats
6 Urur Olcott Road
Besant Nagar
Chennai - 600 090
Tel: 2491 8943 / 2446 2435
Email: tara.t@dakshinachitra.net

Art Beat

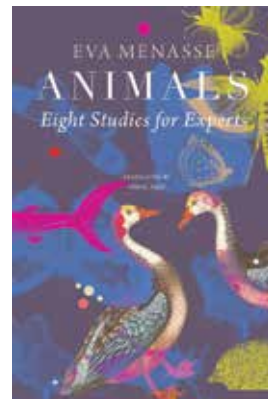
The schedule for our upcoming exhibitions is given below. Any further updates, announcements and changes with respect to the schedule will be posted on our website & social media handles.

VARIJA GALLERY

JULY 18 - SEPT. 6 :

Art of the book

An exhibition that will explore the book cover as a space where image, memory, and text converge. Curated by Sunandini Banerjee, the exhibition will bring together a selection of book covers and illustrated works, examining how images can extend, reinterpret and deepen the experience of reading.



SEPT. 12 - DEC. 6 : MYTH, MEMORY, FORM EXHIBITION



The exhibition presents three interconnected bodies of work developed at Loksutr over the past three years. **Whispers of Immortality** explores the origin myth of the river Narmada through paintings and a monumental collaborative canvas by **Pardhaan Gond artists**. **Smriti Sutradhaara** reflects on the origins of painting itself, tracing image-making as an act of memory and expression. **The Pardhaan Continuum** examines the genealogical origins of the Pardhaan community, long regarded as custodians of Gond oral traditions.

These works move beyond illustrating myths to reactivating them as living cultural memory. Through painting, line, colour and form, oral narratives are transformed into visual expression, affirming continuity, creativity and the ongoing power of storytelling.



29 years and counting...



NEWS & EVENTS - JULY TO SEPTEMBER, 2026

KADAMBARI GALLERY

JULY 22 - AUG. 3 : EXPRESSIONS EXHIBITION



This photography exhibition by self-taught photographer Rekha Vijayashankar focuses on South Indian folk and community performance traditions and the moments of change within them. Through painted faces, costumes, gestures and movement, performers take on characters that have been passed down through generations. The photos focus on the dance, but more-so the people who perform it - their state of mind and the traditions they carry within them. These performances often take place before large audiences, yet their essence is not always understood by everyone. These traditions did not grow apart from the villages they come from. They are part of inheritance and community, sustained by people rather than by objects or written records. Forms like Therukoothu, and folk dances from across Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka, live on because the artists carry them forward and keep them real. Rekha's photos capture the language of the performer; emphasising their expressions, face, hands and the movement of their body. One of her photos which will be part of the exhibition is featured on the **cover page of the newsletter**.

WORKSHOPS FOR CHILDREN

Date	Workshop	Resource Person	Fee
July 5	Origami	In-house	Rs. 800/-
Aug. 16	Basket Weaving	In-house	Rs. 1000/-
Sept. 6	Oyilattam & Thappattam	In-house	Rs. 1000/-
Sept. 20	Paper Jewellery Making	In-house	Rs. 800/-

Further updates will be posted on our website and social media handles. For registration and queries, contact Adhi Vishnu at +91-9600021262 and Priyadarsini S at +91-6369593315. Timings: 10: 30a.m. to 12: 30p.m.

YOU CAN ALSO FIND US ON

Instagram

@dakshinachitra.heritagemuseum

Facebook

DakshinaChitra Chennai

Tripadvisor

Muttukadu

GREETINGS FROM DAKSHINACHITRA

The rising temperatures in the city have everyone turning to green spaces for respite and DakshinaChitra always makes it to this list. Amidst its lush green surroundings, art and culture find a voice. With special events planned for Handloom Day and Music Day, the quarter promises to be exciting. The exhibition line-up has a diverse mix — from Gond art panels to collages and photographs. We are back with our annual events — the Children’s Heritage Quiz and Vastra Utsav organised by Friends of DakshinaChitra. There’s also an interesting bunch of workshops. Read on to know more...

Kindly note that fresh updates, announcements and changes to the current schedule of events will be posted on our website and social media handles.

JULY 29 - AUG. 2 : AYYANAR AADIPERUKKU FESTIVAL

Not often do we find museum spaces celebrating regional festivals in authentic style. But at DakshinaChitra, this has been a norm and not an exception. Every year, we celebrate the famed Ayyanar Aadiperukku festival following the traditional customs and rituals; expressing our gratitude for the monsoon rains. Rooted in Tamil tradition, the festival pays homage to the village guardian deities Karuppasamy and Ayyanar, revered for protecting communities and ensuring prosperity. The celebrations will feature a colourful procession and captivating folk performances throughout the day, including four energetic performances of Paraattam and Mayilattam from Madurai.



