



Ministry of Culture  
Government of India



राष्ट्रीय आधुनिक  
कला संग्रहालय  
NATIONAL GALLERY  
OF MODERN ART

Ministry of Culture | National Gallery of Modern Art, Bengaluru

# Quarterly Update

April–June 2025

“As we turn the pages on another vibrant quarter at NGMA Bengaluru, we are proud to present this edition of our newsletter, chronicling a season rich in art, dialogue, and community connection.

From the contemplative brushstrokes of Amitabh Sengupta's six-decade retrospective to the powerful resurgence of Caravaggio's *Magdalene in Ecstasy*, this quarter's exhibitions brought timeless artistic voices into renewed focus. Our curated gallery walks, and expert talks deepened public engagement, while our immersive workshops celebrated living traditions, from Dhokra casting to Chittara murals.

Our programming reflected a commitment not just to the visual arts, but to inclusion, accessibility, and storytelling. We honoured the legacy of pioneers like Girish Karnad, celebrated women in cinema, and welcomed young minds through our Varnamale workshops and school gallery walks. International Museum Day 2025 was a landmark moment—a true festival of ideas, innovation, and inspiration, made accessible to all.

At NGMA Bengaluru, art remains a space of learning, reflection, and belonging. We thank our artists, collaborators, and visitors who made this quarter so meaningful. As we look ahead, we remain committed to making the gallery a vibrant canvas of creativity for every community.”

**–Priyanka Mary Francis**  
Director, NGMA–B





# Exhibitions & Guided Gallery Walks

## 1 Journeying the Life Experience Through Art

**Amitabh Sengupta's  
Odyssey of Six Decades at NGMA-B**  
April 25, 2025

We unveiled a landmark retrospective chronicling six decades of artistic innovation by Amitabh Sengupta. Titled Journeying the Life Experience Through Art, the exhibition was inaugurated by Shri P. S. Kumar, President of the Karnataka Lalithakala Academy, and Prof. M. J. Kamalakshi, former General Secretary of the Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath. The show, curated in-house by Amrutha, Darshan Kumar YU, and Subarna Patro, presents a narrative of Sengupta's evolving language in art.



## 2 Caravaggio: Magdalene in Ecstasy

**NGMA Bengaluru proudly  
opened Caravaggio:  
Magdalene in Ecstasy 2025**

June 13, 2025

The gallery proudly unveiled Caravaggio: Magdalene in Ecstasy, offering Indian audiences a rare encounter with one of the master's most poignant and stirring works. It was inaugurated with a warm welcome to dignitaries and art lovers. Guests included Dr. Sanjeev Kishor Gautham, Director General of NGMA; Ms. Priyanka Mary Francis, Director of NGMA Bengaluru; Mr. Alfonso Tagliaferri, Consul General of Italy in Bengaluru; Mr. Pietro Folena, President of Meta Marfosi Cultural Association; and Mr. Andrea Anastasio, Director of the Italian Cultural Centre in New Delhi. The exhibition also featured an immersive VR installation, for the visitors to have a glimpse of Caravaggio's life. Curated as part of NGMA's efforts to bring global art to Indian audiences, the show highlighted the artist's unique ability to humanize sacred figures with realism, later making its departure on July 6, 2025





# Talks, Screenings & Symposiums

## 1 Framing the Future: Celebrating Women Making Cinema.

April 4–5, 2025

Organized in collaboration with Bangalore Film Society and Gamana, the event celebrated trailblazing women in cinema, behind the camera, on screen, and beyond. From legends like Sharmila Tagore to rising voices, the panels sparked vital conversations on empowerment, inclusion, and opportunity in film. Discussions delved into the real barriers women face: gender bias, safety, and funding while offering solutions and solidarity. Both the days were wrapped up with powerful reflections and a call for a more equal industry.





## 2 Tribute to Girish Karnad

June 14, 2025

In collaboration with Ananya Drishyaa, a collective led by SG Vasudev, this reflective screening honored Girish Karnad's enduring literary and theatrical influence through screenings and discussions.



## 3

### Stories of Unsung Heroes

June 14, 2025

Hosted with the Bangalore Storytelling Society, Stories of Unsung Heroes revived the forgotten legacies of local heroes through live narratives. Audiences were drawn into oral histories that revealed Karnataka's deep cultural roots.





# Art Appreciation Series & Intellectual Engagement



## 1 Art Appreciation with Yamini Telkar

The online art appreciation session is facilitated once a month on the nine treasures of NGMA, by the art historian and curator, Yamini Telkar.

On **April 12, 2025**, the session deconstructed the timeless genius, Raja Ravi Varma's works with a focus on technique, social resonance, and mythological reinterpretation.

