



02 February – 04 March 2018
Lalit Kala Akademi
11 am – 9 pm | Daily

DAMned ART



Dear Friends,

DAMn! Sorry, but for the first time in my life, I am presenting a project that was envisioned in an entirely different form. Originally, *DAMnedART* was a *Public.Art.Awareness* manifestation that would have highlighted 13 art installations and performances by 20 Indian and international artists on the Cooum River Estuary and Marina Beach. Addressing the dramatic situation of urban water through *Public Art* would have been something totally new for Chennai. Our objectives were – and are! - to see the river from a different perspective, create public dialogue, reflect upon collective responsibility and encourage action. Open to everyone, we expected lakhs of citizens and visitors from all walks of life to experience big artworks inter-mingling with the urban

landscape, the river and the ocean, Napier Bridge, the spires of the stately Madras University - also the foul smell of the water and the garbage everywhere.

The citizens of Chennai have turned away from the damage done to their rivers and water. “It’s the Cooum”, we say, not acknowledging it as a river, it’s just an expression of disgust. Our vision was to make people turn around, face the river and embrace it. But this project would not see the light of day. First came the floods in 2015, then in 2016 the cyclone and other impediments. We navigated from letter to letter, office to office, from report to committee and back again. Claiming the public space is often challenging everywhere, but altogether it went well - we received positive expertise and official support. But finally, after two years, permission was not given “as the area is extremely fragile ecologically”. No to Public Art on river ecology!

On behalf of nature and rivers, on behalf of art in public space, neither the artists or curators, nor the organizers or their cooperating partners wanted to give up. So we came up with an alternative to share the artists' ideas with the public: *DAMnedART*, an exhibition and documentation of the original project, enriched by an extensive cultural programme, at *Lalit Kala Akademi*, the autonomous art institution of the Government of India under the Ministry of Culture. This meant restricted public access from several lakhs to a few thousands. So we decided to ensure public visibility and impact with an attractive programme: The renowned National German Youth Orchestra kindly accepted our invitation and was pleased to dedicate a concert with 73 musicians to Embrace Our Rivers (25 Jan. Music Academy).

The same cultural and ecological programme which was originally going to happen on Marina Beach will now take place in the specially designed outdoor space of Lalit Kala Akademi with a stage and a café - Café DAMned, four weeks of concerts, theatre, dance, films, lectures and workshops; more than 30 events in all, detailed in this booklet. And last but not least, two books, published in cooperation with a German and an Indian publisher, will provide a profound and lasting insight into Public Art and River Ecology! The first one will be launched at the closing session, on March 4!

We welcome you to join us!

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Schippert'.

Helmut Schippert

Director,

Goethe-Institut, Chennai

DAMned ART

CHENNAI | WATER | DIALOGUE

02 February – 04 March 2018

Lalit Kala Akademi

11 am - 9 pm | Daily

Opening Weekend

02 - 04 February at Lalit Kala Akademi

Friday, 02 February 2018

- 6:00 PM Opening Ceremony with Jalatharangam followed by Welcome addresses
- Panel discussion with the curators Florian Matzner and Ravi Agarwal, and the artists Anna Witt, Arunkumar, Gigi Scaria, Mischa Kuball, Parvathi Nayar, Shweta Bhattad
- Guided tour by curators Florian Matzner and Ravi Agarwal

Saturday, 03 February 2018

- 4:30 PM Performance and Artist talk by Mischa Kuball
- 6:00 PM Anna Witt in conversation with Shweta Bhattad: Community and Participation Art Projects
- 7:00 PM Theatre: TRASHedy

Sunday, 04 February 2018

- 4:30 PM Artist talk by Parvathi Nayar
- 5:00 PM DAMnedArt - The Curators in conversation
- 6:00 PM Artist talk by Gigi Scaria
- 7:00 PM Film: Danube – Europe's Amazon

DAMnedART

Instead of the open urban space, where public art projects happen worldwide, we saw ourselves confined to a traditional exhibition space with an entrance, walls and all the rest. The originally planned artworks could not be shown; they were conceived to be site-specific and meant to be experienced on the river banks. So, what then? We decided that the original artists' reflections and plans had to be made known to the citizens of Chennai and to engage in a discussion of 'what could have been, if...'. This apparent paradox seemed to be the only way to finally address the public and not let the momentum go by – unrecognized. What you can see in this exhibition is the artists showing us in multiple ways – through video installations, films, large photos, models, animation, drawings and text - what their art on the river banks would have been ...

Exhibiting Artists

ANNA WITT

ARUNKUMAR

ATUL BHALLA

ATELIER LE BALTO

GIGI SCARIA

GRAM ART PROJECT and SHWETA BHATTAD

LAYOUT COLLECTIVE

MISCHA KUBALL

OOZE ARCHITECTS and MARJETICA POTRC

PARVATHI NAYAR

RAUMLABOR

ROHINI DEVASHER

SUYEON YUN

EXHIBITING ARTISTS

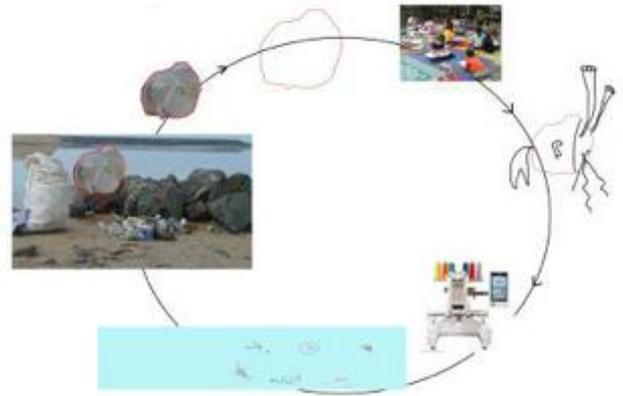
ANNA WITT

Profile: *1981 in Wasserburg/Germany, lives and works in Vienna/Austria.

