

Previous Art Projects

1. Plastic Brick Construction and Upcycle Design Work:

This project was specifically done to tackle the problem of waste in the Sandakphu slope of West Bengal. I took workshop with students of government schools and local Women self help Groups (SHG). The student workshop was design oriented and the SHG workshops were execution oriented. The upcycled utilities that the students designed were implemented by the women and we sort to market the most promising product so that a means of livelihood for the women could also be established. Several innovative products were designed and we even managed to successfully market one of them – the eco pillow. We also constructed several structures with bottle bricks, plastic bottles and tyres. The same module has been implemented in Pulwama (Kashmir) in 2020.



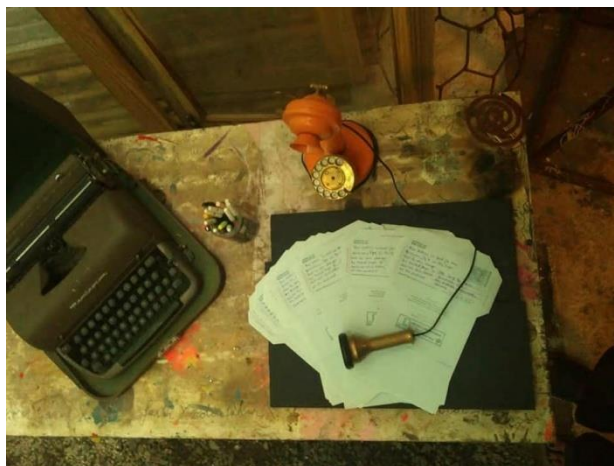
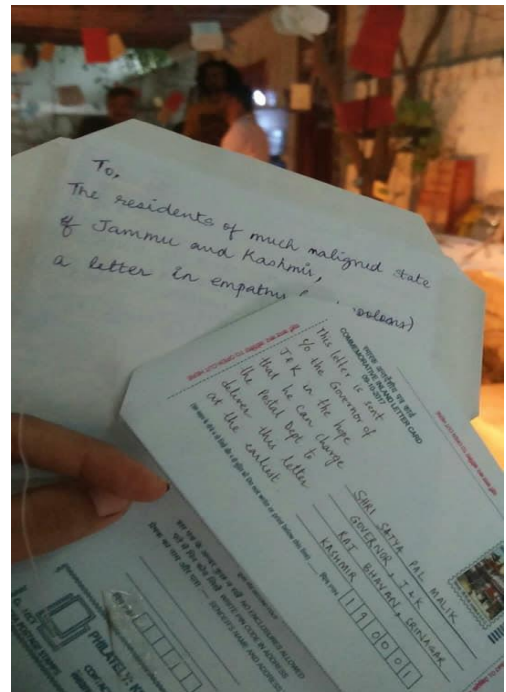
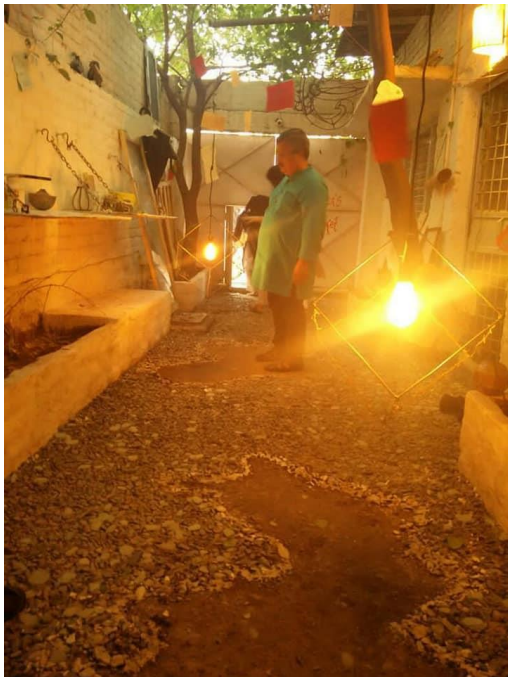
2. Un-Gender Installation in Sirohi, Rajasthan

This project was done as part of the Sowing Seeds residency in Rajasthan. I interviewed the villagers and realized that the girl:boy ratio in primary schools was a concern and that gender was a major division in the matter. I made masks of the children and my collaborator, a kathak dancer, took workshop about materiality and stereotypes in which we asked all the children to use a dupatta as anything but a dupatta. The masks looked alike and there was no way of distinguishing the male from the female. In the final installation, we placed the masks and separately made moustaches and ghuntas to go with them as those were the symbols that the villagers associated most with gender. The villagers had to place the right prop to the right face but majority couldn't and this is how we started a discussion about gender roles and stereotypes. There was also a shrouded figure made of matkas that were plastered with the dupatta workshop photographs and this re-emphasized the creation of stereotypes. The performance ended with the children facilitating and conversing with the elders and convincing them that boys and girls both deserve the same chances in life, especially when it comes to education.



