

COCONUT PANCAKES, RICE WINE & A GLIMPSE OF HISTORY...

The Friends of DakshinaChitra (FOD) trip to Laos and Vietnam in February 2017 left indelible imprints on the mind and soul of the 17 members who made the trip - from the delicious coconut pancakes to the hospitality offered by the people.

Our first stop was Luang Prabang in Laos, a very well-preserved city with about 20 ethnic minority groups living there. It housed the best handicrafts and textiles which could be bought at its famous night markets.



The cruise down the Mekong River showed its tranquil countryside. We saw many Buddha images in the caves along the river. We also got to taste the famous rice wine. In the city of Ninh Binh, we had a tour of the cave complex in Trang An, a UNESCO World Heritage site with its beautiful limestone peaks. In the evening, we witnessed the water puppet show at the Opera House.

Next up was Hanoi where we visited the Ho Chi Minh presidential palace complex. The mosaic and ceramic art along the five mile main thoroughfare, commemorating the 1000-year history of Hanoi as a standalone city, was noteworthy. Its history was depicted in murals. The Halong Bay cruise featured over 3,000 islands and karsts while the Phong Na cave systems had the longest underground river and beautiful white sand beaches. Hoi An City had striking ruins of My Son Hindu temples dated from the 4th to 14th century AD, a World Heritage site.

The most memorable part was an evening heritage walk where we viewed a bridge featuring Chinese pagodas.

(As told by Ramani, FOD member)

OUR GRATITUDE TO...

Our heartfelt gratitude to the following donors for their valuable donations to our library collections:

T.G.Niranjana
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Darshan Shah
Ramli Ibrahim
Manoranjitham, Regional Director, ICCR Chennai

COVER DESIGN ART

The picture on the cover page is of an antique Gangamma doll from Telengana. Using various restoration techniques, our Senior Conservators Tody Cezar and L. Amirthananan, have given a new lease of life to this statue. Made in the village of Cherial, the deity is believed to preside over the Mandaheccu ritual where the Katamaraju Katha is narrated to the pastoral communities.



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 www.dakshinachitra.net

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DakshinaChitra is open daily
 from 10 am to 6 pm
 Closed on Tuesdays.
 Weekends : 10 am to 7 pm

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

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NEWS AND EVENTS - JULY TO SEPTEMBER, 2017

WORKSHOPS FOR ADULTS

(Timings: 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.)



◀◀ **Kalamkari**
 July 1 & 2
 Fee: Rs. 2,000/-
 Resource person:
 Vijaya kumar



◀◀ **Terracotta Golu dolls making**
 September 2, 3 & 9
 Fee: Rs. 4,000/-
 Resource person: In-house

For further details on Ceramic Workshops, contact our in-house ceramist, Potraranan : +91 - 9840672154.

Watercolour techniques ▶▶

July 8 & 9

Fee: Rs. 2,000/-

Resource person:
 Vignesh



Kerala mural (on canvas, marble, terracotta) ▶▶

August 26 & 27

Fee: Rs. 3,000/- each

Resource person: Sujit



◀◀ **Palm-leaf Ganesha-making**

August 20

Fee: Rs. 1,000/-

Resource person: In-house

SPECIAL PROGRAMMES

JULY 5 - SEPT. 20 : CHILDREN'S MELA



It's an ideal mix of fun and learning at the Children's Mela. School students can witness a variety of traditional performing arts and crafts and interact with

the artistes as well. The mela consists of various programmes like folk dances, puppet show, magic show, bumpy bullock cart ride and demonstration of crafts by in-house artisans. Schools are invited to book their dates in advance and visit us with their students for an activity-packed day.

INTERNSHIP PROGRAMMES STARTING IN JULY

The one-year DakshinaChitra Internship in Museum Management begins on July 19. We thank Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Ltd of the Murugappa Group for their CSR contribution to make this important programme happen. The funding also helps support a special education programme for rural children and the training for folk performers.

Our sincere thanks to the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust for funding our two-year Internship in Conservation. We are happy to announce that the second year of the programme will commence in July.

WORKSHOPS

for children

(The fee for each workshop is inclusive of material and transportation only. Timings: 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.; Age group: 8 to 14 years). For further details, contact Lakshmi: +91- 9841777779.



