

30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS



For DakshinaChitra's 30th year anniversary, a variety of events have been planned. There is a special book launch on the museum and the inauguration of our heritage trail exhibition which chronicles our journey decade by decade. The exhibition opens on **October 23rd**. Do come and be a part of our anniversary celebrations!

FOD PROGRAMMES FOR THIS QUARTER

Friends of DakshinaChitra (FOD) will be organising a few exciting events this quarter. Stay tuned for updates and announcements on our social media handles.

OCT. 17 : GARBA DANCE [7:30P.M. - 9P.M.]

There will be a Garba Dance at DakshinaChitra. Interested participants must make a reservation and prior payment. Further details will be posted on our social media pages.

OCT. 24 : QUIZ PROGRAMME FOR FOD MEMBERS

There will be a quiz programme exclusively for FOD members. The time and venue will be shared in the WhatsApp group.

COVER PAGE ART

The photograph on the cover page features a Kalbeliya dancer. Kalbeliya is a vibrant folk dance from Rajasthan, traditionally performed by the Kalbeliya tribe, who were traditionally professional snake charmers and handlers in the Thar Desert. Today, the women of the tribe don flowing black skirts with colourful work on it and dance and swirl, replicating the movements of a serpent. The men accompany them on the *khanjari*, a percussion instrument and the *poongi*, a woodwind instrument usually played to capture snakes. The Kalbeliya folk dance and music are inscribed in 2010 on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. As part of the Rajasthan National Festival from October 23 - 25, there will be a Kalbeliya dance performance at DakshinaChitra. Block your calendars and come witness this stunning performance!

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 Alkalis Limited for their CSR support and TTDC, Meera Chari, Dr. V. L. Indira Dutt, The KSN Foundation, Divya Selvam, Lakshmi Raju, Shyamala Krishnan, Badrunnisa Mahadevan and Saraswathy Venkataramani for their support to our programmes. We thank Chennai Petroleum Corp. Ltd. for contributing towards the interns' exhibition. Our sincere thanks to Sharath Nambiar, Padma Anantaraman, Amar Ramesh, Indumathi Mohan, Chitra Madhavan and Thiripurasundari for their donations to our museum and library collections.



DakshinaChitra is a plastic-free zone.

DakshinaChitra
Muttukadu, East Coast Road,
Chengalpet district,
Tamil Nadu - 603 112
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: communications@dakshinachitra.net

Workshops for Adults

Date	Workshop	Age group	Fee
Oct. 11	Reverse Glass painting	15 years & above	Rs. 850/-
Nov. 15	Glass painting	15 years & above	Rs.850/-

WORKSHOPS FOR CHILDREN

Date	Workshop	Resource Person	Fee
Oct. 25	Palm leaf engraving	In-house	Rs. 800/-
Nov. 22	Clay modelling	In-house	Rs.800/-
Dec. 20	Pebble painting	In-house	Rs. 600/-



Clay Moulding



Pebble painting



Palm leaf engraving



Glass painting

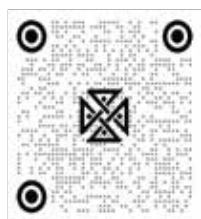


Reverse glass painting

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.

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.museum](https://www.instagram.com/dakshinachitra.museum) and YouTube channel : [@dakshinachitramuseum](https://www.youtube.com/dakshinachitramuseum)



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

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



The exhibition brings together the work of artists from the **Pradhan Gond community**, exploring a visual language shaped by indigenous oral traditions, mythology and cultural memory. Across illustrations, a monumental collaborative canvas and an accordion book, the exhibition traces how stories of origins are remembered, retold and transformed through visual form. The exhibition, which focuses on the curiosity around human origins, brings together three interconnected bodies of work developed at Loksutr: The Whispers of Immortality, Sutradhaara and The Pardhaan Continuum. Curated by Achyut Siddu and Apoorva Mishra, the exhibition will feature the works of artists Kailash Pradhaan, Ajay Marko, Prahalland Moharana, Achyut Siddu and Apoorva Mishra.

