

DC MUSEUM TALKS

The DakshinaChitra Museum will be hosting monthly talks by experts from different fields. The online talks will be held on Zoom at 7p.m. and will be free. Below is the schedule for the upcoming talks.

Date	Subject	Speaker
May 22	Museum Curation and School Curriculum	Prof. Varadarajan Narayanan <i>Associate, School Books Archive, Azim Premji University</i>
June 19	Museum School	Pradeep Ghosh and Dr. Shibani Ghosh <i>Co-Founder: Parvarish - The Museum School</i>

DC MUSEUM WALKS

APR. 6 : SMALL LOOMS OF CHINTADRIPET

Originally known as 'China Thari Pettai' or the 'Village of Small Looms', this settlement was established by the British EIC to meet the rising demand for calico cloth. Two traditional artisan clusters flourish here. Join us as we explore the nuances of these ancient crafts while listening to the inspiring stories of the artisans. A part of the proceedings from the walk will go towards supporting the artisans. The walk will be from **4:30p.m. to 6p.m.**

MAY 18 : CONTEMPORARY ART GALLERY

Held in collaboration with Madras Inherited, the 'Contemporary Art Gallery' walk will take you through the Contemporary Art Gallery in the Government Museum, Chennai, which houses many valuable pieces of art. Participants will get a glimpse of art history as they view the wide collection of Tanjore paintings, Ravi Varma paintings and other works of occidental and contemporary art. The walk will be from **3p.m. to 5p.m.**

For further details and queries on the walks, kindly contact Cibi Sellappa at +91-8220791932.

COVER PAGE ART

The cover page image has an image of the Moplah House at DakshinaChitra. On April 13, 'The Living Ocean' exhibition, curated by Parvathy Nayar, will be inaugurated at the Moplah House.

Workshops for Adults

Date	Workshop	Resource Person	Fee
Apr. 6 & 7	Pattachitra - Palm leaf engraving	Prakash Kumar Maharana	Rs. 2000/-
Apr. 20 & 21	Know your Carpentry for beginners	Karunakaran	Rs. 4000/-
May 4	Palm leaf Decoration - Hanging Thoranams	Kasturi	Rs. 1000/-
May 25 & 26	Introduction to folk dances (Thappattam & Silambattam)	Adhi Vishnu	Rs. 1500/-



CERAMIC WORKSHOPS & COURSES

Date	Workshop (3 full day workshops)	Fee
Apr. 4, 5 & 11	Hand Building Vase	Rs. 8000/-
May 16, 17 & 24	Handmade bowl (Set of two)	Rs. 8000/-

JUN. 6 - 16 : WOOD FIRING SCULPTURE WORKSHOP

This **10-day professional art workshop** at our Ceramic Centre is a great opportunity for those looking to take their passion for studio pottery to the next step. DakshinaChitra is one of the few places in the city with a wood kiln. Participants will learn how to make a sculpture using traditional wood firing techniques. Wood firing is a fascinating process as the fly ash from the firebox in the kiln settles on the pieces, lending each piece a natural ash glaze that is organic and distinctive in nature. **Fee: Rs. 15,000/- per person.** For details, kindly contact our ceramist Portarasan at 9840672154. Timings: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.



CALL FOR DONATIONS

Our cultural programmes are also possible through your support. Donations can be made to the Madras Craft Foundation via NEFT. For bank details and more information, contact Ms. Lalitha Krishnan at 9677190587 or lalithakrishnan.mcfdak@gmail.com.

OUR GRATITUDE TO...

Our sincere thanks to Tamil Nadu Tourism and Development Corporation (TTDC) Sponsorship, Pradeep Chakravarthy and Dr. Stephen Inglis for their generous support for our programmes, projects and donations to our library. We would also like to thank Dr. G. Vishwanatha and K.G.R.M. Rathina Baskar for their donations to our library and museum collection. Mobis India continues its support for the construction and exhibition of the Kodava house. Ford Motor Company and Cholamandalam Investment & Finance Co.Ltd. also continue to support our projects through their CSR initiatives.

COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS TO BE FOLLOWED

Visitors to the DakshinaChitra campus must observe COVID-19 protocols for the safety of all.