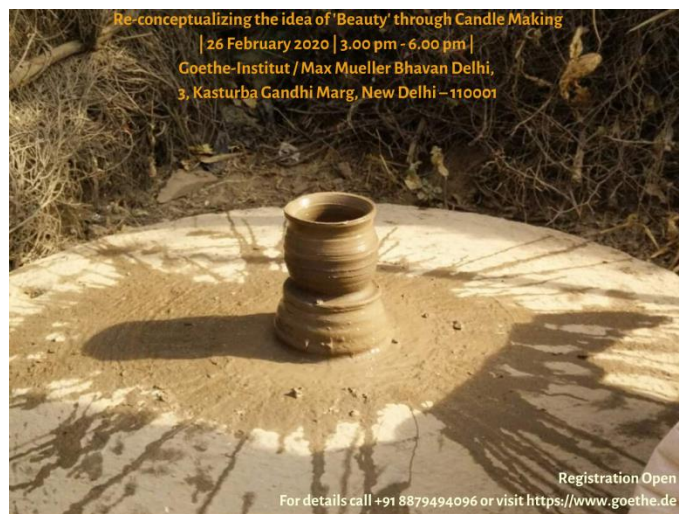
3. Resistance X Azaadi

This was a campaign project done in collaboration with ColorfarmX as a response to the revoking of Kashmir's special status. My collective and I created a series of installations in a public space in Delhi and did screening of films on Kashmir and by Kashmiri film makers to start a conversation about the issue. Taking from Agha Shahid Ali's Country Without a Post office, we had letters addressed to the Governor of Kashmir that were hanging as a roof. The audience could write letters of empathy to the people of Kashmir and we then posted it.



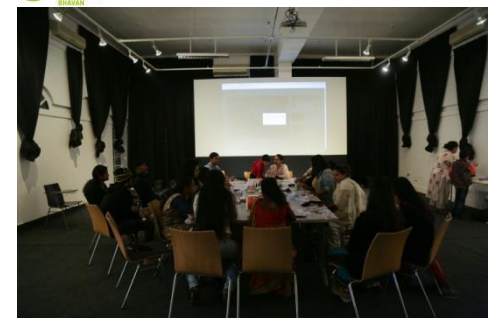
4. Body-A-Fair

It is a project that has been conceptualized as part of the Five Million Incidents of Goethe-Institut, facilitated by Raks Media Collective. It is essentially a candle making workshop where we play with different kinds of wax to create a candle that is also a marker of the participant's individual idea of beauty. There are two modes of facilitation for - one as instructions of how to make a candle, and the other as inputs of community members belonging to marginalized notion of beauty and wax products attached to it. For example, we explore the beauty industry and the process of waxing as a facilitator input and experience the action of waxing, the effort that an individual puts in to conform with set societal norms of beauty, and question how and why this standard is set. By the end, both the wax and the waxing strip become a part of the final candle. The audience participates in several such small actions/ triggers that lead the discussion on beauty while also creating a candle that manifests an individual expression of beauty. The candles are placed all over Max Mueller Bhavan to eventually melt and recreate a new shape, like the idea of beauty



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Body-a-Fair is realized within the framework of Five Million Incidents,
2019-2020 conceived by Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan in collaboration with Raks Media Collective

