



# National Gallery of Modern Art, Bengaluru

Government of India

NGMA BENGALURU  
e-NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3




*A view of the Gallery Building*

## *From the desk of the Director*

Warm greetings from NGMA Bengaluru!

Welcome to the third issue of our e-newsletter. December, January and February were crowded with activities at NGMA Bengaluru. January saw the spectacular inauguration of the Attakkalari Biennial. This happened just a week after the inauguration of an exciting exhibition on contemporary photography from the Victoria and Albert Museum, London. Earlier, in December, we had a three day festival of films on women's issues along with a panel discussion. During these three months we hosted enthralling talks by Balan Nambiar, Balakrishna V. Doshi, Navroze Contractor, Sudhir Ramchandran and Subodh Gupta, all of who enthralled a packed auditorium. NGMA Bengaluru continued to screen interesting films every week end and host superb music and dance programmes.

We are now looking forward to the summer months of March, April and May and to the many varied and exciting programmes that are scheduled for these months.

  
Sobha Nambisan  
Director

### **Art Education Programme for School Children**

The participation of both government and private schools in the art education programmes of NGMA Bengaluru continued in the months of September, October and November. Every Friday found children from different government schools coming to the NGMA. Besides this, students from private schools such as Sophia High School, St. Meera's High School, Deccan International School, Canadian Public School, Kengeri Public School, St. Michael's High School and the National Academy School, among others, also came to the Gallery for the school education programmes. On 9<sup>th</sup> December the Neev School brought two batches of children for an interactive session. A very excited group of five year olds participated in the treasure hunt which was organized by the Assistant Curator. This was followed by a session of story reading around the works of Jamini Roy at the Gallery.

It is heartening to note that students from institutions of higher learning have also started using the Gallery for the purpose of study. Students from Mount Carmel College as well as the students of architecture from M.S. Ramaiah Institute of Technology and other colleges have been frequenting NGMA Bengaluru.

### **Guided Gallery Walks**

The Assistant Curators continued to do the bi-weekly Guided Gallery walks on the *Language of Visual Art* and the *History of Indian Art* on Wednesdays and Saturdays respectively. Several walks were also conducted on demand for organizations like the Malnad Architects Group, the Sogetsu School of Ikebana and the Rotary Club, among others. The Special Gallery walk on *Sculptures in Indian Art*, which explores the history of modern Indian sculpture through the art works in the Gallery, continued in January and February. All the sessions were very well attended and marked by lively discussions around the subject

### **Film screenings**

The last of the films of the Art21 film festival was screened at the NGMA Bengaluru auditorium on the 4<sup>th</sup> of December. From December 17<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup>, NGMA Bengaluru collaborated with Just Femme and the Bangalore Film Society to host a film festival *pEtE maatu - Women in Cityscapes* - at the NGMA Bengaluru auditorium. About twenty four films were screened on the three days, followed by a panel discussion on "Making Bangalore Safe for Women" which was attended by noted photographers, writers and journalists and chaired by the present Director General of Police, Shri S.T. Ramesh.

The New Year saw NGMA Bengaluru collaborating with the India Foundation for the Arts (IFA) to screen ten documentaries funded by the IFA under their Art Research and Documentation grant. The festival was on from 2<sup>nd</sup> January to 20<sup>th</sup> February and included, among others, Shabani Hasanwala's *Out of Thin Air*, Nishtha Jain's *City of Photos* and Amitabh Chakraborty's *Bishar Blues*. The film festival was very well attended and received wide coverage from newspapers and magazines.

On January 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, NGMA Bengaluru screened three films, *Ganga*, *Vayu* and *Akash* directed by the noted artist Velu Viswanadhan. These films form part of the series *Five Elements*. The artist was present at the screenings and participated in the discussions which followed.

A new film festival, in collaboration with Maraa and Vikalp Bangalore, began at NGMA Bengaluru from February 26<sup>th</sup>. The festival called *Travelling Film South Asia'10* consists of nine documentary films from South Asian countries, and will continue till April 10<sup>th</sup>.

### Talks and Events

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December 2010, the well known sculptor Balan Nambiar presented a talk titled *Serpent Motifs in the Ritual Art Forms of the West Coast – in Myths, Legends and Folklore* at NGMA Bengaluru. The talk was a collaborative effort of NGMA Bengaluru and the Mahua Art Foundation.