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
Eric Peter at +91-9952894859

DakshinaChitra is open daily
from 10 am to 6 pm
Closed on Tuesdays.
Weekends : 10 am to 7 pm

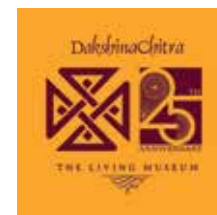
DakshinaChitra is the project of
Madras Craft Foundation.

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: dakmcf@gmail.com



27 years and counting..



NEWS & EVENTS - APRIL TO JUNE, 2024

KADAMBARI GALLERY



MAR. 20 - APR. 7 :
Gardens of our Times
A group exhibition by students of the Textile Design department of NIFT, Chennai

APR. 13 - APR. 20 :
Plantain Angels

An exhibition of artworks by Raphael Diaz, focussing on the figure of the angel - an element commonly depicted in religious paintings



R. Manivannan



MAY 25 - JUN. 2 :
The Colourful Nagas
An exhibition of photos by artist R. Manivannan.

WORKSHOPS FOR CHILDREN

Any further updates, announcements and changes regarding the schedule will be posted on our website & social media handles. For registration and queries, contact Lakshmi: +91- 9841777779.

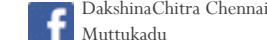
Day/Date	Workshop	Resource Person	Fee
Apr. 20 & 21	Summer Activity camp	In-house	Rs. 2000/-
May 11	Origami	In-house	Rs. 500/-
May 25	Finger puppet making	In-house	Rs. 500/-
June 1	Nature Trail (Environment day celebrations)	In-house	Rs. 500/-

YOU CAN ALSO FIND US ON

Instagram



Facebook



Tripadvisor



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

JAN. 27 : APR. 14 : 'ALL ABOUT PLAY' EXHIBITION

The exhibition, curated by Lina Vincent, has been well-received by visitors from diverse backgrounds. Many of them related to the visuals displayed. In different ways, artists like Raghu Kondur, Nayana Baburao and Urmila V.G created works that portrayed human-nature conflict, while Lokesh B.H and Aishwaryan transformed subjective memory and experience into articulations of personal yet universal fears and desires. Sonia Jose, Umesh Kumar P.N, Obayya and Sushrutha D. employed the use of satire and visual rhetoric. Artists Heena Pari, Dayananda N. and Pragati Dalvi lay bare metaphorical and pragmatic questions about human role-play, and the paradoxes of identity through their art.

APR. 27 - MAY 19 : EXHIBITION BY DAK INTERNS

Titled **Madras then - Chennai Now**, this exhibition by the DAK interns pays homage to Madras and is a recognition of Chennai in all its cultural glory. It aims to bring together some of the socio-cultural aspects of the city by highlighting the people, language, food, textiles and the growth of the automobile industry over the years to piece together the history of the Madras Presidency and what it evolved into as the 21st century Chennai.

MAY 24 - JUN. 30 : CONTEMPORARY PAINTINGS EXHIBITION



Curated by artist R. M. Palaniappan, the exhibition is going to showcase works by contemporary artists Athiveerapandian, Santhanaraj, Hemanth Surya Wamshi and many others. Most of the highlighted artists were and are Tamil Nadu based and their artworks reflect a critical engagement with innovation and experimentation with different mediums, forms and themes. The paintings are from DakshinaChitra's collection.

GREETINGS FROM DAKSHINACHITRA

If there's one thing that must always make it to your 'must-do' list for the summer, it is a visit to DakshinaChitra. With a host of events lined up for you, there's a lot to look forward to this season. We begin with special celebrations for the Tamil New Year followed by our annual event, Gramiya Makkal Thirunal. A unique exhibition for Music Day is on the cards. The highlight this time is the inauguration of 'The Living Ocean' permanent exhibition at the Moplah House. The DC Museum Talks & Walks include interesting activities to try out and attend with friends and family this season. 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. Kindly contact Eric Peter at +91-9952894859 for any queries.

APR. 14 : CHITHIRAI THIRUNAAL



Celebrate Tamil New Year or Chithirai Thirunaal at DakshinaChitra. We bring to you a series of traditional folk dance performances including Paraiattam, Karagattam, Silambattam and Mayilattam. The performances will be by Gajendran and troupe. With elaborate costumes and props, these dances will introduce you to the world of ancient folk dances that characterise our culture. Don't miss out on this Tamil cultural extravaganza!

