



LangFest 2026 at DakshinaChitra Museum was a vibrant gathering of artists, historians, writers and cultural enthusiasts who came together to celebrate the diverse narratives of history, language, and culture. Held under the theme “**Histories in Plural**,” the festival explored how stories of the past are shaped through multiple voices and perspectives.

The festival opened with an instrumental performance by R. S. Vikram and K. R. Keerthi Rathan, followed by engaging sessions, including one titled ‘Hot Topic, Cold Facts’ where Anirudh Kanisetti spoke with Vaishna Roy on interpreting history in contemporary discourse. Discussions on ‘Shaping History through Archaeology’, featuring Sharada Srinivasan and Cherian P. J., and ‘History for Peace’, with Janaki Nair and Megha Malhotra, highlighted the role of history in understanding society.

Day two featured sessions with Urvashi Butalia, Sidharth Bhatia and Kutti Revathi, exploring themes of feminism, cities, and music traditions. With its rich blend of ideas, dialogue, and artistic expression, LangFest 2026 once again created an inspiring space for audiences to engage with history in new and meaningful ways, reaffirming its role as a unique platform celebrating art, language, and culture.

**COVER PAGE ART**

The sculpture featured on the cover page is titled ‘Mother and Child’. Made of half-burnt clay, it was made by eminent artist T. R. P. Mookiah. It is 19” x 14” in size. The sculpture captures the enduring strength of motherhood through a raw, earth-toned medium. The central figure stands tall, her gaze uplifted, while children cling to her — one on her back and another by her side. Its textured, visceral surface emphasises a deep, grounding connection to life and resilience.

**Workshops for Adults**

Date	Workshop	Age group	Fee
May 2 & 3	Residential workshop on Silambattam & Thappattam	15 years & above	Rs. 3500/-
June 6 & 7	Know your carpentry - Design a stool	15 years & above	Rs. 2500/-



Residential workshop on Silambattam & Thappattam



Carpentry workshop

For registration and queries, kindly contact Lakshmi Thiyagarajan at +91- 9841777779.

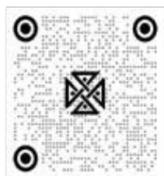
**APR. 22 - MAY 2 : MUSEUM IMMERSION INTERNSHIP FOR STUDENTS**



The summer internship at DakshinaChitra is designed to contribute to the overall vision of the museum while providing hands-on, pre-professional experience. Interns gain valuable knowledge and develop skills that are highly sought after in the sector by working within a museum environment. The programme also fosters sensitivity and awareness of the diverse societies of India, with a special focus on South India. The internship is open to students in the age group of 14-17 years. Upon successful completion, interns will receive a **certificate** and a **Letter of Recommendation** based on an evaluation of their performance.

**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 lalithkrishnan.mcfdak@gmail.com.

**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 Matrimony.com Limited for their sponsorship towards the Ishq-Mastana musical concert held in February. Our sincere thanks to Rohini Shanker, Meera Chari, Pradeep Chakravarthy, S. Swaminathan, Lakshmi Narayanan, RRRLF (Calcutta), Sarmaya Foundation, Amar Ramesh, Mayan and R.G. Singh and Raghu from Ramsons 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: dak.comm2@gmail.com



29 years and counting...



NEWS & EVENTS - APRIL TO JUNE, 2026

**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**

**APR. 10 - MAY 10 : RITUALS FOR LIFE BY DAK - CHOLA INTERNS**

Life moves in rituals - birth, puberty, marriage, death. We perform them seeking certainty in an uncertain world. But every ritual carries a cost: conformity. And every deviation risks social sanction. “**Rituals for Life**”, an exhibition curated by the **DakshinaChitra-Chola Arts and Museum Management Internship Interns of 2025-2026**, maps the ceremonies that control us, comfort us and define us. Like choreography, rituals script our every gesture: when to kneel, what to speak, how to grieve, whom to obey. They manage our emotions when we are most exposed. But who choreographed these movements? And are we dancing or being danced? This exhibition steers us through life’s transitional stages revealing how rituals shape bodies, enforce gender and maintain control. In a time of relentless transformation and rising anxiety, one question lingers: who decided how we should live? The exhibition will be inaugurated on April 10, 2026 and will continue until May 10, 2026.



