

OF PUPPET SHOWS, TEMPLES & MUSEUMS...

Temples and museums, street shopping and puppet shows - Indonesia leaves you in awe of it from the start. The Friends of DakshinaChitra (FOD) trip to this beautiful country gives a glimpse of its rich history & heritage. The 11-member group visited various temples and monuments built by successive Hindu, Buddhist, Islamic and Dutch rulers. During their 10-day travel they visited the cities of Jakarta, Bali and Yogyakarta. The country is famed for Batik printing and silver ornaments.



Their first stop was the Indonesian National Museum in Jakarta at Merdeka square. Built in the 19th century, it houses many cultural treasures. There is also a room with beautiful ceramics, bronze sculptures of deities & Kreis daggers that show the link between India and Indonesia. The visit to Taman Mini Indonesia, which has life size houses built in characteristic styles of various ethnic groups in Indonesia, was fascinating. It was also interesting for them to see the Sunda Kelapa Harbor in Old Jakarta and the Kraton Palace in Yogyakarta, the capital of Java. The GWK park in Bali is an iconic space for large gatherings. A halt at the picturesque Ubud village was wonderful as it had paddy fields and a variety of street shops with native handicrafts.

The distinctive architectural styles seen in various temples such as the Borobudur, Parambanan and Mendut were particularly captivating. The Mendut temple has only one shrine with three stunning statues inside. One of Lord Buddha and two are of Bodhisattvas Vajrapani and Avalokitesvara. Borobudur is considered the world's largest Buddhist temple. The Sukuh & Ceto temples in Surakarta and Tanah Lot, Royal Mengwi, and Ulun Dana & Tirtha Empul temples were equally breathtaking.

The traditional performances were one of the highlights of the trip. The Javanese Shadow Puppet Show or Wayang Kulit in Yogyakarta & Kecak Fire Dance in Bali were a treat to the eyes with the gamelan orchestral accompaniment & elaborately costumed singers.

- Summarised based on the account of Ramesan, FOD member

OUR GRATITUDE TO...

Our heartfelt gratitude to the following donors for donating their paintings and photographs to our museum:

Sujatha Sankar Kumar, Ramesh Kannan K, Nupur Chatterjee, S. Govindarajan, G.D. Paul Raj & Sheeba Paul and Deborah Thiagarajan.



A Photograph donated by Sujatha Sankar Kumar



A contemporary painting donated by G.D. Paul Raj & Sheeba Paul

Our sincere thanks to the following donors for their valuable donations to our library collections:

Vaishnavi Ramanathan - Old music books
R.M. Palaniappan - Contemporary catalogues
Dr. K.V Raman - Aavanam journal



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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 - JANUARY TO MARCH, 2018

WORKSHOPS FOR ADULTS

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



◀◀ Hand made soap
 & Crème making
 January 7
 Fee: Rs. 3,500/-
 Resource person: Kanchana

▶▶ Photography
 January 27 & 28
 Fee: Rs. 3,000/-
 Resource person:
 Poochi Venkat



◀◀ Macrame - Wall
 hanging / Bag
 February 10 & 11
 Fee: Rs. 2,500/-
 Resource person: N. Kantha

▶▶ Homemade cookie
 making
 February 18
 Fee: Rs. 3,000/-
 Resource person: Lalitha



◀◀ Smocking - cushion making
 March 3 & 4
 Fee: Rs. 4,000/-
 Resource person: Kanchana

▶▶ Flower Veni
 March 11
 Fee: Rs. 3,000/-
 Resource person: Lalitha



◀◀ Kalamkari
 (Figurative style)
 March 17 & 18
 Fee: Rs. 2,000/-
 Resource person: Vijaya Kumar

CERAMIC WORKSHOPS



Ceramic Bonsai
 Pots
 January 6, 7 & 13
 Fee: Rs. 4,000/-



Miniature Model
 Sculpture
 February 3, 4 & 10
 Fee: Rs. 4,000/-



Glazed Mural
 painting on tile
 March 3, 4 & 10
 Fee: Rs. 3,000/-

For further details and queries, contact our in-house
 ceramist Potrarasan : +91 - 9840672154.

JAN 24 - MAR 28: VASANTHA VIZHA

Step out of the classroom and enter the world of art & craft at DakshinaChitra. Be a part of Vasantha Vizha, a fun-filled mela specially organised for school children. Students will get to watch folk dances, puppet shows, magic shows and even go on a bumpy bullock cart ride! They can see live demonstrations of different crafts including glass - blowing & weaving.



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.