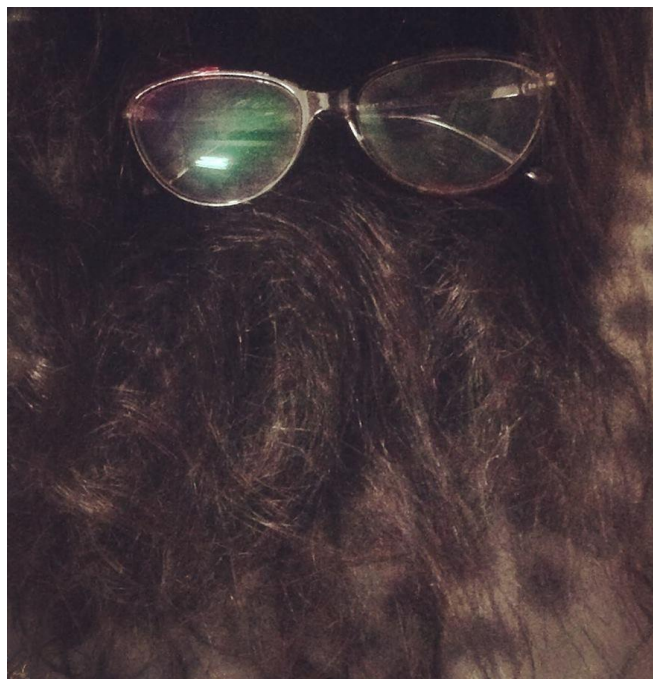


5. Lip-O-Diaries

A Pod cast that is a compilation of interviews of people who have undergone plastic surgery to understand the various perspectives attached to one of the most lucrative and fastest growing industries in the world – the plastic world of Cosmetic Surgeries. Having undergone Liposuction myself, I interviewed the perspective of surgeons as well as patients who underwent the surgery. The conversations were a mix of increased self confidence, regret, professional practice, secret procedures and indifference.

6. Hairy Tales

Hair is a marker of community, gender, class, religion and so much more. Monks have no hair while some communities prohibit the cutting of hair. Cutting all your hair could be a mark of widowhood or have medical implications. Studies show that a drastic new haircut could actually bring changes in the personality of a person. Then there is facial hair, body hair and Pubic hair with all the slang it inspires. Through a series of interviews I am trying to understand the significance of what is perceived either as a hidden jungle of wild tangled growth or a sophisticated salon treated accessory we put on for the world. I have also initiated an interactive performance of communal hair massaging with live music and storytelling, called ‘Champi Tales’, as part of this project.



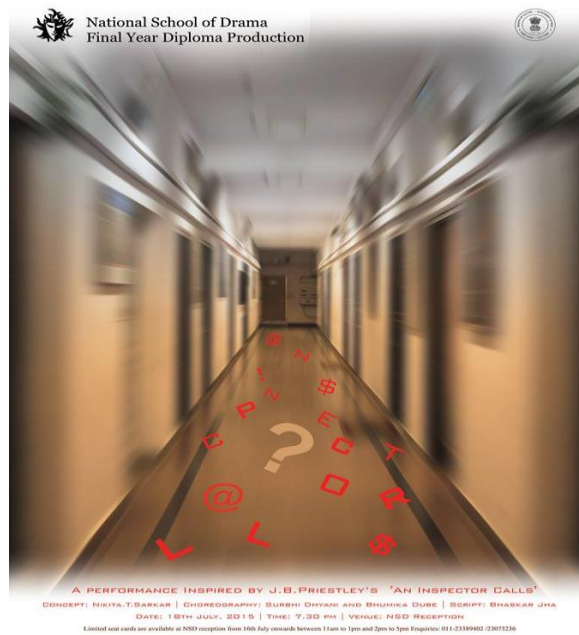
7. The Kitchen

The performance is done in two phases- the host and the guest. The audience members who sign up are requested to be present for both days. Food is an integral part of community building. It is dictated by regions, cultures, geographies and in turn dictates health, eating habits, body types. In this performance, the hosts meet to prepare a meal together while sharing stories related to food to get recipes and the tasks are gender neutral to encourage community building beyond assigned gender roles. The guests, come in to eat the food prepared but have to create games around food like food antakshari, blind tasting etc. to access the different courses. The night is accompanied by live musicians, the ritual of serving food individually and occasionally a bonfire.



8. ?

Inspired from J.B.Priestley's 'An Inspector Call', the performance is a live interaction where the audience is invited to a dinner party where a suicide takes place. The audience members assist the Inspector to investigate the reasons for the suicide. It is a promenade piece that has the audience participating and often overlapping into the role of performer in order to unravel the mystery. The piece had 5 different rooms that the audience traversed between and depending on which room they visited first, the narrative for each group changed. The audience also had control over the outcome of each room as they were all interactive and dependent on the choices that the audience groups together decided upon.