*Subodh Gupta*

On 20<sup>th</sup> December NGMA Bengaluru in collaboration with GallerySke, organized a talk by the internationally acclaimed artist Subodh Gupta, who spoke his artistic journey from the small town of his childhood to the international platform where he stands today. An interesting interactive session followed the talk during which the audience capitalized on the opportunity of gaining information relating to his work and life.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> of December, the NGMA grounds saw a site specific performance by the artist Shamala Nandesh. The work was presented under a NGMA Bengaluru initiative, called *Carte Blanche – the grounds of NGMA for temporal art interventions*. Shamala's performance utilized the area around the mirror pool to explore issues pertaining to her work. The performance was well received by the audience, which included a large number of artists.

January was a month of continuous activity at NGMA Bengaluru. On the 18<sup>th</sup> of January, the celebrated architect



*Inaugural ceremony of Attakkalari Bienniel*



*Yakshagana performance*

Prof. B.V. Doshi presented a slide lecture to a packed auditorium where not only was every seat taken, but some of the audience had to sit on the floor, on the stage, and perch on the window sills! The talk was a collaborative effort of NGMA Bengaluru and CoLab-Goethe, as part of the latter's lecture series.

The crown of the programmes in January was undoubtedly the Attakkalari Biennial which was inaugurated on the 28<sup>th</sup> of January, at the premises of the NGMA. The inauguration was a tremendous show with lights, music, a variety of displays as well as Yakshagana, Bharathanatyam and contemporary dance performances. The opening ceremony was followed by various dance programmes, seminars, film screening and installations. The celebrations came to a close on the 6<sup>th</sup> of February.

**Exhibition:**

The much awaited show on contemporary photography from the Victoria & Albert Museum collection was inaugurated



*Sudhir Ramchandran*

at the NGMA Bengaluru on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January 2011. Curated by Martin Barnes, the senior curator of photography at the V&A, the show was titled *Something that I'll Never Really See: Contemporary Photography from the V&A*. It featured 40 works of 27 artists, many of who were pioneers in the medium of photography. The show ran for a period of six weeks from the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January to the 27<sup>th</sup> of February. It was accompanied by many parallel programmes which highlighted aspects of contemporary photography.



*Navroze Contractor*

**Parallel programmes:**

Docent Walks – NGMA Bengaluru organized several walks conducted by experts in order to increase audience understanding and enjoyment of the art works. These experts, Annapurna Garimella, Anil Kumar and Ramesh Chandra,



*Docent walk by Anil Kumar*



*Workshop by artist Shibu Arakkal*

took the visitors around the exhibition and explained to them the various nuances of photography and the techniques of the various artists in the show. Two of the walks were in English and two in Kannada.

Talks – Two celebrated photographers, Navroze Contractor and Sudhir Ramchandran, gave talks on photography –

Navroze Contractor on photojournalism and Sudhir Ramchandran on the zen of photography.

Workshops – three workshops were held in conjunction with the exhibition. One was for children and who conducted by Usha Rao, who has undertaken various freelance projects in the field of arts education.

Artist Shibu Arakkal conducted a workshop on *Introduction to Photo Art* for adults where he talked about the technique and finer aspects of photoart. This was followed by a discussion around the works displayed at the exhibition.

NGMA Bengaluru also collaborated with the British Council to conduct a workshop for arts educationists. Conducted by Eliza Hilton and Katherine Rose, the objective of the workshop was to explore how children could be taught to participate in art, from the context of a gallery space. The facilitators used innovative methods to explain ways of engaging children of different age groups.