Anna Witt's favored tools are performance and video. The artist uses them to examine socio-political subjects and how the body, its sphere of action and its movements also always carry a message. She attracts attention by creating grotesque situations and involving others in her art.

Project: THE CIRCLE of LIFE and THINGS –
Participatory Community Project

The artist presents a participatory project showcasing an artistic process of recycling and production, from the „forms of recyclables“- to the creating of a new product. The aim is to reflect on humans' relations towards nature, production and recycling by including many different perspectives and to activate positive associations with Chennai's rivers and their eco system for children.



ARUNKUMAR H. G.

Profile: *1968 in Karnataka/India, lives and works in Gurgaon and New Delhi/India.

Arunkumar H.G has shown widely in India and abroad. His several solo shows include, 'Seed of Reckoning' Mumbai Art Room 2012; 'Tract' at Nature Morte, New Delhi 2010.

Arunkumar has founded the Sara Centre, a Centre for Knowledge and Environment in the Shivamogga District Karnataka, where he hails from, to empower local farmers build sustainable practices, and held an artist's eco walk to raise awareness recently.

Project: Droppings and the Dam - On-site Sculpture/Installation of plastic caps



The artist's initial plan will be showcased: An on-site sculpture, made of around 100,000 plastic bottle caps and plastic tapestry, being collected over two years, to assess the consumption pattern of a society around a specific area where the artist lived during that period. It aimed to visualize the scale and speed of trash produced for quick use, leading towards a monumental crisis.

An additional video shows a farmer's eco-walk; conducted by the artist and initiated by the Sara Center in Karnataka.

ATUL BHALLA

Profile: *1964 in New Dehli/India, lives and works in New Dehli/India.

The artist combines performance, photographs and sculptures and builds them around ideas of water. Often inviting public participation with his work he raises critical issues in relation to ecology, particularly with sublime cultural and historical references. His pieces have been shown extensively at museums and curated shows; internationally and in India. Bhalla was also part of the Yamuna Elbe project 2011. He has published two books and teaches Contemporary Art in Delhi.

Project: Periyar Bridge – On-site Installation and Stickers

Atul Bhalla proposed to paint the Periyar Bridge black as a public performative intervention; single handedly over a period of two weeks.

With this performative act, Bhalla planned to create a dialogue between the Cooum River, the statue of Periyar and the bridge; all blackened by human intervention. Thus addressing the proclamation on equality and unification by the activist and reformist Periyar.



Additionally bumper stickers in English and Tamil were created saying:

1. *Periyar knows how dark the Cooum is.*
2. *Periyar wants to sit somewhere else*
3. *Periyar had warned us!*

ATELIER LE BALTO

Profile: Founded by architect and landscape artist Marc Pouzol (* 1966 in Bourg-la-Reine/France) and Laurent Dugua in 2001.

The atelier's focus lays on the transformation of the outdoors with a persuading touch of minimal interventions and attention to the existing. Through this, they develop isolated, wild and fallow green areas anew with aesthetic aspects and open them for the public.

Project: Floating Island Garden – On-site Installation

The horticultural projects of the French landscape architects are based upon the concept always to work with the material already available on-site: This is why they proposed to "cut out" an island like section of the Cooum River's bank and to be floating on the river itself as a small "Garden of Paradise". Thus an isle covered with plants, herbs and flowers would have been created, serving as an example for progressive forms of vegetation.



The artist's initial plan will be exhibited in a modified way, accompanied by an artist's statement.

GIGI SCARIA

Profile: *1973 in Kerala/India, lives and works in New Delhi/India.

Gigi Scaria's creative repertoire includes painting, photography, installation, sculpture, and video. He explores issues of urban development, migration, economic development and urban architecture and his recent works have been described as 'absurdist environments of the future'. He was selected to represent India in the country's first-ever participation in the Venice Biennale (2011) curated by Ranjit Hoskote.

Project: Source of a river in descending order - On-site Sculpture/Installation

'Source of a river in descending order', talks about the collective forces of human waste as it descends to the ground. Urban armatures are always on the lookout to drain out their over-powering emotions. A price we pay for a dead river.

The artist's initial plan will be exhibited in a modified way, accompanied by an artist's statement.



GRAM ART PROJECT and SHWETA BHATTAD

Profile: Shweta Bhattad: *1984 in Nagpur/India, lives and works in Nagpur/India.

Gram Art Project: aims to work in rural India, on different important issues related to village, mainly focusing on art activities, working with community, issues related to women, farmer exchange programs and Water. Other members of the group involved in the Chennai project are Lalit Vikamshi, Aditi Bhattad, Tanmay Joshi working with watershed management in farming, working with farmers and weavers.

Project: Community Intervention



In their project they connect schools in Chennai as the main actors with people from different backgrounds like local artists, social workers, farmers, urban gardeners, performers, thinkers, lawyers, architects and relevant organizations. Throughout the month they will be enabling workshops, field visits, performances and a symposium in order to create land arts as the central medium of expressing what Chennai's waterbodies mean to the participants and how to make them visible. The outcome will be presented and documented in the exhibition and serves as a possible post-project sustainable work on the matter.

LAYOUT COLLECTIVE

Profile: started in 2010, New Delhi/India.

Layout is a location based 'aesthetic construction' that interrogates the standard engineered urban interior space. This partnership seeks to transform and mutate the typical architectural process using four distinct approaches. The resulting convergence of these four unique eccentricities, functions as one self-contained artwork and the product of the interaction is a source of discovery for both the artists and the audience. The members of the collective are M Pravat, a visual artist based in New Delhi, Navid Tschopp an Iranian Swiss artist, Sayantan Maitra Boka an architect, scenographer and curator based in Kolkata and Susanta Mandal, a kinetic artist based in New Delhi.