9. Paint it Red!

An exhibition of tactile art work about Menstruations exhibited as part of Sukhibhava's Period exhibition that toured various cities of India.



Expo 'Paint it Red' to spread awareness on menstrual health

■ Staff Reporter

A MENSTRUAL art exhibition, 'Paint it Red' was organised by a group of fellow members of 'Sukhibhava' at Boat Club on Sunday.

The exhibition was open for the visitors from 8:30am to 5pm and despite the biting cold weather, it witnessed a considerable footfall. Girls of all age group and even boys thronged at Boat Club and were seen talking about the concern. Paintings of various artists from across the country were showcased at the exhibition.

A painter from Kolkata had sent a hygiene kit along with her painting to spread as much as awareness she could on menstrual



Paintings of artists displayed at the exhibition 'Paint it Red' at Boat Club in Bhopal on Sunday.

health. The kit included things which a girl needs during her menstrual cycle, like, tampons, dry tissues, cramp med, V-wash, pantliner, cream for pad rash and others.

Satyam Mishra, one of the organisers told "The Hitavada" that the exhibition was held to break the stigma around menstruation and enable more conversations.

Another member of the group says, "During our school days the biggest worry wasn't our grades but being a girl we were worried about that stain on our skirt."

She also said, for those five days a month, everything in your life becomes secondary and was replaced with a small voice at the back of your head saying, "Check if you stained."

"The stain from the skirt will wash off. The stain of shame that accompanies the visible mark on your skirt will not," she added.

The event was organised by Sukhibhava's Bhopal team including Nitish Bhagat, Shilpa Nair, Sakshi Shrivastava, Radhika Modi, Priyanka Bharadwaj and Satyam Mishra.



10. Blind Date

It is a digital performance conducted through Skype. It is an intimate show where one performer and one audience member interact and play three games, 10 minute each, for half an hour. The performance was originally designed for a festival in Argentina where the audience member is situated and the performer, who is a member of the visually impaired community, is in India. The performance is structured in a way that through the course of three games, a respect beyond challenges or the senses can be established. In the first game, they only have audio contact and from the second game onwards video contact is established. The point of this encounter is to subtly hint at privileges we take for granted and to create sensitivity through the interaction, not sympathy. The idea is to make people realise that a challenge doesn't define a person, there are other aspects of identity that do; to replace possible sympathy or awkwardness with genuine respect.

VI
ENCUENTRO FESTIVAL INTERNACIONAL

Mujer | Teatro | Banquete

Nikita Sarkar - Vinayaky @NIKITATERESASARKAR

Mi vida en Calcutta, India. Actualmente vivo en Bangalore. Graduada de la NSD Delhi, está trabajando en las formas de arte tradicional de la India de Kuchipudi y Bharata Natyam para explorar su metodología de creación de desapego. Practicante de la sanación con sonido, ha estado utilizando instrumentos tibetanos para facilitar talleres de manejo de traumas en Centros de corrección menores y talleres de habilidades para la vida de adultos jóvenes. Ella ha tenido la suerte de estrechar con Centros excepcionales como Venus G y Parvathy Band. Ahora, Nikita está desarrollando su propio proceso de aprovechamiento de la energía del sonido para manifestarse en actuaciones de sanación en colaboración con otros artistas, a través del estudio del origen ritual de los primeros sonidos emitidos y el zumbido eterno del universo. Es parte de Ekuthara Kalari.

@MAGDALENA_2A_GENERACION

MAGDALENA 2ª GENERACIÓN
RED DE MUJERES EN EL ARTE CONTEMPORÁNEO

Centro Cultural de la Intendencia de Montevideo
www.ekutharakalari.org

Momento artístico humano y cultural

Encuentro en Red
VIENT EN POP
Espectáculos - Talleres - Eventos

FORO DE MUJERES, TALLERES, ESPECTÁCULOS, JUEVES, VIERNES, SÁBADO

INFORMES, INSCRIPCIÓN Y BOLETINERÍA
Inscripciones en la Web de la Red de Mujeres en el Arte (www.redmujeresenelarte.org)

Programación de hoy

La idea es rendir un homenaje a la cultura, la obtención para llevar las cosas adelante

Ocio y cultura

Teatro

El banquete de las mujeres

Llega a Santa Fe Magdalena 2ª Generación, con el encuentro internacional de la Red de Mujeres en el Arte.