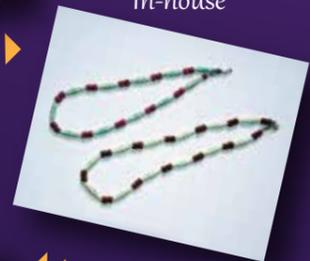
◀◀ **Wheel pottery**
 July 16
 Fee: Rs. 800/-
 Resource person:
 In-house

Paper bead jewellery ▶▶

August 13

Fee: Rs. 800/-

Resource person: In-house



◀◀ **Terracotta Ganesha-making**
 August 20
 Fee: Rs. 800/-
 Resource person:
 In-house

Paper quilling - Animal figures & Sand Art ▶▶

September 3

Fee: Rs. 800/-

Resource person: In-house



◀◀ **Origami**
 September 24
 Fee: Rs. 800/-
 Resource person: In-house

CERAMIC WORKSHOPS



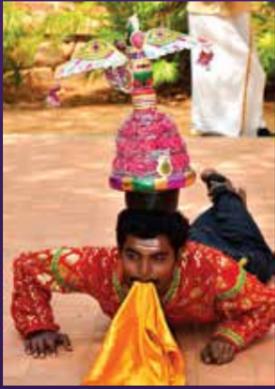
◀◀ **Ceramic Pottery**
 July 29, 30 & Aug 6
 Fee: Rs. 4,000/-
 Resource person: In-house

GREETINGS FROM DAKSHINACHITRA

The South West monsoon is here and what better way to enjoy it than a visit to DakshinaChitra. With music concerts, folk art performances and exhibitions on the cards, we promise you an eventful festive season in our serene campus. Celebrate the city of Madras as we bring to life its old charm through a series of curated programmes this Madras Week. Read on to find out more...

JULY 26 - 30 : ADIPERUKKU & AYYANAR FESTIVAL

At a time when the city is suffering from acute water shortage, it is essential for us to understand the significance of water in our daily life. The Adiperukku or Pathinettam Perukku festival plays an important role as it is celebrated to pay tribute to the life-sustaining properties of water. Observed on the 18th day of the Tamil month 'Adi', the 'Adi Thiruvizha' also marks the replenishment of water in the rivers after a hot summer. 'Ayyanar' is a folk deity of Tamil Nadu. Known as the protector of rural villages, Ayyanar is revered by the village folk.



This year, students of the Sukra Dance Academy, led by Mr. Sundaramoorthy will be performing traditional dances like Velumelam, Oyilattam, Mayilattam, Poikalkuthirai, Kaalaiattam, Kokkiliattam, Silambattam, Periyakombu, Saattakuchchi and Kaliyalattam. Don't miss out on this traditional spectacle.

For details about the various programmes planned for the 20th anniversary, log on to our page on Facebook : **DakshinaChitra Chennai Muttukadu** or our website: **www.dakshinachitra.net**. You can also send us your feedback at **dakmcf@gmail.com**

AUGUST 6 : SITAR CONCERT (4 p.m. onwards)

Be prepared to be enthralled by the soothing music of the sitar and the rhythmic beats of the tabla this August. On the sitar is Saptarishi Hazra, who began learning the Sitar at a young age from Pandit Netai Basu. Hazra has many performances to his credit including the Taj Mahal Tea House Pre-monsoon concert (2016), Mumbai and the 2015 Centenary Celebration at the Rasika Ranjana Sabha, Tiruchirapally.



Accompanying him on the Tabla is Jain Painadathe, whose tryst with the instrument began when he was five. After learning for 20 years from his father, George Painadathe, he went on to receive his advanced training from Ustad Mohamed Khaleem Khan of Ajrada Gharana. He is presently working as a staff artiste in the Song and Drama division of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Be sure to book your dates for this enchanting evening of traditional music.

AUGUST 25 : VINAYAKA CHATHURTHI

This festive season delve into history as you witness a host of traditional performing arts at DakshinaChitra. On Vinayaka Chathurthi, the Marabu



Kalai Kuzhu group from Vizhupuram will be performing Paraiattam, Kazhialattam, Silambattam and Oyilattam. An exclusive display of art and skill awaits you and your family. Block these dates and be a part of this experience!

AUGUST 23 - 27 : ONAM FESTIVAL

This Onam, don the traditional Kerala Kasavu sarees and mundus and head over to DakshinaChitra for a unique performance by the Panamanna Parija Muthukali Sangam from Palakkad district. Led by Mr. P. Muthu Narayanan, the troupe will showcase an ancient martial art form called Parichamuttukali. It is an amalgamation of grace and technique where performers wield swords and shields and follow the movement of the sword fight. Packed with action, this one is a must-watch.

AUGUST 10 & 11 : VASTRA UTSAV

With ethnic outfits, handwoven textiles and exquisite pieces of jewellery, the 10th edition of Vastra Utsav takes the fashion fever up a notch. This **annual exhibition and sale** of sarees, dresses and accessories organised by the Friends of DakshinaChitra (FOD) will feature the work of some exceptional designers and master craftsmen from across the country. The exhibition has been specially curated keeping in mind innovation and quality. Proceeds from the exhibition will aid the various activities of DakshinaChitra.