### Events of March, April and May

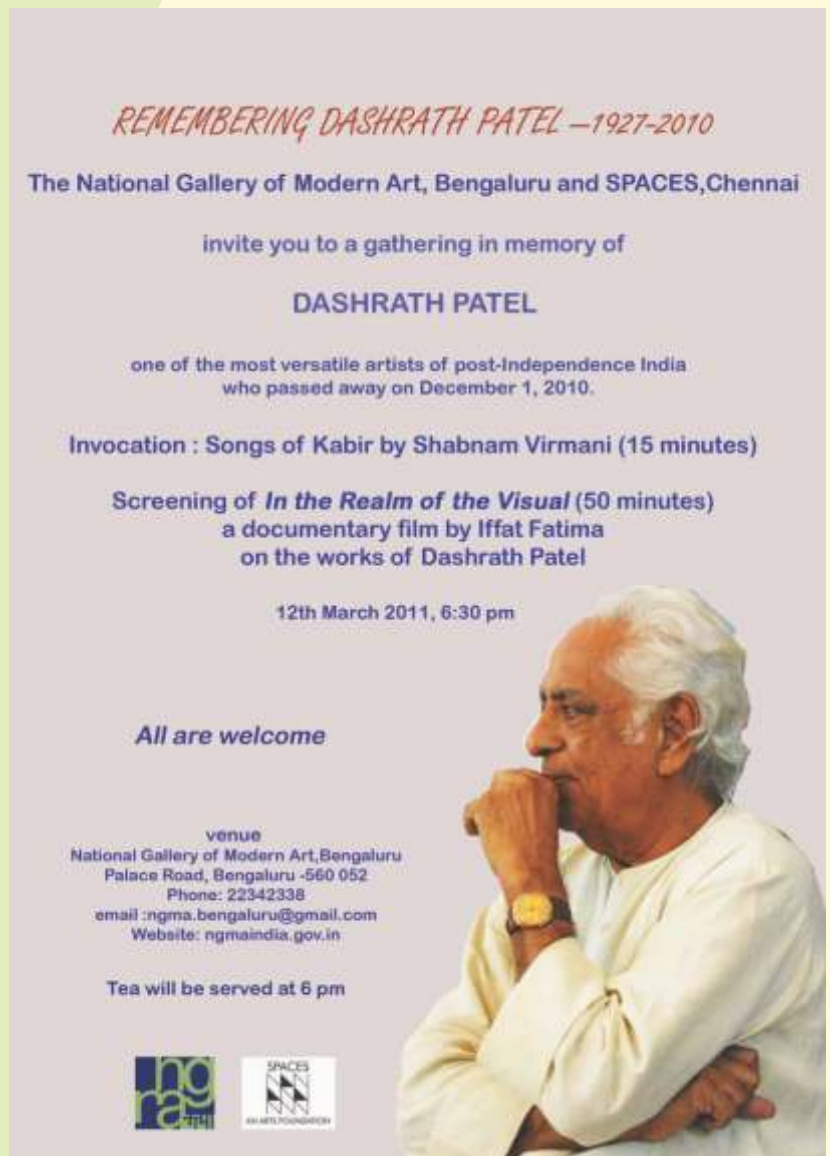
#### Talks and events:

On 12<sup>th</sup> March NGMA Bengaluru hosted a memorial evening for the artist Dashrath Patel in collaboration with Spaces, Chennai. The event was anchored by Shri Sadanand Menon, the noted curator, writer and photographer. The function opened with a musical tribute by Shabnam Virmani, followed by the documentary film *In the Realm of the Visual* based on the works of Dashrath Patel, and directed by Iffat Fatima.

On March 26, NGMA Bengaluru will collaborate with the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) to present a dance performance of the *Seraikelle Chhau*. The dance will be performed by the well known troupe, Trinetra Chhau Dance Centre, which has already toured many countries under the cultural exchange programme of the ICCR.

On March 27, NGMA Bengaluru will collaborate with the Centre for Film and Drama (CFD) and Radha Kalpa, to present a theatrical production, *The Lady of Burma*, on the life of the Burmese leader Aung San Suu Kyi. Directed by noted theatre personality Prakash Belawadi, it will feature the danseuse Rukmini Vijayakumar.

8th of April will see another site specific performance at the grounds of NGMA Bengaluru, under the programme of *Carte Blanche – the grounds of NGMA for temporal art interventions*. It will be performed by the artist Vasudev C.



*REMEMBERING DASHRATH PATEL – 1927-2010*

The National Gallery of Modern Art, Bengaluru and SPACES, Chennai

invite you to a gathering in memory of

**DASHRATH PATEL**

one of the most versatile artists of post-Independence India  
who passed away on December 1, 2010.