AUG. 8 : HANDLOOM DAY EVENTS



Explore the rich textile heritage of South India through a special Heritage Textile Walk organised in collaboration with Madras Inherited. This immersive experience seeks to view textiles not merely as fabrics, but as living archives of culture, craftsmanship, trade and social history. Journey through our museum’s textile galleries and traditional weavers’ homes to discover how handloom traditions evolved over centuries, shaped by local

LOOKING BACK : WALKTHROUGH OF THE RELIGIOUS ART GALLERY IN DAKSHINACHITRA

On May 30th, Vignesh of Sangam Foundation led the team on an engaging walk through the religious art gallery connected to the Ambur House. Participants learnt about the significance of ritual and votive objects. The attention to detail in ritual objects was clear as they explored objects that created sound, including specific engravings on ritual bells used to worship specific deities. Updates on future such events will be shared on our website and social media handles.

AUG. 22 - 30 : PULLI, KODU, KATTAM : THE SARIS FROM THE HOUSES OF CHETTINADU AT KADAMBARI GALLERY



The title, **Pulli, Kodu, Kattam**, draws attention to the visual language and design vocabulary of the Chettinadu sari tradition. In Tamil, *pulli* refers to a dot or point, *kodu* to a line and *kattam* to a check or grid. Together, these elements form the fundamental design structure of many Chettinadu saris. The exhibition will present a rare and significant collection of saris originating from the homes of Chettiar families in Chettinadu. Collected and preserved by **Julie Wayne**, a French connoisseur and scholar of Tamil crafts and textiles, the collection offers a unique glimpse into a textile tradition that has largely disappeared from contemporary memory. The exhibition will be held in collaboration with the **Indian Institute of Crafts and Design, Jaipur**. The saris stand apart for their distinctive materiality, vibrant colour palettes, woven structures and characteristic patterns, reflecting the tastes, lifestyles and cultural practices of the Chettiar community. Revisit this chapter of cultural heritage this August!

LECTURE SERIES COLLABORATION WITH IGNCA, PUDUCHERRY

IGNCA, Puducherry and Dakshinachitra Museum have launched a new collaboration and are planning to conduct a lecture series on Archaeology, Epigraphy, Art and Culture. The first lecture was held on June 11th, 2026, at the Seminar Hall at Dakshinachitra Museum and Dr. Nagarajan, ASI, Epigraphist expert spoke on *Origin and Development of Tamil-Brahmi*. The Regional Director, Dr. Sumit Dey, IGNCA gave an inaugural address. The audience was largely UG and PG students, researchers and individuals interested in these spaces.

communities, global trade networks, royal patronage and changing social landscapes. From the intricate storytelling traditions of Kalamkari to the rise of silk weaving, visitors will gain insights into the lives of weavers, the organisation of textile production and the relationship between clothing, identity and status. The walk will also highlight lesser-known stories of resistance and cultural exchange, including the global journey of the famed Madras Handkerchief. Join us in honouring India’s handloom traditions and the enduring legacy of its weaving communities. Stay tuned for more updates and registration details.

AUGUST : MUSIC MONTH



This August, DakshinaChitra celebrates Music Month with a series of programmes that explore the many ways music connects people, preserves cultural memory and enriches everyday life. The month will feature **storytelling and sharing circles** where participants can engage with personal narratives, traditions, and experiences accompanied by music, highlighting its role in community building and cultural expression. **Special sessions on music as a therapeutic tool** will examine how rhythm, melody and sound can support emotional well-being, communication, learning and healing across different age groups. Audiences will also be invited to participate in lively **community singalongs** that encourage collective music-making and foster a sense of togetherness through familiar songs and shared voices. Through these diverse programmes, Music Month seeks to celebrate music as a powerful medium of creativity, connection, heritage and well-being. Stay tuned for more updates, artist announcements and programme details on our website and social media pages as we prepare for a month filled with memorable musical experiences.

AUG. 12 - 18 : ONAM CELEBRATIONS

Onam at DakshinaChitra is a holistic experience as the celebrations perfectly capture the various elements of the festival. Onam is traditionally celebrated to commemorate the legendary annual homecoming of the beloved King Mahabali, whose reign is

CONSERVATOR’S CORNER

The Conservator’s Corner features notes from our in-house conservator on how to restore artefacts. It also includes tips to preserve artefacts at home.