JUNE : GRAMIYA MAKKAL THIRUNAL

It's all fun and games this summer as we are back with our signature event, Gramiya Makkal Thirunal. This event includes a wide range of activities and competitions for children and adults of the village community residing near DakshinaChitra. With kabaddi competitions for men, top spinning, tug-of-war and sack races for children and kolam competitions for women, there's something for everyone! There will also be folk performances and craft demonstrations. Dates for the event will be announced on our website and social media handles. Grab this wonderful opportunity and come cheer for our local community!



APR. 13 @ 3P.M. : THE LIVING OCEAN EXHIBITION AT MOPLAH HOUSE

'The Living Ocean' is an upcoming exhibition at the new Moplah House at DakshinaChitra. Curated by Parvathi Nayar, the exhibition draws our attention to the ocean that covers over 70% of our Blue Planet by emphasising their significance in our lives while simultaneously highlighting the urgent need to preserve them from the adverse effects of man-made activities.

Without the ocean, there would be no life on earth and this exhibition speaks to us about the cascading effects of climate change and global warming and pollution on the ocean and related water bodies. The exhibition also showcases inspirational stories of people working to make a difference, as well as reminders of the magnificent gifts of our ocean.



This will be a hybrid show of artworks, films, installations, interactive infographics and cultural artifacts. Parvathi Nayar is a multi-disciplinary artist, writer and poet. Her art work engages with the ocean and water-scapes, environment and sustainability and the philosophies of inhabiting such spaces.

Join us as we pledge to use art as a medium to create awareness and encourage mindful action towards preserving our oceans.

A second exhibition is being inaugurated in two rooms of this 175-year-old Muslim house. A film by Kombai. S. Anwar will focus on the neighbourhood of Kuttichira in Kozhikode from where the house was purchased, the Muslim community and the vibrancy of Kozhikode. The second film traces the process and history of boatbuilding in Bepore. Anwar is a writer, photographer and filmmaker who also dabbles in South Indian history. The exhibition will also include photographs and exhibits from the Kuttichira region, Kozhikode city and the boatbuilding area of Bepore.



JUNE 21 : MUSIC DAY CELEBRATIONS

On this occasion, there will be a one-day exhibition featuring a variety of folk musical instruments collected by Babu, a skilled folk artist proficient in playing more than 100 musical instruments. His passion for exploring and performing diverse musical instruments globally has resulted in the growth of his impressive collection. He gives particular attention to research and authenticity with a primary focus on instruments belonging to the Kurember, Toda and Irular tribes from the Nilgiris, Attapadi and Sathyamangalam regions.



VIRUDHU AWARD CEREMONY

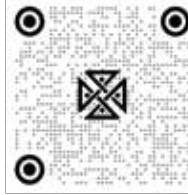


The annual Virudhu award ceremony was held on March 30th. This year, the award was presented to **Smt. Sobina Mothesha Kambreakar**, an exponent in Damami dance from the Siddi tribal community. The award ceremony also featured a captivating dance performance by Smt. Kambreakar and her troupe, showcasing the rich cultural heritage of the community. The Damami dance typically illustrates episodes from their life such as domestic chores and agriculture.

Instituted by the Madras Craft Foundation and the Friends of DakshinaChitra, the Virudhu Award recognizes folk performing artists for their unparalleled dedication and mastery in their respective fields. It honours their contribution towards preserving and promoting their craft.

Stay updated on our programme schedules

Scan the QR code on the right with your smartphone camera to view the complete programme schedule for this quarter. Updates, announcements and specific details can be found on this link. For queries, kindly contact, Eric Peter at +91-9952894859



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.

The image is of a Chromo lithograph print of Gandhiji from the 20th century. The print is on paper and has a wooden frame with glass in front. The print had water stains on it. The hard board was missing at the back of the frame. These issues were addressed by our conservator, Amirthanathan. The process of conservation has been shared below.

TREATMENT

First, the print was taken out from the frame and all the dust and dirt was removed using a soft brush. The print was then soaked in distilled water for 15 minutes to remove the water stain on it. Following this, two layers of Japanese tissue was used to give support at the back of the print. This was done using CMC adhesive paste. After drying and trimming the edges on both sides, the print was placed back in the same frame. A new hard board was fixed at the back of the frame. The frame was then retouched with black acrylic colour.