◀◀ Warli printing
 on T-shirt
 January 6
 Fee: Rs. 800/-
 Resource person: Prabhu

▶▶ Wheel pottery
 January 27
 Fee: Rs. 800/-
 Resource person: Palani



◀◀ Miniature fridge
 magnet making
 Age group: 10 - 14 years
 February 17
 Fee: Rs. 1,000/-
 Resource person: Rekha

▶▶ Decoupage
 March 10
 Fee: Rs. 800/-
 Resource person: Lakshmi



COVER DESIGN ART

The photograph on the cover page is of a Therukoothu artist. Therukoothu is a form of folk theatre. It is also an integral component of our Utsavam festival in March this year.

GREETINGS FROM DAKSHINACHITRA

It has been an eventful year at DakshinaChitra, especially because of the 20th year celebrations, and the energy only goes up further with the new year. From garden shows to a thought-provoking symposium on various art forms, enthralling dance performances to art & music festivals, we bring you a plethora of events in the coming year. Read on to find out more...

A DASH OF TRADITION TO BEGIN THE NEW YEAR...

The new year comes with new beginnings and promises. But if there's one thing that lives through the sands of time, it is tradition. Keeping in line with our mission, we invite you to an energetic Thappattam performance **on New Year (January 1)** by Ramki & Troupe from Thiruvannamalai. Thappattam is known as one of the **oldest traditional dances of Tamil Nadu** where the artists beat the Parai(drum) and dance to its rhythm.



DEC 27 - JAN 28 : VILLAGE FESTIVAL

The month-long festival which began in December continues in full swing. We promise you a heavy dose of entertainment as you get to witness a unique spectacle depicting ancient traditions through mesmerising folk performances. From dance to music and even drama, there's a lot to look forward too. Take a look at our schedule & block those dates!

JAN 3 - 7 : THIRA POOTHAN, KERALA: A ritualistic art form performed by Raman Smaraka Poothan Thira Kali Sangam.

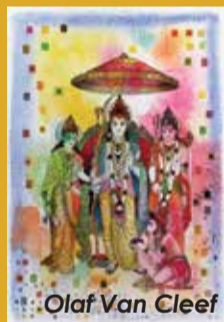


JAN 10 - 15 (PONGAL) : TAMIL NADU FOLK DANCES: Dance forms such as Karagattam, Poikal and Mayilattam will be performed by Thanjai G.Raju & Troupe. (contd...)

art beat

VARIJA GALLERY

DEC 23 - JAN 31 :
'Crystal Dreams'-
An exhibition of artworks
by Olaf Van Cleef



FEB 1 - FEB 10 :
'Introspection'- An art
exhibition curated by
Neeta Omprakash
showcasing the work of 20
artists from Goa and
Odisha

FEB 16 - FEB 28 :
**'Impressions d'encre :
From Paris to Chennai'**

- A group exhibition by
French artists from the
school of Versailles,
France showcasing
contemporary and traditional
styles of printmaking.
The artists who will be
exhibiting their work
include Carole Forges,
Laurence Bourcier,
Mary Faure, KIM
Myoung Nam,
Catherine Lenoir,
Diane de Chamborant,
Joëlle Dumont,
Nicole Parent,
Catherine Schwartz
and Herman Steins.



MAR 4 - MAR 31 :
'Infinity'- An
exhibition of
paintings by Reji
George



JAN 17 - 21: PATTADA KUNITHA, KARNATAKA :
Performed primarily by men, using tall bamboo poles, the show will be staged by Daiah Janapada Kalavidaru from Karnataka.

JAN 24 - 28 : DAPPU NRITYAM, ANDHRA PRADESH:
Performed by Sri Bharathi Kala Samithi, the dance involves beating a tambourine-like drum, creating a rhythm softened by ankle bells worn by the dancers.

JAN 14 & 15: FOOD & GARDEN FESTIVAL



This annual festival organised by the Friends of Dakshinachitra(FOD) is an eagerly anticipated event for our regular visitors. Traditional mouth watering street food delicacies from the southern states prepared by authentic chefs will be served. The garden show will display a variety of ornamental plants, bonsai, cacti, succulents, herbs and medicinal plants. Vegetable & flowering plants, seeds & saplings will also be on sale besides organic pesticides, manure and gardening equipment.

MARCH 3 & 4 : UTSAVAM

Utsavam, the annual festival of DakshinaChitra, is a symposium of music, dance and theatre of South India. This year's theme looks at **the synergy between rural and urban creativity** with a focus on the arts, particularly on music. The first day will have performances, talks and discussions apart from the launch of our book, **'Tamil Nadu: Mannin Marubu'**, the first of a series of books planned on the four southern states. The book is sponsored by **Rane Foundation** and published by **Madras Craft Foundation**. The second day will include a performance of Kattai-kuttu and a talk on its techniques.