DESCRIPTION REPORT

The object is a circular ceramic piece with shallow depth and a wide rim. The center features a crescent moon and a star painted in dark red. Surrounding the central motif is a circular garland-like border consisting of floral decorations, including large brown flower heads, smaller red flowers with detailed white outlines, and green foliage. The rim is finished with a thin red line.

CONDITION REPORT

The plate was originally broken into 58 pieces, and some pieces remain missing.

TREATMENT REPORT



Before conservation



After conservation

All recovered pieces were collected and temporarily secured with tape. A mixture of hardener and softener (4.5ml and 1.5ml, respectively) was injected into holes and cracks. Smaller pieces were then permanently fixed using the same mixture. White cement mixed with hardener and softener was used to fill holes and replace missing sections. Once dry, the tape was removed and the plate was cleaned with acetone. Finally, the missing areas of the floral motifs were retouched using acrylic colors.

OPEN CALL FOR ARTISTS TO EXHIBIT



DakshinaChitra welcomes interested artists and curators to exhibit their work in the **Kadambari Gallery**. Bookings are open for slots starting in July. Please e-mail us at anitha.y@dakshinachitra.net or kindly contact Anita Yogeshwari at +91-9840527076 for more details.

remembered as a golden age of prosperity, equality and harmony. There will be a *Pookolam* (floral kolams) competition supported by Friends of DakshinaChitra. Visitors can savour the flavours of a traditional Onam Sadhya and explore the customs and stories associated with the season. The festivities will also include a lively parade and captivating folk performances, featuring four daily presentations of **Ochira Kali**, a unique martial folk tradition from Kerala that recreates historic battles through dynamic movements, rhythmic formations and the energetic beats of traditional drums. Mark your calendars and be a part of the festivities!



OBJECT OF THE MONTH : BHIL PAINTING



This piece (*as seen on the left*) from the DakshinaChitra Museum collection showcases a traditional Bhil painting with nature and birds rendered in bold, solid green using the defining feature of Bhil art - pointillism - a precise dot technique. It was painted by Bhuri Bai, a legendary artist who pioneered the transition of Bhil art from rural mud walls to global galleries in the late 20th century. Her groundbreaking contributions and preservation of indigenous storytelling were officially honored with India’s prestigious Padma Shri award in 2021.

Bhil painting is a vibrant ritualistic language, historical record and form of prayer. It is practiced by the Bhil community, one of India’s oldest indigenous tribes spread across central and western India.

Artists draw large, simple outlines of humans, animals or deities, fill them with bold, solid base colors and overlay them with uniform dots. For this agricultural community, these dots often mimic falling rain, symbolizing a good harvest, fertility and abundance. While fundamentally nature-centric, Bhil art actively evolves; traditional birds and elephants frequently share contemporary canvases with meticulously dotted airplanes, trucks and buses, capturing the tribe’s modern urban encounters.

BOOK OF THE MONTH

The DakshinaChitra Library has a rich collection of books on various subjects including art, craft, textiles, anthropology, theatre, architecture, history and more. We invite you to come and view this repository of books during your visit. While this curated collection is a treat for any voracious reader, it is also a reliable source of information for those pursuing courses and careers in these fields. We are highlighting a book recommendation to keep you clued in on the ‘Must-read’ titles in our collection.



Eye Spy Indian Art by **Ritu Khoda and Vanita Pai** piques your curiosity with its vibrant cover featuring an intriguing visual of a Kalighat-style cat painting. In this book, art is presented as being born out of the social conditions in which artists find themselves. From the colonial period to the post-independence developments, it has been effectively introduced by avoiding the usual language of textbooks. The book builds a relationship with the readers through the act of seeing. Isha Khosla Design did not treat design as a mere vessel for content. Throughout the book, interactive elements such as foldouts, flaps, die-cuts, perforations, transparent sheets, stickers and tracing pages engage readers visually and tactically, making the book both appealing and easier for children to read, explore and understand.

Through innovative displays of images hidden beneath layers, the book challenges the reader, bringing a new dimension to conventional reading. While Nandalal Bose’s expressive line work is highlighted through a transparent sheet, Sultan Ali’s facial expression of his creatures draws attention through the integration of die-cuts.

The book’s earnest attempt towards engagement ensures the art of looking is slowed down. It’s like a handheld exhibition, where art appreciation begins with the desire to look closer. The book’s broader philosophy is to make art accessible to young audiences rather than confining it to the aesthetic pursuits of elite circles. A visual delight, it captivates readers of all ages.