

## FOD EVENTS AND MEMBERSHIP

The Friends of DakshinaChitra (FOD) is a select group of cultural enthusiasts who support DakshinaChitra through their events, fund-raising and goodwill. They organize and support some special cultural events at DakshinaChitra and the FOD Yatra Club hosts heritage tours. Some events for FOD members in this quarter include **an art appreciation workshop** by Ashrafi Bhagat, **a fellowship coffee morning** and our **Virudhu award function** in March. The dates for the above events will be announced on our social media pages. If you wish to become an FOD member, visit [https://www.dakshinachitra.net/friends\\_of\\_dakshinachitra](https://www.dakshinachitra.net/friends_of_dakshinachitra)

## CYCLONE MICHAUNG, 2023

DakshinaChitra Museum remained closed on December 4, 2023, due to Cyclone Michaung. It took almost three days to clear the fallen trees and debris within the museum campus and to reset our networks. The museum is running in full capacity thanks to the efforts of the entire DakshinaChitra staff. We extend our deepest sympathies to all the victims of the cyclone across the city of Chennai and other parts of Tamil Nadu.

## CERAMIC WORKSHOPS & COURSES

Art workshops are the best way to get introduced to a craft and understand the processes behind it. They can be a stepping stone to finding a new passion or even, a new vocation. The ceramic workshops at DakshinaChitra seek to introduce you to the world of ceramics, taking you through the complete process from start to end. From learning the basics to making your own ceramic pieces, participants will get an in-depth understanding of the craft. So sign up for these wonderful workshops today!



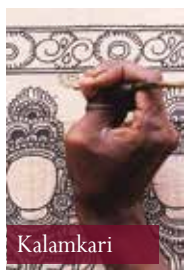
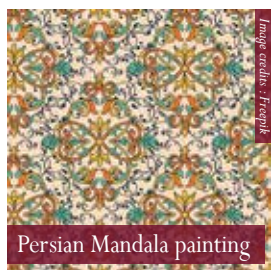
Materials for the workshops listed below will be provided by DakshinaChitra. For details and queries, kindly contact our ceramist Portarasan at 9840672154 or Lakshmi at +91- 9841777779. Timings: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Date	Workshop (3 full day workshops)	Fee
Jan. 4, 5 & 12	Flower Vase	Rs. 8000/-
Feb. 8, 9 & 16	Basket	Rs. 8000/-
Mar. 21, 22 & 29	Miniature Sculpture	Rs. 8000/-

## Workshops for Adults

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

Date	Workshop	Resource Person	Fee
Feb. 10 & 11	Kalamkari - Figurative	Vijayakumar	Rs. 3500/-
Mar. 16	Persian Mandala painting	Trishna Patnaik	Rs. 2000/-
Mar. 17	Gond Painting	Trishna Patnaik	Rs. 2000/-



## CERTIFICATE COURSE ON TN FOLK DANCES

DakshinaChitra is offering a **three-month certificate course** on folk dances of Tamil Nadu. Participants will learn the nuances of two different folk dance forms, Silambattam and Thappattam, from in-house experts. The **fee** is **Rs. 3000/-**. At the end of the course, participants will stage a performance and receive a completion certificate. For further details, contact Lakshmi: +91- 9841777779.

## JAN. 24 - MAR. 31 : VASANTHA VIZHA

A fun-filled mela for school children comprising various edutainment programmes like folk dance performances, puppet show, magic show, storytelling sessions, bullock cart ride and live demonstrations of indigenous crafts like glass-blowing, weaving, pottery, etc. For details on registrations and other queries, kindly contact Lakshmi: +91- 9841777779.

## COVER PAGE ART

The cover page image is one of the chintz designs shared with DakshinaChitra by Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam. It is currently exhibited as part of the Travelling Patterns exhibition in the Varija Gallery. In its original form, the design is a hand-printed palempore or bedspread. The exhibition is open for viewing till January 21.

## 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](mailto:lalithakrishnan.mcfdak@gmail.com).

## OUR GRATITUDE TO...

Our sincere thanks to Ford Motor Company, Mobis India Foundation, Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Co.Ltd., Sundaram Finance Ltd., Brakes India Limited and Abirami Senthilkumaran for their generous support for our programmes and projects. We would also like to thank Madana Ramamurthy, Durga Lakshmi, Devasena Sridhar, Indumathi Mohan, Vellachi Murugappan, V. Mani and Dr. Chitra Madhavan for their donations to our library and museum collection.