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FEB 17 - FEB 18 : THE DAM FESTIVAL



Creativity is at the heart of this two-day DAM (Design, Art & Music) festival. The theme for this year is **'What should I do with my life?'**. Let your imagination run wild as you express yourself by participating in our **poster designing, photography & drawing/painting competitions** which are **open to all upto the age of 29**. From art workshops to community art installations & discussions on sustainable art, the festival is the ideal platform for young artistic minds to showcase their talents. There will also be a design bazaar apart from food stalls. With breathtaking light installations and movie screenings, you know you can't miss this festival!

FEB 24 - MAR 4 : GOA FESTIVAL

There's more to Goa than its beaches, churches and food. Delve into its culture through our festival which will recreate the magic of its traditional folk dances like **Jagaar, Mussal and Dhangar**. The performances will be by the **Shantadurga Vijayate Kala Mandal from Goa**. Each performance is unique. The festival will also have an exhibition and sale of crafts made of coconut shell & terracotta, pottery and lacquer ware among others.



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MAR 7 - 11: UGADI UTSAV

The five-day long Ugadi celebrations will bring to life the culture of Andhra Pradesh with the traditional Lambadi and Madhuri dance forms. The performances will be by the Abhinaya Sudha Kala Varadi from Telangana. There will also be a display and sale of native crafts from Andhra Pradesh.



DANCING TO THE TUNE OF THE FOLK BEAT...



At a time when western and contemporary dance forms are fast gaining popularity, it takes an immense effort to ensure the importance of native folk dances isn't lost. Working towards this end

for decades now is Thiru. Kannan Kumar, a professional folk dancer from the Zamin Kodangipatti village of Thoothukudi. Age isn't a barrier for this 71-year-old who continues to train school children in Chennai in the traditional folk dances of Tamil Nadu like Devarattam, Oyilattam, Karagattam, Thappattam, Kummi and Kolattam and martial arts like Silambam. He also teaches them folk music & instruments like Tavil, Urumi & Thappu. Thiru. Kumar says that his life changed after he was approached by the Madras Craft Foundation to teach folk dances in city schools. This was in the 1990s when awareness on these dances was low. Having found an organisation that shared his passion to sustain these dances, he took up the offer. Thiru. Kumar soon settled in Chennai, joined DakshinaChitra in 1996 and began teaching here over the weekends.

He recalls how things have changed with time. Initially, these dances weren't given much importance. Even in the village, they were performed only during celebrations and were never considered a means of livelihood. It was only after the arduous efforts of organisations like MCF to include these dances in mainstream education that it has received due recognition. He reminisces how he learnt the dances from his parents as a little boy of 10. There was no formal training available then.

Thiru. Kumar has trained many students including the interns in the CSR-funded DAK-IMM programme of DakshinaChitra, who gave a performance in December. He explains that learning folk dances keeps you fit and inculcates respect towards traditional culture. While many people these days replace one or more elements in the dance, he stresses that if traditional music, instruments & choreography are not followed, the authenticity of the dance is lost.



Visit us over the weekends & watch Thiru. Kumar teach youngsters and visitors the nuances of folk dance.

KADAMBARI GALLERY



JAN 7 - JAN 31 :
'Chettinad Thilai Vaasal'
An exhibition of
line drawings by
K.G.Narendra Babu

MAR 16 - APR 15 :
An exhibition and seminar on
'Madras Checks: RMHK' as
part of the CSR funding
initiative by Cholamandalam
Investments & Finance
Company Limited.



MAR 17: 'VIRUDHU' AWARD FUNCTION

The 'DakshinaChitra Virudhu' is an annual award instituted by Friends of DakshinaChitra (FOD) to honour folk performing artists and groups for their skill & efforts to sustain & promote the field of performing arts. The recommendations for troupes from the four southern states comes from experts in the fields and are then vetted by a jury. R. Muthukkannamal, a Sadhir dancer from Viralimalai, Tamil Nadu, is the recipient of the award for 2018. Sadhir is a pre-colonial temple dance in Tamil Nadu. Sadhir was transformed into Bharatanatyam, a dance form which later became acclaimed as one of India's classical dances. Born in a dance-proficient family, Mutthukkannammal had been a Devaradiyar who trained under her Nattuvanar father and grandmother. In spite of the diminishing patronage of the temples and royalty, she continued to perform in the characteristic style of Sadhir, where the performer dances and sings at the same time, as against the modern demarcation.



For details about various programmes, 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**