On **June 28, 2025**, the session unveiled Rabindranath Tagore's painting style, marked by mysticism and expressive brushwork.

## 2 'Music and Temple Architecture' - A Tribute to Muthuswamy Dikshitar

April 19, 2025

A scholarly event co-hosted with INTACH, where musicologist G. Ravikiran connected Carnatic music with temple design and acoustics, reflected on Muthuswamy Dikshitar's 250th birth anniversary.



## 3 Jayaram Poduval's Evocative talk Through Emotion and Violence Unveiling Caravaggio

27 June 2025

As part of the ongoing Caravaggio: Magdalene in Ecstasy exhibition, NGMA Bengaluru hosted an evocative outreach talk titled "Ecstasy, Emotion & Violence: The Art of Caravaggio" by Dr. Jayaram Poduval on 27 June 2025. The session offered audiences a compelling exploration into the dramatic intensity and emotional complexity of Caravaggio's masterpieces, deepening public engagement with the artist's enduring legacy.



# Creative Workshops & Demonstrations

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## 1 Dhokra Casting: Ancestral Art in Action

April 22-24, 2025

The three-day Dhokra Casting Demonstration-cum-Workshop at NGMA offered a rare opportunity to witness and engage with the ancient lost-wax metal casting technique practiced for over 4,000 years. Led by skilled artisans, the workshop combined live demonstrations, interactive sessions, and hands-on exploration, immersing attendees in the process of this tribal craft tradition. Celebrated for its blend of heritage and creativity, the event promoted meaningful dialogue on preserving indigenous knowledge through participatory learning.





2

## Kavya Sanje: Storytelling & Creative Expression

May 20–22, 2025

The gallery invited all to a special three-day-Storytelling Session Kavyasanje, featuring a collection of three diverse stories curated by Mamta Sagar.



3

## RE.S.I.L.I.E.N.C.E. - Live Art Workshop

June 25–28, 2025



At the gallery, led by **Smitha Cariappa**, this performance-based three day workshop explored memory, environment, and movement. Linked to World Environment Day, it merged ecological themes with embodied art practices.



# Children's Creative Corners

## 1 Varnamale - Summer Art Workshops for Children

May 1–10, 2025 | Ages 8–16

### Tie & Dye Workshop

May 1 & 2

Held over two vibrant days at NGMA Bengaluru, the Tie-Dye workshop marked an energetic start to the Varnamale summer series. Guided by facilitator Ashok, children explored resist-dyeing techniques—twisting, folding, and coloring fabric to create expressive, wearable art. The workshop fostered playful experimentation and hands-on learning, leaving students with both memories and masterpieces.



### 2D Carving Workshop

May 3 & 4

As part of the Varnamale Summer Workshop Series, we hosted a vibrant two-day 2D Carving and Tie-Dye Workshop for children, sparking creativity through exploration of texture and color. Young minds engaged with traditional techniques, transforming fabric with dynamic tie-dye patterns on day 1 and discovering tactile storytelling through relief carving on day 2.





## Paper Mask Workshop

May 8 & 9



The next two-day Paper Mask Making workshop invited children to explore storytelling through shape, colour, and form. Guided by expert facilitators, kids crafted imaginative, vibrant masks; each reflecting their unique creativity and playful spirit.

## Postcard Making Workshop

May 9 & 10

The two-day Postcard Making Workshop held as the concluding event of Varnamale 2025, saw enthusiastic young participants transform blank postcards into vibrant visual stories using colors, creativity, and imagination. The workshop fostered self-expression and storytelling through art, leaving both children and parents with cherished summer memories.





2



## Art workshop by Tanya

22 May, 2025

School children enthusiastically participated in an engaging drawing session with Ms.Tanya, exploring their creativity and expressing themselves through vibrant colors and imaginative artwork.

3

## Storytelling by Aparna Athreya

23 May

A fun and thoughtful storytelling session for 8 to 16 year olds, encouraging imagination, empathy, and connection through narrative.



4



## A Gallery Walkthrough for Children

May 31

Students from Bangalore Rural Boys Home visited the gallery and participated in a guided gallery walk, gaining valuable exposure towards art.



# International Museum Day 2025

"Museums for Education and Research" | 15 – 31 May 2025

To commemorate International Museum Day 2025, NGMA Bengaluru rolled out a vibrant and inclusive series of events from 15 to 31 May, engaging diverse audiences through workshops, storytelling, music, dance, and digital dialogue. Here's a glimpse of the celebration.

## 1 "Warp & Weft" Workshop

14–17 May 2025

The "Warp & Weft" workshop unfolded over four vibrant days, offering participants an immersive experience into India's rich textile heritage and sustainable design practices. Curated in collaboration with Udaanta and Punarjeevana, the workshop opened with explorations of natural brown cotton, followed by insightful sessions on zero-waste living and the magic of botanical color-making using Palash, Shankapushpam, and more.