Magdalenas, presente y futuro

La idea es rendir un homenaje a la cultura, la obtención para llevar las cosas adelante

Magdalena 2ª Generación, una red de mujeres en el arte contemporáneo, llega a Santa Fe con el encuentro internacional de la Red de Mujeres en el Arte. El encuentro se realizará el jueves 14 y viernes 15 de mayo en el Centro Cultural de la Intendencia de Montevideo. El encuentro se realizará en el marco del VI Encuentro Festival Internacional de Mujeres, Teatro y Banquete.

11. Neer Yatra

'Neer Katha' is a series of stories about any city on the banks of a river. It is essentially the history and present of the city narrated through stories interspersed with songs, told to an audience on a boat while rowing along the cityscape. The idea is to re-look at the city landscape and discover the rich history the buildings are guiding, or the diverse narratives that the local settlements are constantly creating. The concept is site specific and seeks to explore the history and mythograph of a city through local stories and music. Through the course of time, a city changes constantly but generally a river remains an impartial and true witness to the events and as regimes are conquered and surrendered, the river remains immovable. I work with local musicians and a writer who re-constructs older narratives from the lens of contemporary context so as to make history more interesting, accessible and inclusive. The focus is always to work with local musical communities belonging to the region to incorporate existing folklore but narrated through a marginalised viewpoint. History always highlights the more privileged classes, this performance attempts to sound the unheard voices. The aim is to go beyond a performance and create a curated Immersive experience to re-contextualize the city and explore it with a sense of belonging. I have done a proto type of this in Varanasi and Kolkata.



12. Tantidhatri

Tantidhatri is an All Women's International Performing Arts festival that we organise every 2 years. It brings together a generation of women who now embody life-experience in their works, and who will share these experiences generously with their audiences. It is an occasion to meet these women master practitioners, artists, intellectuals, writers and scholars from various backgrounds and lineages, as well as interact with them through workshops and talks. As the Technical Director of the Festival in 2019, I provided 10 full scholarships for children belonging to marginalized communities for the workshop of their choice to provide a chance to explore whichever art form they related most to. We also collaborated with New Light NGO, that works with the children of Sex workers, to conduct theatre workshops in their locality every weekend. This collaboration paved the way for a site specific performance where audiences were welcomes to visit the otherwise unpopular streets and view it in a new light through the eyes of the children.



Tantidhatri 2019 THIRD EDITION
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL
15-20th January
RABINDRATIRTHA, NEW TOWN, KOLKATA

Workshops & Masterclasses (for students)

MASTERCLASSES - 8 Practical sessions of 1.5hrs each, over 6 days.
The sessions will be facilitated by nine master artists from around the world:

Julia Varley (Odin Teatret) | Parwati Dutta (India) | Geddy Aniksdal (Norway) | Maristella Martella (Italy)
Keiin Yoshimura (Japan) | Ana Woolf (Argentina) | Helen Varley Jamieson (New Zealand)
Brigitte Ciria & Eleonore Bovon (France)

WORKSHOP (DAUGHTER) - A 6-day Performance-oriented Workshop directed by **Jill Greenhalgh (U.K.)**,
the founder of the Magdalena Project - an International Network of Women in Contemporary Theatre.
The workshop will culminate in a performance that will be showcased on the last day of the festival.

Jill Greenhalgh | Helen Varley Jamieson | Ana Woolf | Keiin Yoshimura | Maristella Martella | Geddy Aniksdal | Eleonore Bovon & Brigitte Ciria | Parwati Dutta | Julia Varley

Workshop Registration Pass: ₹ 5500* | Time: 9.30 am to 1 pm (daily) | Venue: RabindraTirtha
* For Students only. The workshop registration does NOT include performance passes. Kindly register separately to watch the shows.

www.ekatharakalari.org/tantidhatri | tantidhatrifestival@gmail.com | +91 8879494096 | facebook.com/tantidhatri | instagram.com/tantidhatri

Logos: IDCO, Carpe Diem, fundación sae, BRITISH COUNCIL, Junta de Castilla y León, bookmyshow

13. Kwaabon Ki Gali

This was a Life Skills Workshop conducted at Katkatha (Delhi) with sex workers and their children to work on a different perspective of the locality they stay in. Through a series of theatre games, the children were exposed to various modes of storytelling like puppetry, poetry, photography, object based narratives and non verbal presentations. As a final presentation, a festival was organized in GB Road where the otherwise stigmatized street was opened to audience members to explore through the lens of the children while they narrated their stories in their chosen form of expression.