Project: Sound Shower - On-site Installation with wood, steel, audio devices

Sound Showers are a series of structures which will take one on an audio journey along a trail on the river. It is to help reconstruct the space and the mood of a death sequence, to remember and recollect the memories of the river through various sounds, songs, poems and literary texts.

The installation is a complete aural journey for the listener. The medium of sound is in Tamil and English.

MISCHA KUBALL

Profile: *1959 in Düsseldorf /Germany, lives and works in Düsseldorf /Germany.

Mischa Kuball uses light as a medium to explore architectural spaces as well as social and political discourses and reflects on a whole variety of aspects from sociocultural structures to architectural interventions as well as emphasizing or reinterpreting their monumental nature and context in architectural history. Public and private space merge into an indistinguishable whole in politically motivated participation projects, providing a platform for communication between the audience, the artist, the work itself and public space.



Project: University Of Rivers – On-site Installation

The light installation of the German concept artist thought about the river as a database of knowledge, storing information and insights ranging from the river's water – its current, color, and pollution – to the people who live in slums at its shores. All of which that should be taken as a starting point when considering strategies to shape the future. A provocative statement and loving gesture in once, handing the river back its dignity.

PARVATHI NAYAR

Profile: *1964, lives and works in Chennai/India.

Parvathi Nayar is a multidisciplinary artist, combining complex drawings with video, photography and installation. She engages with external and internal spaces, the environment, and their various philosophical inhabitations. Parvathi is also a writer, poet, and commentator on contemporary culture. She was a Tedx-Chennai speaker (“Seeing the world through Different Lenses”, 2016).

Project: Reimagined River - Kolum Installation with drawing and objects



The showcased installation Invite/Refuse is a sort of final, reified iteration of Reimagined River. At its centre is a large floor drawing or kolam, which through its form and “traditional’ position near the entrance, speaks of invitation and celebration. But at the same time, Invite/Refuse is a reminder of how we degrade the rivers that sustain us: it is created out of garbage collected around the mouth of the Adyar River.

This art work will be underlined and echoed in the rhythms of six ceramic pieces and a series of drawings of algae and diatoms.

RAUMLABOR

Francesco Apuzzo with Ryan Kelso Lewis and Nick Förster

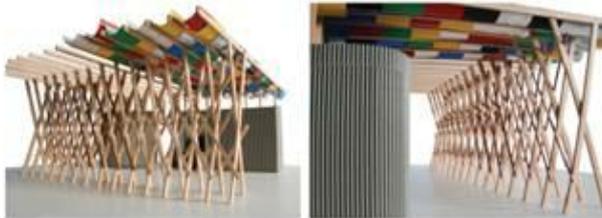
Profile: Francesco Apuzzo *1972 in Naples/Italy, lives and works in Berlin/Germany

Francesco Apuzzo is a trained architect and member of *raumlabor*, a collective of architects and artists founded in 1999 in Berlin.

Their work often deals with temporary interventions aiming to establish structures for long-term processes and dialogues. They focus on the question of what social coexistence can look like. In this context, they are interested in modes such as community participation and the use of onsite resources. The main interest of *raumlabor* are projects that foster new communities and encourage them to become active themselves.

Project: OF THE FIRST WATER – On-site Installation/Pavilion

Francesco Apuzzo, working with the German architect collective *raumlabor* designed a temporary architecture, which was supposed to serve as the initiation and terminal point of the unrealized Public Art exhibition at Marina Beach. Additionally, educational and cultural programs had been planned to be held in the proposed Pavilion for the duration of the project and in the following months.



The initial proposal will be showcased at DAMnedArt along with the artist's statement.

ROHINI DEVASHER

Profile: *1978, lives and works in Dehli/India.

Rohini Devasher's complex and visually stunning practice explores the threshold of art, science and fiction using video, drawing, and printmaking to create forms which pulsate with primordial life, as precursors to a futuristic space. Her works have been exhibited very widely including at the Fukuoka Asian Art Triennial (2014) and the Kochi-Muziris Biennial (2012). She was recipient of the Forbes India Young Contemporary Artist of the Year Award (2014) and the Skoda Breakthrough Artist Award (2013).

Project: Bloom - Video Installation



Bloom is a large video work that will re-populate the Coovum's Estuary in Chennai with Diatoms. The work is envisioned to be projected off the Napier Bridge onto the black dark waters below, where for a brief time at least, artificially generated diatoms, hugely magnified, will once again swim through the waters. Charting a journey of artificial evolution, 'Bloom' will explore the generative possibilities of video feedback, offering insights into the intricacy lurking within nature's processes.

SUYEON YUN

Profile:

Suyeon Yun's recent work mostly focuses on water, food, and security. She uses photography to record the traces of disasters in people's everyday lives. She participated in the Water Bodies residency in Chennai in 2013/14 initiated by InKo Centre, the Indo-Korean Cultural Centre.

Project: Coming Forest and Before the Rain – Video Installation

The project work features two videos accompanied by a photo installation, which were produced in the Kubuqi dessert (2016) and in Chennai (2017). The first one depicts the Kubuqi dessert in central Mongolia, where a forest had been restored initiated by the planting of a tree through a Korean NGO. The second one tells the story of a "Tree Woman" from Chennai, who decided to plant a tree along the coastline as a living memorial for the loss caused by the Tsunami in 2004, as well as a way to bring about a reconstruction of the coastal ecosystem. Being presented next to each other, they both underline the urgency of forming an awareness towards restoring wild life in the context of global environmental issues and the dramatic changes preceding them.



BENJAMIN APPL & ABHISHEK RAGHURAM

Two outstanding young vocalists from Germany and India, coming from completely different music traditions, will unite in a concert dedicated to nature and rivers

09 February 2018 | 7.00 pm | Lalit Kala Akademi

Benjamin Appl – Baritone | Simon Lepper – Piano | Abhishek Raghuram – Carnatic Vocal
(accompanied by Mridangam and Violin)



It will be the first time that a protagonist of Carnatic music accompanied by South Indian instruments will perform alongside the German “Kunstlied” (art song) accompanied on the grand piano, in a concert dedicated to nature and rivers.