DEC. 19 - FEB. 28 : COTTON TRAILS, FROM MADRAS TO MARKEN

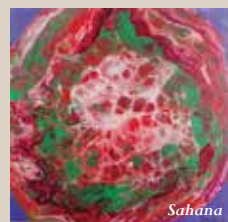
The exhibition explores the **history of the checkered cotton cloth**. What began as an export product from the Coromandel Coast through VOC (Dutch East India Company) trade routes became an essential element of traditional Dutch regional dress. Cotton Trails connects 17th and 18th-century trade networks with the contemporary cotton industry in India, focussing on sustainable practices and indigenous cotton production. The exhibition has been curated by Lipika Bansal, Founder, Textiel Factorij, Amsterdam, Netherlands and Meera Curam, Residency Director, Hampi Arts Lab & Textile Designer.



KADAMBARI GALLERY

OCT. 2 - 12 : PATTERNS IN NATURE EXHIBITION

In this exclusive collaboration, Diana's Art Room transforms natural order into striking visual expression. Color Canvas, the art newspaper, will also be part of the collaboration to document the stories, rhythms, and contemporary voices behind the canvas. From the fractal branches of ancient trees to the rhythmic spiral of sea shells and the chaotic elegance of natural textures—discover how nature designs everything around us.



Sahana

OCT. 17 - 28 :

Colour Confluence

This exhibition brings together diverse artistic voices, perspectives and experiences to celebrate the way artists observe, interpret and transform their surroundings through their individual creative languages.



NOV. 6 - 16 :

The Living Canvas: Fauna, Folklore, and Faith in India

The exhibition will focus on the deep cultural, spiritual and artistic significance of animal motifs in Indian traditions.



NOV. 21 - DEC. 2 :

Between Forms

This exhibition features the work of contemporary artists exploring the relationship between human presence, landscape, memory and constructed forms. It is curated by Kalaprabha



YOU CAN ALSO FIND US ON

Instagram
[@dakshinachitra.museum](https://www.instagram.com/dakshinachitra.museum)

Facebook
DakshinaChitra Chennai
Muttukadu

Tripadvisor
[DakshinaChitra Museum](https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g3045567-d11508801-Reviews-DakshinaChitra_Museum-Muttukadu.html)

GREETINGS FROM DAKSHINACHITRA

Another year comes to a close as we enter the last quarter but like you all know, at DakshinaChitra we always end on a high. We begin with a special folk performance for Dussehra in October and end with Christmas celebrations in December. In October, we also have the Rajasthan National Festival. In November, we host month-long activities for Children’s Month. A special dance-theatre performance titled ‘Holy Dirt’ is happening in December. Both our galleries have thought-provoking exhibitions lined up. Some new and interesting workshops are taking place too. 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.

OCT. 7 - 11 : DUSSEHRA CELEBRATIONS

As part of this year’s Dussehra festivities, DakshinaChitra will present **Jogatti Nritya**, a traditional folk dance from Karnataka. Performed by the Jogathi community, the dance combines expressive movements, rhythmic patterns, music and storytelling. Traditionally associated with devotional and community performance practices, Jogatti Nritya is known for its vibrant costumes, expressive gestures, and energetic movements. The performance offers audiences an opportunity to experience Karnataka’s rich folk traditions and the artistic expressions of its performing communities. Join us this Dussehra and witness this stunning folk performance!



OCT. 23 - 25 : RAJASTHAN NATIONAL FESTIVAL

Step into the world of havelis and sand dunes, dance and music as DakshinaChitra brings to you its annual national festival in association with Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation (TTDC). The festival will have a vibrant showcase of Rajasthan’s rich folk and musical traditions, featuring performances of **Manganiyar** and **Langa** music and **Kalbeliya dancing**. Groups will also perform the living cultural traditions like **Kathputli puppetry** from the state. The performances will capture the distinctive sounds, rhythms, costumes, and storytelling traditions of Rajasthan, presented by traditional practitioners. Through these performances, visitors will experience the diversity of India’s folk arts and the skills passed down through generations.

