

ACTIVATION PROGRAMME

During the exhibition, Goethe-Institut Kolkata along with the filmmaker and artist Nilanjan Bhattacharya has designed an array of programmes around the exhibition.

Thursday, 16 February 2023, 5:00 pm | Indian Museum

OPENING OF THE EXHIBITION

The opening programme will include a guided tour with the curator and art mediator Mira Hirtz.

Friday, 17 February 2023, 6:30 pm | Indian Museum

SCIENCE AND ART, KNOWLEDGE AND NATURE AND THE PUBLIC

A collective conversation exploring the interlinkages between scientific cognizance, artistic creations, the human-non-human natural world, the public perception and knowledge about it.

Moderated by Nilanjan Bhattacharya, participating speakers Mira Hirtz, Lena Reitschuster, Anindita Bhadra, Arijit Dutta Choudhury and Sayantan Maitra, will engage in a conversation.

Sunday, 19 February 2023, 6:30 pm | Indian Museum

WALK AND TALK

An exchange between Nilanjan Bhattacharya and Mira Hirtz about Nilanjan Bhattacharya's video installation, 'Quiet Flows the Stream', and the thematics of the exhibition.

Wednesday, 22 February 2023, 6:30 pm | Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan Kolkata

CODING CARE

An online talk by Sabine Himmelsbach on how we can use technological tools for a better interaction with the environment, followed by a moderated question and answer session.

Thursday, 2 March 2023, 5:00 pm | Indian Museum

OBSERVATORIES NEAR AND DAILY

Two artists from West Bengal, Maksud Ali Mondal and Mallika Das Sutar, will present their works which extend a close and intimate look at the surrounding human-non-human world and daily habits.

Moderated by Ushmita Sahu, the artists will be engaged in a conversation about their artistic motivations and approaches.

Saturday, 1 April, 2023, 6:30 pm | Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan Kolkata

HISTORY OF ENVIRONMENTALISM IN INDIA

An online lecture by Ramachandra Guha, followed by a moderated question and answer session.

The programme is open to all. Venue rules apply.

PARTICIPATING SPEAKERS AND ARTISTS

NILANJAN BHATTACHARYA

Nilanjan Bhattacharya is a filmmaker, artist, and writer. Many of his documentaries and artworks explore biodiversity, food cultures and related indigenous knowledge in India. He was the initiator and implementer of the 'Interpretative Interactive Archive' on Kolkata and 'Urban Ecological Mapping' in collaboration with a group of local children. He is one of the three curators of an ongoing transnational exchange and exhibition project, 'Beyond Migration' along with Goethe-Institut Kolkata. Currently, he is working on a two-channel video piece, 'Who Looks At Whom', which will be installed at the Grassi Museum für Völkerkunde zu Leipzig.

MAKSUD ALI MONDAL

Maksud Ali Mondal completed his BFA and MFA from Kala Bhavana, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan, in 2019 with a semester at the Royal Academy of Art, Netherlands. His practice includes facilitating experiential understanding of organisms in a durational-built microcosm, using sculpture, painting, installation and photography. He is interested in generating reflections on how we understand ourselves in relation to each other, including other species, organisms and civilizations as well as our place in the transforming environment. He received an international award from the Kochi-Muziris Students' Biennale in 2019, the INLAKS fine art award in 2021, and the National Scholarship from the Ministry of Culture, India in 2018.

ANINDITA BHADRA

Anindita Bhadra is a behavioural biologist at the Department of Biological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Kolkata—engaged in studying the behaviour, ecology and cognitive abilities of dogs using the free-ranging/stray dogs in India as a model system.

ARIJIT DUTTA CHOUDHURY

Arijit Dutta Choudhury, a mechanical engineer by education, is a science museum professional and has served in several science museums/centres under the National Council of Science Museums (NCSM) across India. He is currently the Director General of the National Council of Science Museums, an autonomous body under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

SAYANTAN MAITRA

Sayantan Maitra is an architect and scenographer. He heads an interactive design firm, 'Illusion In Motion' and is the Chief Coordinator of the non-governmental organisation, Shelter Promotion Council (India), through which he has curated Public Art Festivals in different parts of North East India to identify and question issues, employing the language of contemporary and new media art.

MALLIKA DAS SUTAR

Mallika Das Sutar's multimedia oeuvre includes paintings, sculptures, installations, photographs, videos, performances and public art interventions. A dominant part of her practice is to engage with the local communities, especially the women in various collaborative ventures—social, ecological and artistic.

USHMITA SAHU

Ushmita Sahu is the director and head curator of Emami Art, Kolkata. She has a background in fine arts from Kala Bhavana, Visva Bharati University, Santiniketan. Before joining the institution, Ushmita Sahu has worked as an artist, independent curator, art writer and scholar for several years and has numerous national and international projects to her credit.

SABINE HIMMELSBACH

Since 2012, Sabine Himmelsbach has been the director of HEK (House of Electronic Arts) in Basel. After studying art history in Munich, she worked for galleries in Munich and Vienna from

1993-1996 and later became project manager for exhibitions and conferences for the Steirischer Herbst Festival in Graz, Austria. In 1999 she became the exhibition director at the ZKM | Center for Art and Media in Karlsruhe, Germany. From 2005-2011 she was the artistic director of the Edith-Russ-House for Media Art in Oldenburg, Germany. As a writer and lecturer, she is dedicated to topics related to media art and digital culture.

RAMACHANDRA GUHA

Ramachandra Guha is an Indian historian, environmentalist, writer and public intellectual whose research interests include social, political, contemporary, environmental and cricket history, and economics. He is an important authority on the history of modern India.

GOETHE-INSTITUT / MAX MUELLER BHAVAN KOLKATA

The Goethe-Institut is the Federal Republic of Germany's cultural institute, active worldwide. The institute promotes the study of the German language abroad and encourages international cultural exchange. The institute in Kolkata engages with committed artists, civil society actors and cultural and educational institutions in the region to create collaborative projects between India and Germany.

ZKM | CENTRE FOR ART AND MEDIA, KARLSRUHE

The ZKM | Center for Art and Media is a unique cultural institution located in Karlsruhe, Germany. With its art collection, publications, archives, and artistic, scholarly and scientific research on the electronic arts, the ZKM stands for a program of interdisciplinary projects and international collaborations. In its exhibitions, symposia, concerts, and workshops, the ZKM communicates the theoretical discourses of philosophy, science, technology, politics and economics from a contemporary artistic perspective.

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