Charismatic and perceptive, young German baritone Benjamin Appl has been hailed as one of the finest of the new generation of Lieder singers – for his seductive expressiveness, his honeyed voice and his astonishing balance of power and sensitivity.

He had the good fortune to be mentored by one of the greatest German singers, Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau. His BBC Proms debut was in September 2015 singing with Marion Alsup and the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, and Orff’s Carmina Burana with the BBC Concert. Benjamin Appl has performed at Carnegie Hall among many others and works closely together with important pianists. In Chennai he will be accompanied on the piano by Simon Lepper.

Abhishek Raghuram is an Indian Carnatic vocalist. Hailing from a family of legendary musicians, Abhishek started learning the mridangam from his grandfather, Sri Palghat Raghu, then moved on to vocal training under Vidwan P. S. Narayanaswamy. In 1999, he gave his first international concert tour in the U.S with his grandfather. Today, Abhishek having been conferred many awards is one of the most heard Carnatic vocalists in India and abroad. Possessing a combination of virtuosity, aesthetics and intellect, Abhishek has created a new genre in the field of music that, according to critics is “food for the intellect, mind, heart and soul”. He could very well be on his way to creating a new Gharana, something that could have a big impact in the Indian music world.

SOLO RECITAL

BY BENJAMIN APPL – FRANZ SCHUBERT: DIE SCHÖNE MÜLLERIN

11 February 2018 | 6.30 pm | Lalit Kala Akademi

Benjamin Appl – Baritone | Simon Lepper – Piano

Die schöne Müllerin ("The Lovely Maid of the Mill") is a famous song cycle by the Austrian composer Franz Schubert (1797 - 1828) based on poems by the German poet Wilhelm Müller (1794 -1827, actually the father of Friedrich Max Mueller who gave the Goethe Institutes in Indian their name). Considered one of Schubert's masterpieces it is a pinnacle of German Lied (art song), widely performed and recorded. Schubert set most of the poems to music with only 26 years of age. The songs move from joy to despair and tragedy. Much of the dramatic expression is on the piano so that it cannot be seen as a mere accompaniment to the singer but as music in its own right.

Simon Lepper read music at King's College, Cambridge before studying collaborative piano with Michael Dussek at the Royal Academy of Music in London. Specialising in song accompaniment, he has collaborated with acclaimed singers like Karen Cargill, Stéphane Degout, Angelika Kirchsclager, Sally Matthews. He performs extensively in venues around the world including Carnegie Hall, the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, the Frick Collection New York, Frankfurt Opera and the Wigmore Hall. Currently he is professor of piano accompaniment and a vocal repertoire coach at the Royal College of Music, London.



NALANDAWAY

16 February 2018 | 6.00 pm | Lalit Kala Akademi

Nalandaway Foundation uses visual and performing Arts to help children from disadvantaged communities in India helping them raise their voices and issues through theatre, visual arts, music, dance, radio and films. Their endeavor is to improve learning abilities, reinforce positive behavior and help children soar high by enabling them to be creative and express through Arts.

Chennai Children's Choir is a cherished initiative of NalandaWay that has children from the disadvantaged homes in Chennai forming a world class choir. They with all their enthusiasm and passion will render songs under the theme of water, ecology and nature, especially for Embrace Our Rivers.



MALLIPOO AND THE ALWAS FEAT. SOFIA ASHRAF

17 February 2018 | 5.30 pm | Lalit Kala Akademi

Mallipoo and The Alwas are an indie Tamil band whose self-proclaimed genre is "singable Tamil melodies". The combination of carnatic trained Suren Vikas' original tunes with Sofia Ashraf's tamil rap makes for a unique new sound.



Their songs cover topics ranging from farmers' issues and consumerism to being jobless millennials.

Sofia Ashraf has been given many labels - Burqa Rapper, Activist, Rebel. But she considers herself simply a Content Creator. She was the co-founder of Muslim Youth Culture and the co-founder of Madras Jam Association. She has rapped for the likes of Grammy Award winning music composer - A.R. Rahman. At the age of 22 she gave up her traditional Islamic beliefs and set out to discover her own set of ideals. At the age of 23, she moved to Mumbai on a journey of self-actualization and the rest has been history.

She has been creating songs about social issues since 2008 through the platform of Justice Rocks. She has written songs about Industrial Pollution, Moral Policing, Tamil Nadu's Power Deficit and the like. She was recently in the news for her protest video about the mercury poisoning in Kodaikanal that went viral in August 2015.

She quit her job at Ogilvy & Mather, Mumbai after 5 years of working as a copywriter to pursue her passion in Content Creation. She currently focuses on creating content for YouTube and Social Media.

KARTHICK IYER LIVE !

presents Two Sides of Karma

02 March 2018 | 6.30 pm | Lalit Kala Akademi

Karthick Iyer - Violin

Vikram Vivekanand – Guitar

Reshwin Nishith - Bass Guitar

Sumesh Narayanan - Mridangam and Percussion

Ramkumar Kanakarajan - Drums



The coming together of an electric violin, a mridangam, an acoustic guitar, bass and drums along with vocals form the core of the fusion music band, Karthick Iyer Live!

IndoSoul' s third album, 2 Sides of Karma, takes you on a journey through the highs and lows that the ancient Indian concept of Karma subjects our lives to. The emotions conveyed through the songs explore both the good and bad side of the ever-prevailing Karma. Being universal in nature, Karma derives its powers from the cosmic energy that prevails over the whole universe. Natural phenomena like rivers, seas and other forms of ecology are all affected by the same forces that act on humans. Hence it's relevant for us to look at the life cycles of these natural phenomenon in the same light as we do with our own lives and strive to work towards the betterment of nature as we work towards making our own lives better.

After all it is good Karma!