DEC. 24 - 28 : ODISHA AND WEST BENGAL FESTIVAL



This December, DakshinaChitra invites you to experience the folk traditions of eastern India! From 24–28 December, the museum will bring together Mayurbhanj Chhau from Odisha, Purulia Chhau and Baul music from West Bengal and tribal songs and dances from Koraput. The festival will also feature traditional crafts including Kantha, Patachitra, Madur, Sabai, Kotpad textiles and wooden products.

Chhau is a traditional folk and martial dance form that emerged from the cultural traditions of eastern India, particularly in the regions of present-day Odisha, Jharkhand and West Bengal. Its origins are closely connected to martial exercises, ritual practices, village festivals and community celebrations. Over generations, these movements developed into a highly expressive dance form, incorporating music, dramatic gestures and stories drawn from mythology, local legends and everyday life. The three major traditions Mayurbhanj, Seraikella and Purulia have evolved distinctive styles and performance practices.

Discover the energetic, maskless movements of Mayurbhanj Chhau, the colourful masks and storytelling of Purulia Chhau and the spiritual songs of Bengal’s Baul tradition. The music and dance of Koraput offer a glimpse into the region’s community traditions, while the craft displays highlight the distinctive skills of the artisans.

CHILDREN’S HERITAGE QUIZ : A BIG SUCCESS

This year, we were delighted to see the enthusiastic participation of around 90 school teams from across Chennai. The first prize was bagged by National Public International School, the second prize was won by PSBB Senior Secondary School, K.K. Nagar and the third prize was awarded to St. John’s Public school. We extend our sincere thanks and heartfelt gratitude to our sponsors – **TI Cycles**, **Friends of DakshinaChitra** and **Tara Books**. We also thank **Adventure Foods** for providing the refreshments. A special thanks to our Quiz Master, Nawabzada Mohammed Asif Ali, Dewan to the Prince of Arcot, for his contribution and continued support in hosting this competition. Congratulations to the winners and kudos to all participants for making the 16th year of the Children’s Heritage Quiz a grand success!

NOVEMBER : CHILDREN’S MONTH CELEBRATIONS



DakshinaChitra is all set to welcome young minds this November with a series of engaging programmes designed to encourage learning, imagination and creative expression. Through cultural entertainment, interactive workshops and arts-based activities, children will have opportunities to explore new ideas, discover different forms of artistic expression and learn about culture in an enjoyable setting. The month-long celebration will create a space for children that will foster curiosity, learning and innovative thinking. Event updates will be announced on our social media handles and website.

DEC. 12 : PERFORMANCE OF ‘HOLY DIRT’

After successful performances at the Brighton Festival in the UK and Indian Summer in Leicester, **DakshinaChitra** and **InKo Centre** present **‘Holy Dirt’** – an immersive dance-theatre performance; a collaboration between Vidya Thirunarayanan and David Glass with music by Foz Fozter, performed by Dale Wylde and Vidya Thirunarayanan. The performance explores themes of climate change and the mythic feminine, using sensory materials and a soundtrack that leaves you, as one reviewer put it, “thinking about your place in the world”. Join us for this engaging performance that pushes the boundaries of art, dance and theatre.



DEC. 25 : CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS



Sing to the tunes of Christmas carols as we celebrate this glorious festival in the warm and cosy space of DakshinaChitra. There’s no better time than this to be a part of this joyful community experience complete with all the cultural traditions that mark the occasion. Young and old, all are welcome to join us as we bring in the festive spirit.

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

An old colour photograph of a Brahmin couple. The man is wearing a *veshti* and *thundu*, sitting on a chair with Vaishnavaite marks on his forehead. The lady standing beside him is wearing a sari and jewelry.

CONDITION REPORT

The mount board was not fixed properly to the frame. Parts of the photograph have been eaten by silverfish. A label was stuck on the central portion of the mount board and adhesive marks are visible where it was removed. The frame was also damaged. It had a dent and the paint was peeled off in some areas. The metal sheet on the back frame was rusted.