## 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](http://www.dakshinachitra.net)

For further information, contact  
Parvathi: +91 - 9080721706

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](mailto:dakmcf@gmail.com)



27 years and counting...



## NEWS & EVENTS - JANUARY TO MARCH, 2024

### KADAMBARI GALLERY

#### MAR. 16 - 31 : GROUP EXHIBITION BY NIFT STUDENTS

In November, 29 students from the **Textile Department** of **NIFT, Chennai**, participated in a presentation-cum-workshop on the Travelling Patterns exhibition, held by artist and storyteller Dr. Nina Sabnani and illustrator-designer Ruchi Shah. It included presentations on their respective practices and a walkthrough of the exhibition. The workshop was designed to instill a novel approach to creating designs and re-contextualizing existing textile motifs. It also inspired the students to create their own motifs and patterns. Selected artworks from their interpretations will be presented at the Kadambari Gallery.



### MOPLAH HOUSE

**JAN. 7** : Inauguration of the Moplah House & Inauguration of "Bhoomi" Exhibition

#### JAN. 7 - MAR. 15 : Bhoomi

An exhibition of fiber and textile artworks on the effects of climate change by textile artist Kalyani Pramod, Common Threads Studio with Care Earth Trust at Moplah House, DakshinaChitra Museum.

### WORKSHOPS FOR CHILDREN

The schedule for our upcoming children's workshops is given below. 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
Jan. 7	Appreciating vernacular architecture	In-house	Rs. 1000/-
Mar. 10	Sustainable Living : Being at peace with the environment	In-house	Rs. 1000/-

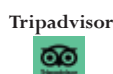
### YOU CAN ALSO FIND US ON



@dakshinachitra\_heritagemuseum



DakshinaChitra Chennai  
Muttukadu



## 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

DEC. 1 - JAN. 21 :  
**Travelling Patterns**  
A design exhibition inspired by Kalamkari textiles, organised in collaboration with Goethe-Institut, Chennai, and Tara Books



### JAN. 26 - APR. 14 : ALL ABOUT PLAY (AND OTHER PHILOSOPHIES)



An exhibition by young artists from Karnataka curated by Lina Vincent. The exhibiton explores the multiple meanings associated with the act of playing which is otherwise perceived as just a social activity for adults and children alike. Through the medium of **painting, drawing, sculpture, printmaking, photography and video**, the artists look closely at these varied meanings by connecting them with personal and collective experiences, political and environmental themes and underlying human psychology.

### KADAMBARI GALLERY

DEC. 18 - JAN. 17 :  
**Leather Puppet Show**  
An exhibition of leather puppets, used in the art of *Tolu bommalattam* or leather puppetry, from the DakshinaChitra Museum collection



## GREETINGS FROM DAKSHINACHITRA

The people of Chennai have once again displayed resilience and grit as they bounce back from the aftermath of the cyclone. We welcome the new year with renewed hope, to recentre and start afresh. Our signature Village Festival from the southern states continues into the new year. A special Street Food and Garden Festival is also on the cards. In February, we are back with an exciting fourth edition of the LangFest. One of our much-awaited annual events Utsavam is scheduled in March and promises to be a unique experience with an interesting theme. Our galleries also have a wonderful line-up of exhibitions with various group shows. 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 Parvathi at +91-9080721706 for any queries.

## JAN. 3 - 7 : KARNATAKA VILLAGE FESTIVAL

We continue our celebration of the village festivals with Pooja Kunitha, a vibrant, ritualistic folk dance from Karnataka, mainly performed in the Mandya, Bangalore and Mysore districts. Dancers carry a five-foot-tall bamboo frame on their heads. It has the idol of the Goddess Shakti, decorated with sarees and flowers. The dance, performed to propitiate the Goddess, involves acrobatic movements and doesn't follow a specific storyline. It is a visual treat, showcasing rhythm and skill and is often performed during religious processions. Bring your loved ones and enjoy the performance!