**MAY 14 - JUNE 15 :  
Other Worlds of Art. Artworks  
from Latin America and Northern  
Africa. The 80's to 2000's**

An exhibition of prints and multiple editions showing the diverse cultural expressions and rich narratives that celebrate the unique visual storytelling from these regions through their art. Presented thematically and curated by Liliam Mriana Boti Llanes, the artworks reveal worlds of art rarely accessed in Chennai.

**KADAMBARI GALLERY**

**APR. 24 - MAY 4 : ECHOES OF FORM EXHIBITION**



Form is the first language of life. Before words and narratives, rhythm and pattern shaped the way humans perceived the world. In this exhibition titled “**Echoes of Form**” and presented by Semeion and Uvarts, artists **Dhenuka, Uma Maheswari A** and **Reya V** explore the concept of form through various perspectives. Through meditative drawings built from repetition, symmetry and focused line work, Dhenuka explores the quiet intelligence of pattern. Her pieces reflect an architectural sensitivity to structure and balance, where forms unfold gradually, creating a visual rhythm that invites contemplation.

Uma’s works draw inspiration from the traditional Marapachi wooden dolls of South India, translating their quiet geometry and sculptural presence into a contemporary visual language without changing the structural anatomy. Her work is an initiative to revive knowledge about Marappachi Dolls. Reya’s works extend the dialogue between form, rhythm and harmony through intuitive compositions that explore movement, balance and visual resonance together.

**WORKSHOPS FOR CHILDREN**

Date	Workshop	Resource Person	Fee
May 9 & 30	One day activity camp	In-house	Rs. 1500/-
May 16	Shadow puppetry	In-house	Rs. 1000/-
May 23	Tribal art	In-house	Rs. 1000/-

Any further updates and announcements regarding the schedule will be posted on our website and social media handles. For registration and queries, contact Lakshmi at +91- 9841777779. Timings: 10: 30a.m. to 12: 30p.m.

**YOU CAN ALSO FIND US ON**



## GREETINGS FROM DAKSHINACHITRA

In times of uncertainty, we turn to art for solace. With its extensive line-up for the upcoming quarter, DakshinaChitra promises to explore subjects of global importance through the lens of art, culture and heritage while holding space for constructive dialogue and discussion. Month-long events for Museum Month and Environment Month have been planned in May and June respectively. The DakshinaChitra Virudhu is scheduled for April. Applications are also open for the DAK-Chola Arts & Museum Management Internship (2026-2027). 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.

### APR. 14 : CHITHIRAI THIRUNAAL



Immerse yourself in the spirit of Tamil culture as we celebrate Chithirai Thirunaal, the Tamil New Year, with a series of traditional folk performances **Paraiattam, Karakattam, Silambattam** and **Mayilattam**, performed by **Gajendran and his troupe**. Adorned with colourful costumes and traditional props, each performance will showcase the richness and diversity of Tamil Nadu's cultural heritage. Join us for this celebration and experience the beauty of these time-honoured folk traditions.

### APRIL : DAKSHINACHITRA VIRUDHU

The DakshinaChitra Virudhu, presented by DakshinaChitra Museum and the Friends of DakshinaChitra, is an annual recognition that honours individuals who have made significant contributions to the preservation, promotion and documentation of the traditional arts, crafts, folklore and cultural heritage of South India. Instituted to acknowledge the dedication of artists, scholars and cultural practitioners, the award celebrates those who have worked tirelessly to preserve and carry forward living traditions. Through this recognition, DakshinaChitra seeks to highlight the importance of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage and encourage continued engagement with traditional practices. This year, the DakshinaChitra Virudhu will be presented in April at DakshinaChitra Museum. Stay tuned for the announcement of the recipient and event date on our website and social media platforms.