TREATMENT REPORT



Before conservation



After conservation

A new mount board was fixed. Paint losses on the photograph were retouched with watercolor. The frame dent was filled with putty and retouched with acrylic colours. The rusted metal sheet on the back of the frame was removed and replaced with a new hard board.

DakshinaChitra is offering **short-term internship opportunities** for those interested in exploring museum work and its various facets. To apply, please send your resume along with your preferred internship period to mangai.kamal@dakshinachitra.net.

Bookings are open at the **Kadambari Gallery** for slots starting in December. Interested artists and curators can send us an e-mail at anitha.y@dakshinachitra.net or contact Anita Yogeshwari at +91-9840527076 for more details.

DEC. 30 - JAN. 3 : MARGAZHI VILLAGE FESTIVAL

We kickstart our signature Margazhi Village Festival with a special **Padayani** folk performance performed by a troupe from Kerala. Traditionally performed in temple settings, Padayani is known for its striking costumes, elaborate masks, rhythmic movements and powerful drumming. This ancient ritualistic folk tradition is rooted in the cultural traditions of central Kerala and the ritual is typically performed in Bhagavati temples in honor of Goddess Bhadrakali. Mark your calendars and head to DakshinaChitra to witness this divine dance performance!

OBJECT OF THE MONTH : BIDRIWARE



The image (*see left*) showcases objects from the Bidriware collection, displayed in the Chikamagalur house at the DakshinaChitra museum. Bidriware is a distinctive form of Indian metalwork associated mostly with the

Deccan, named after Bidar in present-day northern Karnataka. Among the wide range of Indian Islamic metalware, Bidriware is an important class of work produced from early 14th century to the present. It is an encrusted metalware made from an alloy of approximately 85% zinc, 12% copper and 3% lead or tin, characterized by its blackened surface and shining inlays.

Craftsmen in Bidar traditionally claim that migrants from Iran or Iraq introduced the technique to the Deccan through Bijapur during the Bahmani period. However, the exact alloy and complete process used in Bidri are not found elsewhere in the same form. Therefore, Bidri cannot simply be understood as an imported craft but instead, it seems to have emerged through a combination of external influence and strong local experimentation, making it a Deccani development.

This beautiful art form has declined due to loss of traditional skills, competition from mass-produced items, and inadequate patronage. However, in recent years, there has been a renewed interest in preserving and reviving Bidri art. Government initiatives, NGOs and craft promotion agencies have come forth to support the artisans and ensure that this craft is preserved.

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.



A Journey with Khadi – a Bessie Cecil Swatch book is an insightful book on Khadi and its various facets. In 21st

century India, Khadi is ubiquitous. Politicians, civilians, fashion gurus, students — everyone wears it. How is that even possible? Can one fabric truly be accepted by all? Is it true that Khadi was part of the Independence struggle of India? How did Gandhi learn to spin the charkha? The same word represents fashion brands across the globe now. But, what is Khadi? Has its meaning changed and evolved over time? Is it possible to make Khadi as it was originally made a few centuries ago? Should we attempt it?

Answering all the above questions and more, the book is an interesting documentation of Bessie Cecil’s journey in understanding Khadi’s journey and also her own relentless journey to get Khadi woven in its truest form possible (2019-2022). Three different perspectives traverse parallelly in this book giving us rich and deep insights into understanding Khadi. The thoughts and experiences have been translated to words and the physical evidence of the same is seen through 23 swatches. Extreme care has been taken by the author to convey the authenticity of the Ambar Khadi swatches by presenting it in an accordion fold handmade book. Going through the book and the swatches, one cannot help but accept the tagline of the book - ‘Khadi is humane, Khadi is cotton and Khadi is people’.

Seen in the image is the spread-out accordion fold swatch book in the DakshinaChitra Museum Library. In terms of conservation, the book captures the texture and status of the fabric at present.