REVIEW : WORKSHOP HOSTED BY Dr. STEPHEN INGLIS

An intensive curatorial workshop was held at DakshinaChitra by Dr. Stephen Inglis who teaches art history and curation at Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada. The three-day workshop addressed curatorial issues such as access, repatriation, difficult histories, and addressed diverse themes such as museology and anthropology among others. The participants came from different streams to learn more about curation, network building, museum management and research methodologies. Dr. Inglis engaged the participants in brainstorming and interactive discussions and led them to ideate on the various subjects. Additionally, he examined a series of exhibition ideas and plans, proposed by DakshinaChitra, where the staff and other participants got the chance to discuss the concept, research, design, partners, programmes, and audience for each.

UTSAVAM : PUTTING THE SPOTLIGHT ON THE FUTURE OF THE ARTS



It isn't always that we find a platform like Utsavam where we can discuss the uncertain yet exciting future of the arts in a holistic way. The annual event held at DakshinaChitra was interactive, informative and innovative in its approach. Inaugurated by IAS officer and Bharatnatyam dancer Kavitha Ramu, the event also included a lecture-demonstration on the collaboration between Bharatanatyam and Yakshagana by Parshwanath Upadhye and Keremane Shridhar Hegde. An all-women panel discussion moderated by Dr. Deborah Thiagarajan, including directors Dr. Katharina Gorgen (Goethe Institut), Dr. Patricia Théry-Hart (Alliance Française, Madras), Dr. Rathi Jafer (Inko Centre) and Janaka Pushpanathan (British Council), highlighted how women leaders in the field of art can become changemakers. There was a photo exhibition by The Kala Collective, shadow puppetry by Selvaraj and a listening session for allyship. The whole campus transformed with storytelling sessions, block printing workshops and musical performances, including one in darkness, being held in the different houses. A Parai presentation by Adavi Arts Collective and the headliner act, Manoranga, portraying the story of Manmatha's burning by Lord Shiva's third eye through Bharatanatyam and Yakshagana, stole the stage. Lastly, Gayatri Nair and Kavishani were announced as the winners for an essay writing competition held for students and artists.

OBJECT OF THE MONTH

The image on the right is of Dayakattai, an Indian dice game played by two to four people on a cross board made of textile and the dices made from wood. It has a dimension of 100 cm x 100 cm. Some are made on khadi fabric using Kalamkari painting technique, where the home or the central section of the board has a painting of a King being crowned by a priest. Colours used in this are black, red, blue and green, which are all obtained from natural sources, and were used in traditional Kalamkari artworks. The pawns are made of wood.



LOOKING BACK : LANGFEST 2024



LangFest 2024 was a resounding success, drawing a houseful crowd of students, academics and culturally-curious people from different walks of life to DakshinaChitra. The theme was exploring cultural narratives through life stories – biographies, autobiographies and memoirs. The first day began with a powerhouse discussion between publisher, author and poet Naveen Kishore of Seagull Books and Frontline editor Vaishna Roy on the power of literary memoirs. Urvashi Butalia and Meena Kandasamy offered deep insights into feminist writing. Dancer Aniruddha Knight's conversation was poignant as he reflected on the multiple inheritances that he carries, offering a rich cultural experience.

Amshan Kumar's documentary on Subramania Bharati was well-received. The documentary explored the lesser-known facts of Bharatiyar's life as a freedom fighter and shed light on the iconic poet's passionate advocacy for Indian freedom.

On the second day, Dr. A Vijay Karthikeyan's Nadaswaram performance highlighted the richness of South Indian classical music, captivating audiences with his artistic brilliance. Next, a reflective and gentle Gopalkrishna Gandhi shared personal anecdotes as he reflected on the book he edited, *I am an Ordinary Man*. Mr. Gandhi emphasised Mahatma Gandhi's compassion and humour amidst adversity. Dr. Nikita Mehra's biography of the Adyar Cancer Institute was thought-provoking.

The LangFest ended with fabulous rap performances under the theme 'Oral history in rap'. The all-female Tamil rap crew Sollisai Sistahs stole the show with Akalaiva and Sankara TPK being equally powerful. Overall, LangFest 2024 gave the attendees a new perspective on life stories and the significant role it plays in the cultural scene.