14. Workshop in Correction Centres

Through a series of music and art based sessions, the women of the New Alipore Correction Home in Kolkata put together a theatre performance based on Tagore's Daak Ghar. Their family members were also invited to see the piece and it was part of their art and cultural corrective module.



15. Songs of the Baul (MITEM Festival, Budapest)

This was a project that was performed in the Madach International Theatre Festival in Budapest Hungary in 2018. The project Director was Parvathy Baul and I was the Production Manager and Designer. The performance combined songs of the Baul tradition along with the art of Alpona and invited audience members to contribute in the artwork by opening up the canvas to them in the end. As part of the project, we did 5 performances in Hungary, 2 of them being in a Synagogue. In 2005, the Baul tradition was included in the list of “Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity” by UNESCO and this project was an attempt to make the tradition experiential for the audience in Hungary.



16. Asia Pacific Bond of Theatre Schools (Vietnam)

I represented India, along with 2 other colleagues, in the 2019 APB Conference in Hanoi, Vietnam. The production was a traditional rendition of 'Karna Bharam'. We also conducted a workshop on the Navarasa and presented a paper on the relevance of the Navarasa in Contemporary times.



17. Noon Chai

This project was the result of the Khoj Mentorship Network during the Covid-19 lockdown. The idea was developed under the mentorship of Zuleikha Chaudhuri. The performance is a workshop on how to make noon chai (salty tea) by someone living in Kashmir. It is conducted over whats app and imbibes various story sharing tools for the participants and the facilitator. The aim is to make the participants experience the hurdles of 2G internet and frequent Internet blocks in communication, education and other daily life activities, through a simple online workshop on how to make tea.

18. Waste Warriors (ThinkArts & Takshila Grant)

It is a 13 minute digital piece that is accompanied by a worksheet and instructions for parents to facilitate the activity at home with their children. The main focus is to inculcate a behavioral change of segregation of waste, recycling and upcycling. The work was conceptualized by students I worked with in Kashmir and the DIY upcycled objects featured are all made by them. The main piece is under copyrights with ThinkArts for a year.

19. Ekathara Kalari Work

The Ekthara kalari is a space for sadhakas from the traditional knowledge streams of art, spirituality, theatre, puppetry, music and healing. Merging the concepts of the 'Akhara', a space for Baul practitioners from the Bengali tradition, and the 'Kalari', the traditional Kerala theatre practice space. It was founded by Shri. Ravi Gopalan Nair and Smt. Parvathy Baul in 1997. I have been volunteering as an administrator of the organization for 5 years now. Primary activities include:

Sanatan Siddha Ashram, Shantiniketan

The ashram is created as a space for archiving regional art forms and conducting retreats related to various art forms. The foundation stone was laid last year in April and already two successful retreats have been organized on the land.

Ayurveda Camps for Well-Being

We conduct monthly health camps where Ayurvedic consultation is provided for free for the villages around the Gurukul.

Soft Skills Camp and Indigenous Practices Workshop

This is a workshop that is conducted for the children of the surrounding villages in Shantiniketan where certain soft skills and indigenous practices are taught by practitioners. All knowledge is taught for free and meals are also provided to encourage participation from the children.

Sahaj Madhuri

It is a biannual newsletter, published online. Through these editions we discuss one's own inner search through Baul Sadhana. We create possibilities for the Baul Anuragee to have more insight into the Baul life and work.

Baul Gyan Darpan

Baul Gyan Darpan

It is an annual retreat that offers an immersive experience with Baul Masters over the duration of a week. During the lockdown, there have been several online workshops and concerts for fund raising of the rural artists and craftsmen as well.



www.ekatharakalari.org



20. P(art)icle Collective

I am a founder member of the collective and we have been active since 2019. We curated a festival aimed towards addressing the prejudices attached to the people of Africa, in response to the growing crimes towards the African Community in Delhi. The festival was hosted by Akshara Theatre. We also organized activities for a book release on Poems from Africa and for a film screening during the Kashmir abrogation and the Shaheen Bagh Protest. Apart from this, we have conducted several theatre workshops under the banner.