Venue & time : Mayor Ramanathan Chettiar Centre, Santhome High Road, Chennai - 600 028; from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

KANTHAMMA : REMEMBERING A BLESSED LIFE

Kanthamma was with us even before DakshinaChitra's inception. She passed away on May 15, 2017. She was 73 years old and our first staff member. She was a sincere, disciplined and hard-working employee. The DakshinaChitra family prays for her soul to rest in peace.



art beat

VARIJA GALLERY

JULY 1 - JULY 24 : **'Unexpected Outcomes'** - An exhibition of **artworks** by Vera de Jong



Vera de Jong



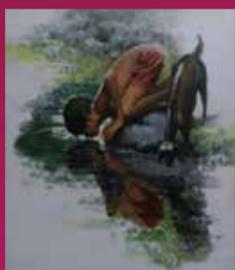
JULY 29 - AUG 30 : **'LANDS THROUGH MY LENS: journeys from Chennai to Chicago'** - A photo exhibition by Sujatha Shankar Kumar as part of **Madras Week celebrations**

SEPT 8 - SEPT 30 : **'Hour of the cowdust'** - An exhibition of paintings on Indian landscapes by G.D. Paul Raj

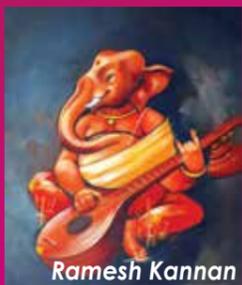


G.D. Paul Raj

KADAMBARI GALLERY



JULY 7 - JULY 30 : A **group show** by artists A. Rajmohan, N. Jagadeesan, N. Gopalakrishnan, V. Ravichandran & T.G. Thayumanavan of the Chennai N Vannangal (III chapter)



Ramesh Kannan

AUG 10 - AUG 31 : **'Ganesholsavam'** - An exhibition of paintings - celebrating Lord Ganesha by Ramesh Kannan

KADAMBARI GALLERY



Govindaraj

SEPT 8 - SEPT 30 : **'Nativescapes'** - An exhibition of paintings by Govindaraj

MADRAS WEEK CELEBRATIONS (AUG 20 - AUG 25)

This year, celebrate this beautiful city of temples and hot filter coffees by being a part of our special events.

JULY 29 - AUG 30 : 'Lands Through My Lens: Journeys from Chennai to Chicago' - A photo exhibition by Sujatha Shankar Kumar.

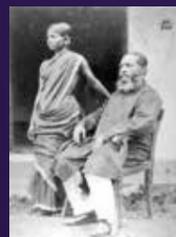
AUG 12 - AUG 31 : Screening of documentary films on members of the Madras Art Movement like KCS Panicker, Alphonso Arul Doss and P. Perumal among many others.



AUG 18 : Children's Heritage Quiz - The 5th annual quiz programme at DakshinaChitra is open to children of classes 6, 7 & 8 from Matriculation, CBSE and ICSE schools. There will be many rounds covering subjects like heritage, current affairs and general knowledge. Winners will receive exciting prizes. Prior registration is mandatory. There is no entry fee.



AUG 19 - AUG 27 : Vintage photos of Old Madras: People, Culture from 1800s - A special photo exhibition showcasing rare images of life in the city back in the 19th century. The photo exhibit will be on display in the open spaces of DakshinaChitra.



SEPT 13 - SEPT 17 : DUSSEHRA

Amidst the bustle of Navratri activity, take some time off to acquaint yourself with the unfamiliar. Come witness a stunning performance of the Kangeelu Kunitha, a popular folk dance from Karnataka. Famed for its characteristic costumes, drumming and singing, this art form will be performed by the Udipi-based Sri Maha Ganapathi Janapada Kala Tanda Padubidri troupe led by Mr. Jeevaprakash.



CARVING A LIVELIHOOD OUT OF EVERY STONE



Whether it is a 3-ft statue of Shiva or a meticulously sculpted Kal Chetty (vessel), one cannot deny that there is magic in the hands of P. Thirupathi. The stone carving expert at DakshinaChitra, Thirupathi's tryst with the art began at the tender age of nine under the tutelage of his father and grandfather. His journey at DakshinaChitra started back in 1997 when he was about 14.

Thirupathi's secret lies in his ability to customise pieces for his clients. In no time, he has been able to create a demand for his products among local and foreign visitors to DakshinaChitra. One of his most popular pieces is the Kal Chetty, a vessel carved out of a single block of soap stone, used to keep curries in the past. Thirupathi has also held many workshops for staff members and visitors.



While he sees a niche market developing for his sculptures, he laments that it is a dying craft as not many view it as being lucrative. He observes that back home, in Mangalapuram village of Namakkal district, the number of stone carvers has significantly reduced from 60 families to just about six. But he is hopeful that with institutions like DakshinaChitra supporting and encouraging craftsmen, the art will see more takers in the future.

Take a look at some of his magnificent pieces with remarkable detail at DakshinaChitra and we promise you can't resist buying one!