Invocation : Songs of Kabir by Shabnam Virmani (15 minutes)



Screening of *In the Realm of the Visual* (50 minutes)  
a documentary film by Iffat Fatima  
on the works of Dashrath Patel

12th March 2011, 6:30 pm

*All are welcome*

venue  
National Gallery of Modern Art, Bengaluru  
Palace Road, Bengaluru -560 052  
Phone: 22342338  
email : ngma.bengaluru@gmail.com  
Website: ngmaindia.gov.in

Tea will be served at 6 pm

World Heritage Day which falls on April 18<sup>th</sup> is being celebrated at the NGMA by three talks on April 16 on conservation of art and architecture:

- I) *Restoration and Adaptive Reuse of Manikyavelu Mansion now the NGMA* by V. Naresh Narasimhan, Managing Partner of Venkataramanan Associates.
- ii) *Insights into Art Conservation at INTACH Indian Council of Conservation Institutes* by Nilabh Sinha, Principal Director, Indian Council of Conservation Institutes, INTACH, New Delhi.
- iii) *Recent Works of Bangalore INTACH Art Conservation Centre – Restoration of mural paintings in South India* by Madhu Rani K.P, Director of INTACH Chitrakala Parishath Art Conservation Centre, Bangalore.

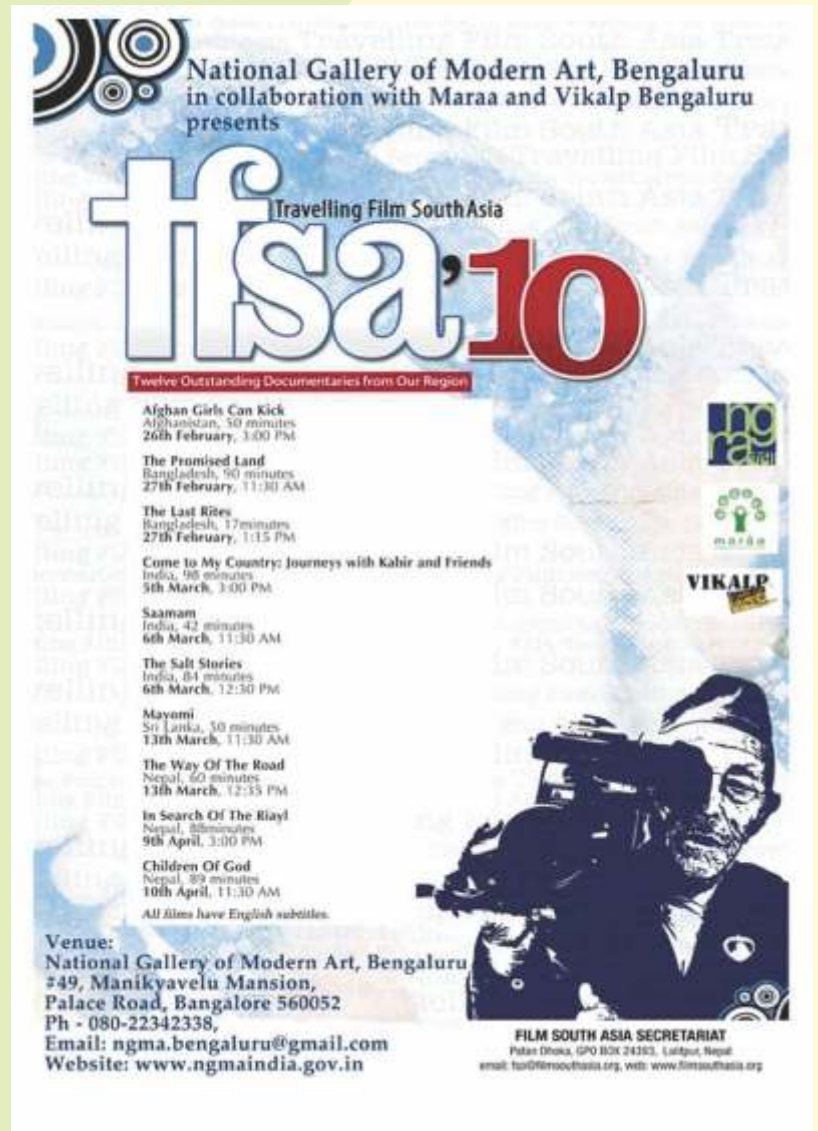
**Film screenings:**

*The Travelling Film South Asia'10* which began on the 26th of February will continue till the 10<sup>th</sup> of April. These docu-features cover a range of subjects, from the courage of the first and (as yet) only Afghan women's football team, to the stories of the migrant Nepali workers in the oil rich Gulf coast. The screenings will be held at the usual time of 3 pm on Saturdays and 11.30 am on Sundays at the NGMA auditorium.