Karthick Iyer Live! has entertained diverse audiences at renowned music festivals, large classical sabhas, intimate pubs and packed college concerts, with their soulful compositions, fresh sounds and infectious vibe.

TRIO BENARES.....

Exciting !.....Virtuosic !.....Sensual !.....Beautiful !

04 March 2018 | 6.30 pm | Lalit Kala Akademi

Deobrat Mishra – Sitar

Prashant Mishra – Tabla

Roger Hanschel – Saxophone



“The way Hanschel takes his lifelong experience of jazz improvisation and respectfully links it with the modal characteristics of the Indian tradition – this must be called unique.” (*FAZ, May 23, 2016*)

As part of a 7th generation musical family, sitar player Deobrat Mishra has reached a prominent place amongst his peers. He is no doubt one of the most energetic and innovative sitar artists of India. Selectivity, melody and rhythmic complexity are typical features in his lively playing style. In collaboration with his nephew Prashant Mishra, a rising star among Indian tabla players, the Mishras form a perfect unit.

Roger Hanschel, surely one of the most extravagant, multifaceted saxophone players and composers of contemporary jazz, communes with the sensual and brilliant sound of Deobrat Mishra’s sitar. In turn, Hanschel’s rhythmic finesse finds its equivalent in the virtuosic tabla playing of Prashant Mishra. While steeped in tradition, Trio Benares brings freshness to both musical styles.

“In his new band, Roger Hanschel seeks an encounter with North Indian classical music. His trio Benares plays with a temperament and a virtuosity that can rip a listener out of his or her seat. Lightning fast themes, rousing solos, clever innovations – we haven’t heard such a convincing Indo-jazz project for a long time.” (*Jazzthetik, July-August/2016*)

TRASHedy – A piece by Performing Group

Choreographed awareness performance

03 February 2018 | 7.00 pm | Lalit Kala Akademi

Leandro Kees – Concept, Choreography

Constantin Hochkeppel, Conrad Kausch, Marie-Lena – Dance, Dramaturgy

Martin Rascher – Sound Design

Bon Iver, Jamie Woon, Ja Panik, Edd Kalehoff, Tom Jobim, Martin Rasher – Music

Leandro Kees, Martin Rascher – Video

How many plastic cups do you use in the course of your life? The degree of our daily consumption and its link to environmental destruction is well known – yet, despite or even because of this – this play aims to generate reflection on our own actions and to raise awareness for environmental protection.

With the aid of dance, animated pictures and sound effects Leandro Kees reenacts the origin of the world and tells the story of our awkward evolution in a humorous and vivid manner. In collaboration with performer Daniel Matheus and composer Martin Rascher, he takes a hard and honest look at our “ecological intelligence” and creates a vision of the future wherein he puts one’s own freedom of choice and the pursuit of happiness at centre stage.

TRASHedy uses language in different ways, as written text and voice over and can be adapted to any verbal language.

Performing Group is a production ensemble focusing on the research and development of new formats of staged work.



WATER PRINCESS BY THEATRE NISHA

25 February 2018 | 6.30 pm | Lalit Kala Akademi



5 Actors on Stage

Water Princess is a fairy tale for young minds. It tells the tale of an angry princess, who wishes to leave the Earth, upset with all the waste and misuse of water.

But what will Earth do without water? So starts an adventure of three clowns who try to find ways to please her.

Whether they succeed or fail is what the tale is all about.

WORKSHOP: THE CIRCLE OF LIFE AND THINGS

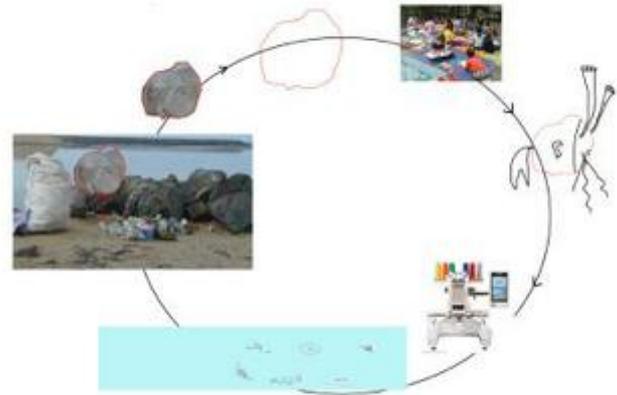
in cooperation with Care Earth Trust, Environmentalist Foundation of India and Rotary Club of Madras East

An Art and Environment workshop for School Children
Concept by Anna Witt

31 January – 28 February 2018 | Lalit Kala Akademi

Workshops will be conducted with the help of an educational team and a biologist with the background knowledge of the special ecological situation of the Cooum River and its current state. Kids will go on an excursion to see the river, and to observe existing life forms. Drawings will be developed at the Lalit Kala Akademi after the outdoor excursion.

Workshop by Dr.R.J.Ranjit Daniels, Ecologist, Care Earth Trust.



WORKSHOP: MAPPING WATER IN CHENNAI - THE FUTURE IN OUR HANDS

in cooperation with Urban Design Collective

10 February 2018 | 3.00 pm | Lalit Kala Akademi

About the Workshop

Urban Design Collective (UDC) is a collaborative platform for architects, urban designers and planners to create livable cities through participatory planning.

Within the broader agenda of creating livable cities, specific issues that they focus on include:

- Improving walkability
- Improving the quality of the public realm & built environment
- Improving livability of neighbourhoods
- Improving awareness on sustainable development
- Improving community engagement

'MAPPING WATER IN CHENNAI - THE FUTURE IN OUR HANDS' is a workshop for various stakeholder groups with the aim of arriving at recommendations for improved protection and management of our water resources.

The workshop will be designed to yield results at many levels- design & planning, technological, governance, innovations and engineering.