## JAN. 10 - 14 : TAMIL NADU VILLAGE FESTIVAL



The Tamil Nadu village festival will feature a performance of Kavadi Attam, a folk dance performed in reverence to the Hindu deity, Lord Murugan. Kavadi Attam, or the burden dance, is a type of ceremonial sacrifice and offering made to the deity to ward off debts and seek protection during calamities. While it is essentially a ritual, there is a high degree of coordination and choreography involved in the dance. It is generally performed during the Thaipusam Festival. Don't miss out on this unique show!

## FEB. 23 & 24 : LANGFEST 2024

At Dakshinachitra Museum, the voices of the communities play a pivotal role in the stories we tell about them. Dakshinachitra's multifaceted programming is also based on this. LangFest 2024 is the fourth edition of this multidisciplinary festival of arts and ideas. The theme this year is **"Biographies and Autobiographies"**. We will explore the universe of ideas and insights that this genre presents and its intersections with the creative process, the personal, the political, the home and the world. It will be an intense two days featuring engaging interactions ranging from panel discussions to lec-dems, thought-provoking theatre and interviews with a range of creative voices. LangFest 2024 will feature writers, poets, dancers, publishers, designers, people from the world of medicine, singers and much more. Stay tuned for more details on our website and social media pages.

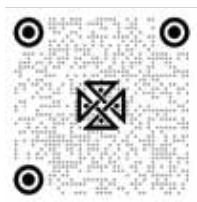
## MAR. 9 & 10 : UTSAVAM

The theme for the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of Utsavam, Dakshinachitra's Annual Music and Dance festival, is **"Identifying current and future trends in the Arts"**. The aim is to look ahead of our times and analyze how our current trends may manifest. There will be panel discussions, dance presentations, lectures and lecture demonstrations. The entire museum will transform into a performance space. In a first, there will be a collaborative performance of Bharatnatyam and Yakshagana by the iconic Keremane Hegde and Parshwanath Upadhye. There will also be paper presentations by students and artists on current trends. An exclusive panel of female cultural leaders from Chennai will discuss how female leadership and feminine qualities will transform the arts into a lucrative field. The festival has been curated keeping in mind all the southern states and providing a platform to young performers.



### 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, Ms. Parvathi at +91-9080721706



## JAN. 15 - 17 : PONGAL CELEBRATIONS & STREET FOOD FESTIVAL



Pongal, an eagerly celebrated harvest festival in Tamil Nadu, is distinguished by its customary rituals, vibrant decorations, and a joyous ambiance. At Dakshinachitra, Pongal transcends mere rituals to become a vibrant celebration of the arts. The museum comes alive during the festival with the echoes of traditional music and dynamic dance performances. Visitors have the opportunity to experience enchanting folk dances that vividly portray the cultural richness of Tamil Nadu. There will also be a Street Food Festival where traditional cooks from the southern states will serve street food from live counters.

## JAN. 24 - 28 : TELANGANA VILLAGE FESTIVAL

Dakshinachitra showcases the rich cultural heritage of Telangana with a performance of Lambani, a traditional folk dance of Telangana (and Andhra Pradesh), performed by the semi-nomadic tribes known as 'Lambadis,' 'Banjaras,' or 'Sengalis.' The dance originated with tribes in Rajasthan. The Lambadi dance is typically performed by women. The dancers wear colorful, embroidered costumes adorned with glass beads, mirrors, and ornate jewelry. The dance incorporates everyday themes such as harvesting, planting, and sowing. Plan a visit and come witness this vibrant folk dance!



## FEB. 24 & 25 : GARDEN SHOW



This year, the Garden Show will have a wonderful display of ornamental and herbal plants from private gardens, collectors and nurseries. There will be stalls selling and displaying plants, cut flowers, bonsais, garden equipment and props. There will also be talks and workshops by experts on terrace gardening, private vegetable farming and many related topics. Kindly contact Suseela Vergis: 9677029265, Gokul: 9952503181 and Sharath Nambiar: 9841425149 for more details.

## 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 an art piece titled, Jesus Condemned to Death. It is an early 20<sup>th</sup> century plaster of Paris object of Jesus which depicts the first of the 14 Stations of the Cross. The condition of the object was quite poor. It was soiled, had bugs in the broken parts, deep cracks; some pieces were missing; the paint layer was chipped and faded. The gold leaf was perhaps put on using an oil gilding method. Read below about how this piece was systematically restored using various techniques.