### APPLICATIONS OPEN : DAK - CHOLA ARTS & MUSEUM MANAGEMENT INTERNSHIP (2026 - 2027)



Applications are now open for the DAK-Chola Arts & Museum Management Internship (2026-2027). **The 11-month programme will begin on July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026.** Ten graduates will be selected after a rigorous selection process. This is the only internship opportunity available in Indian museums for museum management, curation and conservation. This comprehensive programme is supported by the **Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited**. Through the programme, interns will receive hands-on training in various departments of the Museum. The focus areas will include arts in education, programming, event management, collection management, design, exhibition display, archiving, conservation, administration and operations. They will also have weekly lectures on Art History, Research Writing, Design, Budgeting and Finance and Curation and hands-on sessions with art materials.

The vision of the programme is to create future professionals in India's art and cultural institutions by providing them with the knowledge and skills required to successfully manage these institutions. The application form and details for the internship can be found on our website, [www.dakshinachitra.net](http://www.dakshinachitra.net). **Filled-in applications should be submitted before May 31, 2026.** They may be sent as soft copies along with resumes and a Letter of Interest to [mangaikamal.dkimm@gmail.com](mailto:mangaikamal.dkimm@gmail.com).



### 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 May. Please e-mail us at [mcfindia@gmail.com](mailto:mcfindia@gmail.com) or kindly contact Anita Yogeshwari at +91-9840527076 for more details.



### MAY : MUSEUM MONTH

Celebrated globally on May 18, International Museum Day is led by the International Council of Museums to recognize the contribution of museums as spaces for learning, dialogue, and cultural exchange. The 2026 theme, **"Museums Uniting a Divided World,"** focuses on the ability of museums to foster understanding, encourage conversations across communities, and build meaningful cultural connections.

As part of the celebrations, DakshinaChitra will host an **interactive workshop** that invites participants to actively engage with traditional knowledge and cultural practices. Through hands-on activities and discussions, visitors will gain insights into the living traditions that shape the cultural heritage of South India.

The museum will also organize a **special heritage walk in Tamil**, offering visitors a closer look at the traditional houses, craft traditions and stories preserved within the museum campus. Conducted in Tamil, the walk aims to make heritage more accessible and relatable to local audiences.

Through these initiatives, DakshinaChitra continues to encourage dialogue, learning and a deeper connection with our shared cultural heritage.

### JUNE : ENVIRONMENT MONTH

DakshinaChitra, in collaboration with Aram Thinai, will celebrate Environment Month throughout June with four engaging weekends dedicated to nature and sustainability. These programmes aim to encourage visitors to reconnect with nature and explore environmentally-responsible practices. The celebrations will include early morning **nature walks and bird spotting walks** across the DakshinaChitra campus, offering participants the opportunity to observe the natural landscape and learn more about local flora and biodiversity. Through these guided walks, visitors will develop a deeper appreciation for the environment and the need for preserving it. Join us for this month-long celebration and contribute to building a greener and more sustainable future. The detailed schedule for the events will be announced soon on our website and social media platforms.

### 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

This is a print of a painting of Shree Radha, Rukmani and Krishna, by the artist C.G. Ramanujam. The painting dates back to 1925. It is an oleograph, which is a type of chromolithograph print made to resemble an oil painting. In the painting, Lord Krishna stands in the middle with his arms over both Radha and Rukmani, who stand on either side of Him. Radha and Rukmani are draped in green and red saree and all three of them are heavily ornamented. Krishna holds a flute in his right hand. This print is inspired by the Tanjore style of painting.

#### CONDITION REPORT

The print is about a century old. It was stapled at the edges to a white sheet. The stapler pins had rusted over time and some of them were falling apart, causing the paper to tear from the middle. There were creases in the print and 3-4 tears were identified. In some places, the paint was also coming off.