The second day featured traditional weaving demonstrations and participatory eco-printing activities, while the third day delved into the contemporary relevance of natural dyes in design.







Day 3 explored the timeless charm of natural dyes in contemporary arts and design, where tradition met innovation through color with their curiosity, creativity, and commitment to conscious craft.



The final session, led by Prof. Shatrughan Thakur of Parul University, bridged traditional knowledge with modern applications through an engaging talk on the use of natural dyes in contemporary art.





## 2

### Themed BMTC Shuttle Service from Cubbon Park Metro

18 May 2025

As part of IMD 2025, NGMA Bengaluru collaborated with BMTC to operate a specially designed shuttle service between Cubbon Park Metro and the gallery. The shuttle, wrapped in vibrant museum-themed visuals, served as both transport and outreach attracting commuters and encouraging spontaneous gallery visits.



## 3



### Enable India Workshop: Braille & Tactile Art

18 May 2025, 10:30AM

In collaboration with Enable India, we introduced Braille guides that promoted accessibility in art by showcasing Braille and tactile adaptations of the "Sanhita-A New Beginning for the Air India Collection" exhibit.





# 4

## Workshop: “Playful Path to Museum Setup” by Jignesh Das

18 May 3:00 PM



An interactive session introduced the basics of museum curation in a simplified format for community members and aspiring museologists.

# 5

## Online Talk: “Bharath’s Museums...” by Dr. Ambika Patel

18 May | 5:00 PM

Museum scholar Prof. Ambika Patel delivered an insightful online lecture on India’s evolving museum practices in a global context. The talk emphasized the role of digital innovation, education, and inclusivity in shaping the museums of the future.

# 6

## Classical Dance and Music Evening (with Dept. of Kannada and Culture)

18 May, 7:00–9:00 PM



The celebrations came to an end with an enchanting evening featuring performances by Samskrutika Nritya Natya Samagama, classical vocalists, and a moving Desh Bhakti Geet. Co-hosted with the Department of Kannada and Culture, the event honored India’s rich performing arts heritage within NGMA’s historic campus.



7

## Night at the Museum

18 May

In a rare opportunity, the museum extended its hours till 9:00 PM, allowing visitors to experience art in a new light under the glow of its special illumination. From 15th to 31st May, the museum was transformed with artistic lighting across its buildings and lawns, drawing attention to its architectural beauty and setting a celebratory tone for the fortnight.



8

## Picture Perfect Spot

18 to 31 May, 2025



Photobooths in the premises of NGMA to mark the International Museum Day!

9

## Gallery Walks NRLM Women and Children

May 21–23

As part of International Museum Day 2025 celebrations, NGMA Bengaluru hosted inclusive gallery walks for women from the National Rural Livelihoods Mission and children from Balamandir institutions in Mandya and Kolar. On May 22, the NRLM participants explored the museum's collection, engaging deeply with modern and contemporary Indian art in a welcoming and reflective environment. On May 23, guided tours for children introduced them to key artworks, encouraging creative thinking and cultural awareness. These initiatives reinforced NGMA's commitment to accessibility, learning, and community engagement through art.





# 10

## The Future of Museums - A Virtual Discussion

24 May, 5:15 PM

Experts including Dr. Abantika Parashar, Kamini Sawhney, and Dr. Pankaj Sharma discussed the evolving roles of museums in fast-changing community ecosystems. Themes explored included sustainability, technology, and community-centered curatorial models for museums of tomorrow.

# 11

## Chittara Folk Art Workshop Promotes Inclusivity

May 30, 2025

We hosted a special Chittara Art Workshop celebrating the traditional mural art form of the Malnad region. Curated for persons with disabilities as part of International Museum Day outreach, the workshop emphasized inclusivity and cultural expression through red mud wall paintings and intricate ground rangolis.





# Outreach, Public Programs & Celebrations

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## 1

### Vidurashwattha: A Puppet Show by Dhaatu

31 May | 5:00 PM

Underserved groups explored NGMA's exhibits, culminating in a puppet performance "Vidurashwatha" by Dhaatu, blending art with community engagement.



## 2

### National Reading Day "India Reads, India Rises"

June 19, 2025

India Reads, India Rises - celebrated at NGMA Bengaluru with a quiet hour of reading on National Reading Day 2025, honouring P.N. Panicker and his vision.





# 3

## International Day of Yoga

June 21, 2025



In collaboration with the Institute of Hotel Management and the Ministry of Tourism, this event featured a yoga session in NGMA gardens. Yamini Muttanna's performance combined Bharatanatyam with yogic philosophy of Antahkarana, illustrating the subtle interplay of body and mind.