As part of the celebration of World Heritage Day, eight short films on *Heritage sites in India* will be screened on Saturday at 3.00 pm and on Sunday at 11.30 am from the 17<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> April. NGMA Bengaluru will collaborate with Marg for this event.

**Exhibitions:**

The first fortnight of May will be a bustling time for NGMA Bengaluru. A retrospective of Homai Vyarawalla, India's first woman photojournalist, will travel to NGMA Bengaluru after having been exhibited at NGMA Delhi and Mumbai. The works are from the collection of the Alkazi Foundation for the Arts. The exhibition will present around 250 works of Vyarawalla, who photographed the last few days of the British empire in India, and the birth of the new India. The cameras and equipment which she used during that period will also be on show. The exhibition will be accompanied by parallel educational programmes – talks, film shows, docent walks and workshops – the details of which will be announced soon.



National Gallery of Modern Art, Bengaluru  
in collaboration with Maraa and Vikalp Bengaluru  
presents

**tfssa'10**  
Travelling Film South Asia  
Twelve Outstanding Documentaries from Our Region

- Afghan Girls Can Kick**  
Afghanistan, 50 minutes  
26th February, 3:00 PM
- The Promised Land**  
Bangladesh, 90 minutes  
27th February, 11:30 AM
- The Last Rites**  
Bangladesh, 17 minutes  
27th February, 1:15 PM
- Come to My Country: Journeys with Kabir and Friends**  
India, 90 minutes  
5th March, 3:00 PM
- Saamam**  
India, 42 minutes  
6th March, 11:30 AM
- The Salt Stories**  
India, 84 minutes  
6th March, 12:30 PM
- Mayomi**  
Sri Lanka, 50 minutes  
13th March, 11:30 AM
- The Way Of The Road**  
Nepal, 60 minutes  
13th March, 12:35 PM
- In Search Of The Bhaij**  
Nepal, 88 minutes  
9th April, 3:00 PM
- Children Of God**  
Nepal, 89 minutes  
10th April, 11:30 AM

All films have English subtitles.

**Venue:**  
National Gallery of Modern Art, Bengaluru  
#49, Manikyavelu Mansion,  
Palace Road, Bangalore 560052  
Ph - 080-22342338,  
Email: ngma.bengaluru@gmail.com  
Website: www.ngmaindia.gov.in

**FILM SOUTH ASIA SECRETARIAT**  
Patun Dhoka, GPO Box 24303, Lalitpur, Nepal  
email: fsa@filmsouthasia.org, web: www.filmsouthasia.org

## Events of March, April and May, 2011- a quick glance

### Talks and events

#### March:

- ✧ A memorial for artist Dashrath Patel on 12<sup>th</sup> at 6.30 pm
- ✧ Seraikelle Chhau Dance performance on 26<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm
- ✧ Lady of Burma, a theatre production by Radha Kalpa and Center for Film and Drama, on 27<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm.

#### April

- ✧ Site specific performance by artist Vasudev C, under NGMA programme *Carte Blanche – the grounds of NGMA for temporal art interventions* on 8<sup>th</sup> at 6.30 pm.
- ✧ World Heritage Day celebrations by INTACH Bangalore Chapter on April 16<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm.

### Exhibitions

*Homai Vyarawalla – A Retrospective – May-June 2011.*



*Homai Vyarawalla*

### Guided Gallery Walks

- + Every Wednesday – 3 pm
- + Every Saturday – 10.30 am

### Film Screening

#### March, 2011

- *Travelling Film South Asia'10 film festival* – Saturday – 3.00 pm and Sunday – 11.30 am – till 10<sup>th</sup> April.

#### April, 2011

- World Heritage films – eight films on *Heritage Sites in India* - Saturday 3.00 pm and Sunday 11.30 am from 17<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>