#### TREATMENT REPORT



Before conservation



After conservation

First, the acidity level of the print was checked by conducting a test. The tears and cracks were fixed. A paste of Jinshofu on muslin cloth was used to provide support to the torn print. Before placing it on the muslin cloth, water was applied to the print, and it was flipped to the other side and then laid on the cloth. The cracks were retouched with watercolour.

### JUNE : GRAMIYA MAKKAL THIRUNAAL

When was the last time you cheered for a thrilling kabaddi match or enjoyed the excitement of a sack race? Have you ever witnessed a kolam competition? DakshinaChitra's Gramiya Makkal Thirunaal offers the perfect opportunity to experience all this and more. This celebration brings together village communities around DakshinaChitra for a day filled with traditional games, competitions and cultural activities for both children and adults. The event will feature kabaddi matches for men, top spinning, tug-of-war, sack races for children and kolam competitions for women, along with several other engaging activities. Visitors can also enjoy vibrant folk performances and craft demonstrations, highlighting the richness of our rural traditions and cultural heritage. Stay tuned for updates on our website and social media platforms.

### OBJECT OF THE MONTH : KERALA MURAL

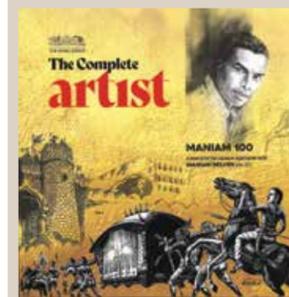
This is a Kerala mural (see right) in the Calicut House of the DakshinaChitra Museum, depicting the scene of **Samudramanthan** (Churning of the Ocean), where the **Devas** (Gods) and **Asuras** (Demons) collaborate to churn the cosmic ocean of milk (**Kshira Sagar**) to obtain Amrita (Nectar of Immortality). Using Mount Mandara as the pillar and the cosmic snake Vasuki, as the rope, the white ocean of milk was churned, in the presence of gods - Vishnu, Lakshmi, Indra and various others. We can also see the pot of Amrita in Vishnu's hand.



Kerala has a unique history of art and paintings. Kerala's exceptional mastery of art finds its primary expression in the region's rock paintings and carvings. The paintings in Perumkidavilla of the Thiruvananthapuram district are one of the many examples of their art practices. The Kerala Mural is one such painting form which originated along the temple walls and saw significant growth during Chera rule (9th-12th century). Kerala murals are traditional, vibrant and intricate frescoes, often featuring divine, mythological and nature-inspired themes. They use natural pigments and detailed line drawings to decorate ancient temples and palaces.

### 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 will also be highlighting a book recommendation to keep you clued in on the 'Must-read' titles in our collection.



**The Complete Artist** is a tribute to the legendary illustrator T.U. Subramaniam (popularly known as Maniam) to mark his birth centenary. Compiled by The Hindu Group of Publications in association with his son, Maniam Selven, this coffee-table book is a vintage collection of over 400 works by the well-known Tamil illustrator. The book takes you into an inspiring and nostalgic journey through the life of the artist who took inspiration from his travels and created wonderful illustrations; with the camera as his constant companion.

The characters of Ponnin Selvan by Kalki came alive through his beautiful sketches, which continue to stay in the hearts of Tamil readers. The book also features some of the stunning cover pages of Kalki magazine drawn by Maniam in his early years which are a feast for the eyes. Don't forget to take a look at this book on your next visit to our library!

### CALL FOR VOLUNTEER-INTERNS

Join DakshinaChitra as a volunteer-intern and be a part of the local creative community, learn about its history, develop communication and leadership skills and participate in our in-house community engagement initiatives. You will receive a Certificate of Participation and a Letter of Recommendation. For further details, contact the MCF office at 044-24462435 or Mangai Kamal at [mangaikamal.dkimm@gmail.com](mailto:mangaikamal.dkimm@gmail.com).