For registration to the workshop please contact: Vidhya Mohankumar | urbandesigncollective@gmail.com

URBAN
DESIGN
COLLECTIVE

Friday, 02 February 2018

- 6:00 PM Opening Ceremony with Jalatharangam followed by Welcome addresses
- Panel discussion with the curators Florian Matzner and Ravi Agarwal, and the artists Anna Witt, Arunkumar, Gigi Scaria, Mischa Kuball, Parvathi Nayar, Shweta Bhattad
- Guided tour by curators Florian Matzner and Ravi Agarwal

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- 7:00 PM Theatre: TRASHedy

Sunday, 04 February 2018

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- 6:00 PM Artist talk by Gigi Scaria
- 7:00 PM Film: Danube – Europe's Amazon

Thursday, 08 February 2018

- 7:00 PM Film: Neerundu Nilamundu

Friday, 09 February 2018

- 7:00 PM Music: Benjamin Appl and Abhishek Raghuram

Saturday, 10 February 2018

- 3:00 PM WORKSHOP: Mapping water in Chennai - The future in our hands
- 7:00 PM Films: • Small dams, Big problems
• Aghanashini

Sunday, 11 February 2018

- 5:00 PM Discussion: Let's Talk Lakes by EFI
- 6:30 PM Music: Benjamin Appl and Simon Lepper

Friday, 16 February 2018

- 6:00 PM Music/Dance: Chennai Choir - NalandaWay
- 7:30 PM Films: • Keepers of the Water
• Yangtze Drift
• River or Sewer: The Story of Vrishabhavathy River in Bengaluru, Southern India

Saturday, 17 February 2018

- 10:00 AM WORKSHOP: Thinking on Water - A solution
- 4:00 PM Talk: Community and River Rejuvenation
by Dr. Rajendra Singh
- 5:30 PM Music: Mallipoo and the Alwas Feat. Sofia Ashraf
- 7:00 PM Films: • Arkavathy: A Changing Waterscape
• DAM'NED

Sunday, 18 February 2018

- 7:00 PM Film: Kakoos

Friday, 23 February 2018

- 6:00 PM Talk: Mediocrity in urban pockets. Polluted waters and
polluting people by Arun Krishnamurthy
- 7:00 PM Film: Thaneer, Thaneer

Saturday, 24 February 2018

- 5:30 PM Book Presentation and Reading by Helmut Schippert:
A. Ghosh - The Great Derangement
- 6:30 PM Films: • Rising
• Beyond the Surface

Sunday, 25 February 2018

- 6:30 PM Theatre: Water Princess

Thursday, 01 March 2018

- 7:00 PM Films: • Chennai's Lakes
• Rivers - A timeline of Life to Death

Friday, 02 March 2018

- 6:30 PM Music: Karthik Iyer Live! - Two sides of Karma

Saturday, 03 March 2018

- 5:00 PM Talk: Urban Greening Challenges...A Sharing
by Shoba Menon
- 6:00 PM Artist Talk by Ooze Architects
- 7:00 PM Films: • Potomac - The river runs through us
• DAMN the Dams

Sunday, 04 March 2018

- 5:30 PM Book Launch: Public Art and River Ecology (ed. R. Agarwal,
F. Matzner, H. Schippert / Goethe-Institut) with artists
Parvathi Nayar, Ooze Architects and guests
- 6:30 PM Music: Trio Benares

02 February - 04 March 2018

- Ongoing Chennai Water Quiz

31 January - 28 February 2018

- 10:00 AM Workshop: THE CIRCLE of LIFE and THINGS



LET'S TALK LAKES : A PARTICIPATORY MODERATED SESSION ON TALKING ABOUT LAKES OF CHENNAI BY ARUN KRISHNAMOORTHY

in cooperation with Environmentalist Foundation of India

11 February 2018 | 5.00 pm | Lalit Kala Akademi

All of us have a lake story to share. It's your turn to speak for your Lake. Tell us your lake story in this moderated session; let's make your Lake famous probably that will help save it instantly.

Environmentalist Foundation of India is a wildlife conservation and habitat restoration group working out of 9 centers in India. We focus on real-time and result oriented conservation efforts. We have been focusing on reviving fresh water habitats.

EFI will organize a written "Chennai Water" quiz for all visitors throughout the duration of the exhibition from 2 February to 4 March at Lalit Kala Akademi

WORKSHOP: THINKING ON WATER - A SOLUTION

in cooperation with OpenAct Foundation

17 February 2018 | 10.00 – 11.30 am | Lalit Kala Akademi

OpenAct Foundation was launched in July 2017 with the mission to spark new ways for a collaborative development between society and the planet. It is a learning platform that holds and facilitates discussions of global challenges and sets it in a local context.

OpenAct Foundation offers a platform for these learning spaces in order for experts, influencers and students to come together to solve these challenges.

In taking part in a 90 minute OpenAct session participants will be able to gain:

- High-quality content
- Facilitated learning sessions focused on improving learning outcomes
- An environment designed for collaborative solutions thinking
- Open and fun space to meet like-minded people.

If the way we learn about social and environmental challenges of our times is improved by exchanging and sharing both global and local perspectives, it will improve the way we collaborate to solve these challenges.

For registration contact: Mathew Jose, Mathew@paperman.in

COMMUNITY AND RIVER REJUVENATION A TALK BY DR. RAJENDRA SINGH

17 February 2018 | 4.00 pm | Lalit Kala Akademi



Dr. Rajendra Singh, "the Water Man of India", is a social activist working on water and river issues in India. Over the last 30 years he has worked towards harnessing the power of traditional methods of conserving water. His application of this unique strategy of community-driven, decentralized water management & conservation has regenerated healthy, prosperous communities; strengthened democracy and political transparency; changed paradigm of water and climate change adaptation.

Some of the awards he has won include Stockholm Water Prize, also known as "the Nobel Prize for Water" and the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award for Community Leadership.