### TREATMENT

The object was cleaned with water and Teepol. Japanese tissue was put on the back to strengthen it. The excess paint was removed with 3A mixture (50% alcohol and acetone with a drop of ammonia). Old repairs were removed and chips and cracks were filled with plaster putty and retouched with acrylic paint. New wire was placed at the back. Missing parts for all of the 14 Stations of the Cross will also be restored soon.



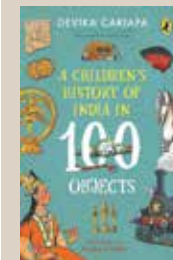
### TIPS FROM OUR TEXTILE CONSERVATOR

#### QUICK FIX FOR IRONING OUT CREASES ON FABRIC

The most popular iron used these days is the steam iron. The steam helps to tackle stubborn creases. But to ensure its smooth functioning, the steam iron needs proper care. Filtered or mineral water must be used in the iron and after use the remaining water must be drained. The high concentration of lime scale sediments in our tap water clogs the steam pores, leading to occasional caked up white sediments coming on to your clothes. A good alternative to the steam iron is the simple hairdresser's spray, whose mist spray works effectively on creases. It is also easier to clean the spray bottle than descale the steam iron.

## 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 view this vast repository of books during your visit. We will also be highlighting a book recommendation to keep you clued in on the 'Must-read' titles in our collection.



**A Children's History of India in 100 Objects**, by Devika Cariapa, an acclaimed archaeologist, explores Indian history and archaeology through 100 objects discovered at archaeological sites. The book employs archaeological findings to demonstrate the interconnectedness of ideas, events, issues and cross-cultural influences, giving a comprehensive understanding of India's history. It explains various periods, themes and characters by describing archaeological findings as a superhero's deeds - from engravings on rocks and inscriptions on pillars and copper plates to glass shards from a long-lost city and a headless statue. This aesthetically-pleasing book takes a multi-pronged approach that surpasses conventional subject boundaries.

## OBJECT OF THE MONTH

This is a Kerala mural painting of Lord Siva, Goddess Parvathy and their family, made by artist K. U. Krishnakumar from Institute of Mural painting, Guruvayur, Kerala. It is acrylic on canvas and measures 35.5" x 33.5" (L X W). In the painting, Siva and Parvathy are seated on Siva's vahana (divine vehicle), Nandi, the bull. Parvathy's vahana, the lion, is seen on Siva's shoulder. Ganesha and his vahana, the mouse, are on the left and Subramaniya and his vahana, the peacock are on the right. They are all dressed in floral garments and ornaments. Bhootaganas are also seen in the painting, along with two Nayanars on the left and right sides of the couple. Kerala mural paintings are intricate frescoes depicting Hindu mythology. Ancient temples and palaces in Kerala display mural paintings from the 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> centuries CE, when this art form enjoyed royal patronage. Check out our collection of mural paintings on your next visit to the museum.



## FEB. 3 : FOLLOW THE SOUND : A MUSICAL EVENT



The Madras Commune presents **Follow the Sound**, a musical event. Dive into a unique musical journey, support local artists and experience diverse sounds and Chennai's music scene at Dakshinachitra Museum. Block this date and come visit us!

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## MARCH 4 - 8 : CURATORIAL WORKSHOP BY DR. STEPHEN INGLIS

Dr. Stephen Inglis will conduct a workshop that will address curatorial issues and discuss exhibition ideas and proposal making. This will be a half-day workshop each day from March 4-8<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Stephen Inglis studied anthropology and museology at the University of British Columbia, at Madurai Kamaraj University and at Calcutta University, concluding with a PhD from the UBC. He had a long career as the Director-General of Research and Collections at the Canadian Museum of Civilization and the Executive Director of the Aanischaaukamikw Cree Cultural Institute. He is currently Adjunct Research Professor at Carleton University where he teaches Asian art and curatorial studies.

## JACQUARD LOOM CONSERVED AT OUR TEXTILE GALLERY

The Jacquard loom in the Textile Gallery of the Kanchipuram House in Dakshinachitra has been conserved by Sundari Silks. The Jacquard is a device incorporated in looms



to control individual warp yarns. It enabled looms to produce fabrics having intricate woven patterns such as tapestry, brocade, and damask, and it has also been adapted to the production of patterned knitted fabrics. The loom is currently used regularly by our in-house weavers to weave Kanchipuram sarees.