MEDIOCRITY IN URBAN POCKETS POLLUTED WATERS AND POLLUTING PEOPLE A TALK BY ARUN KRISHNAMOORTHY

in cooperation with Environmentalist Foundation of India

23 February 2018 | 6.00 pm | Lalit Kala Akademi

Polluted air, contaminated water.

A lifestyle to blame, a life that pays the price.

Are we settling for mediocrity in modern India?

Environmentalist Foundation of India is a wildlife conservation and habitat restoration group working out of 9 centers in India. We focus on real-time and result oriented conservation efforts. We have been focusing on reviving fresh water habitats.



URBAN GREENING CHALLENGES...A SHARING A TALK BY SHOBA MENON

in cooperation with Nizhal

03 March 2018 | 5.00 pm | Lalit Kala Akademi

Nizhal, a Trust founded in September 2005, focuses on sensitive greening to restore biodiversity of dwindling green spaces in urban areas with an emphasis on sustained community participation. Community green spaces nurtured by residents can be showcased as pockets of excellence that radiate into the extended neighbourhood!

To know more about Nizhal: www.nizhal.org | www.facebook.com/Nizhal.Shade | nizhal.shade@gmail.com

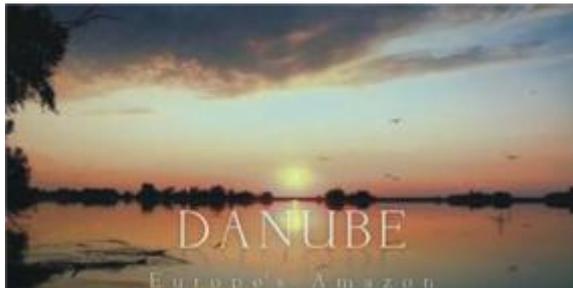


DANUBE – EUROPE'S AMAZON

Dir: Michael Schlamberger / Rita Schlamberger | 102 min. | 2012 | English

04 February 2018 | 7.00 pm | Lalit Kala Akademi

Romantic shores, wild nature, baroque art: one can barely escape from the fascination of the Danube. The groundbreaking two-part documentary by Rita and Michael Schlamberger shows unknown sides of a river that shapes an entire continent. Along the course of the Danube, nature rules over the lives of people. As the Danube passes different landscapes and climate zones, it changes its nature: contrasts between wilderness and high culture emerge in a unique mix. While part one gives an overview of the course of the Danube, part two shows the extreme faces between floods and frost.



NEERUNDU NILAMUNDU

Dir: Bala Kailasam | 102 min. | 2009 | Tamil

08 February 2018 | 7.00 pm | Lalit Kala Akademi

This film is about a group of engineers working in the water sector in Tamil Nadu who are engaged in a mission of change. Their avowed goal is the democratization of their functioning, to flow humbly to the lowest level, much like water, to reach the unreachable..



SMALL DAMS, BIG PROBLEMS

Dir: Suman Jumani, FERAL, funded by CEPF & The Rufford Foundation | 11 min. | 2017 | English

10 February 2018 | 7.00 pm | Lalit Kala Akademi

A short film on the rising concerns of small hydropower projects (SHPs) in India. While SHPs are touted as clean green energy projects, science questions otherwise.



AGHANASHINI

Dir: Ashwini Kumar Bhat | 41 min. | 2016 | English

10 February 2018 | 7.15 pm | Lalit Kala Akademi

A project about a river of the Western Ghats – “Aghanashini”, which is unique in the sense that it doesn't cross any industries along its path. Thus, so far it remains untamed and unpolluted by man.

As of now this film serves as a first to document the uniqueness of this river in its entire length and thereby aims to connect the general audience to the importance of saving a river eco system.



KEEPERS OF THE WATER

Dir: Liz Zetlin | 13 min. | 2013 | English

16 February 2018 | 7.30 pm | Lalit Kala Akademi

A lyrical docu-poem about women and water, narrated by Anishinabe poet and storyteller Lenore Keeshig. Filmmaker Liz Zetlin joined the Saugeen First Nations Annual Water Walk to Lake Huron and learned how in the Anishinabe tradition, women are responsible for caring for water. Through stories, music and song, Zetlin takes us back to the basics of why water is so important and must be cared for by everyone. As Ojibway healer and water walker Pauline Shirt says: "Everything is water. Everything."

To tell these stories, Zetlin uses the traditional Japanese poetic form, the Haibun, which combines prose and haiku.



YANGTZE DRIFT

Dir: John Rash | 27 min. | 2013 | English

16 February 2018 | 7.45 pm | Lalit Kala Akademi

This graceful and looping path along the Yangtze River allows reality to give way to kinetic abstractions in a contemporary city symphony film focused on Asia's longest river as an individual place. In beautiful black and white, this quiet and meditative river tour often confounds preconceptions while at the same time disputing the authenticity of the journey on which we have embarked. We experience life by the river through dancing, washing, and reflections all allowing us to consider the important role of water and the human condition.



RIVER OR SEWER

Realised by: ATREE Bangalore | 11 min. | 2016 | English

16 February 2018 | 8.15 pm | Lalit Kala Akademi

A short documentary on the Story of Vrishabhavathy in Bengaluru, Southern India, based on research on water quality in urban and peri-urban Bengaluru during 2011-16.



ARKAVATHY: A CHANGING WATERSCAPE

Realised by ATREE Bangalore | 9 min. | 2016 | English

17 February 2018 | 7.00 pm | Lalit Kala Akademi

TG Halli Reservoir on the Arkavathy River to the west of Bangalore was once the main source of water to Bangalore. Today, both inflows into the river and catchment tanks are drying.

Ultimately, this is a story of absent or fragmented institutions. Ground and surface water are a single interconnected resource and must be managed as such. We need watershed institutions that can regulate and allocate the available water resources in a fair and transparent fashion.



DAM'NED

Dir: Saraswati Kavula | 72 min. | 2012-13 | English

17 February 2018 | 7.15 pm | Lalit Kala Akademi

For the Adivasi communities of Khammam, East Godavari and West Godavari districts in AP and Kunta block in Chattisgarh and Motu Block in Orrissa, life has become uncertain, since the government's decision to commence the construction of the Polavaram Dam.



KAKKOOS

Dir: Divya Bharathi | 108 min. | 2016 | Tamil with English Subtitles

18 February 2018 | 7.00 pm | Lalit Kala Akademi

The documentary, shot in 25 districts for over a year, conveys the message that even though manual scavenging was banned in India in 2013 it continues to exist and conservancy workers are involved in removing human waste. The film is dedicated to those who maintain a "false silence on manual scavenging".



THANEER, THANEER

Dir: K. Balachander | 143 min. | 1981 | Tamil

23 February 2018 | 7.00 pm | Lalit Kala Akademi

A small village in Tamil Nadu faces water scarcity. The film highlights the plight of the villagers and the sufferings they endure at the hands of bureaucrats when they try to resolve their problem.



RISING

Dir: Jana Richter | 8 min. | 2014 | German with English subtitles

24 February 2018 | 6.30 pm | Lalit Kala Akademi

Magdeburg, Germany – a town whose inhabitants don't walk on water but through it.

This documentary captures the aftermath of the flood disaster in Magdeburg, Germany in 2013.



BEYOND THE SURFACE

Dir: Crystal Thornburg-Homcy, David Homcy | 46 min. | 2012-13 | English

24 February 2018 | 6.45 pm | Lalit Kala Akademi

Ishta Malaviya, India's first female surfer, is joined by a unique and talented group of women- Crystal Thornburg-Homcy, Lauren Hill, Emi Koch, Kate Baldwin, and Liz Clark. They travel through Southern India documenting the ways in which surfing, yoga, and ecological creativity are bringing hope and fueling change for local people and the planet.

Beyond The Surface touches upon eco-tourism, youth and women's empowerment, biocentrism, and personal growth along with the pursuit of India's perfect waves.

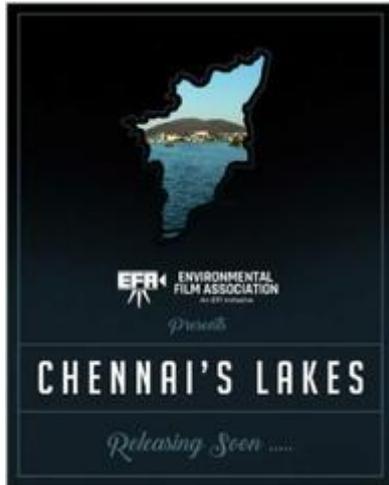


CHENNAI'S LAKES

Dir: Nils Helmecke & Vignesh Mahesh on behalf of Environmental Film Association | 20 min. | 2016 | English

01 March 2018 | 7.00 pm | Lalit Kala Akademi

Urban lakes often bare the the brunt of human greed. A lake as a habitat and its role in quenching the thirst of millions is neglected. Chennai's Lakes is a real life documentation on the need to conserve the urban lakes of the Indian subcontinent.



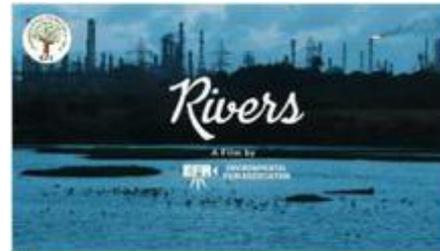
RIVERS – A TIMELINE OF LIFE TO DEATH

Realised by Environmental Film Association | 20 min. | 2017 | English

01 March 2018 | 7.30 pm | Lalit Kala Akademi

The Film takes you on journey from origin to culmination of three prestigious rivers in the Indian subcontinent.

Human settlements turned in to civilisation of the modern world thanks to our rivers. The rapid decline and degradation of fresh water streams across the world could very well be the final nail in the coffin for humanity.



POTOMAC: THE RIVER RUNS THROUGH US

Dir: Peggy Fleming and Sean Furmage | 27 min. | 2012 | English

03 March 2018 | 7.00 pm | Lalit Kala Akademi

Most of the six million people living in the Potomac River watershed do not realize that their drinking water comes from the Potomac. Since the Clean Water Act passed in 1972, the health of the river has improved. However, it is still in trouble and faces a number of serious threats: urban development, population growth and runoff from farms, pharmaceuticals and chemicals. The film follows the flow of the Potomac water from its origin, into people's homes and businesses and back into the river. We become aware of the need to protect this essential resource and of how the wellbeing and that of future generations is intertwined with the health of the Potomac.



DAMN THE DAMS

Dir: Osman Sisman, Özlem Sariyildiz | 46 min. | 2012 | Turkish with English subtitles

03 March 2018 | 7.30 pm | Lalit Kala Akademi

Damn the Dams is an intriguing documentary about the ongoing legal and physical struggles of the inhabitants of the village of Bagbasi in Erzurum, an Eastern city of Turkey, against the power plant to be built in their village. It is one of the most inspiring Turkish documentaries of 2012.



THE FOLLOWING SHORT FILMS WILL BE SHOWN AS PART OF THE EXHIBITION

DROP BY DROP

Dir: Ahona Datta Gupta | 5 min. | 2013 | English

Water crisis is one of the biggest challenges the world is facing today. In order to conserve and sustain this precious resource, one must learn to value it right from childhood. 'Drop by Drop' is targeted at middle school students, and seeks to educate them on how small practices in their everyday life can help save large amounts of water.

THE BATTLE FOR WATER

Dir: Atul Pagar on behalf of WOTR | 5 min. | 2014 | English

People from 11,000 villages across India (2013) don't just read "DROUGHT!" as breaking news in their newspapers; they actually live every second of it. This short movie depicts a village, Bantakali, District -Jalna (not a watershed region) suffering from extreme drought conditions and in desperate need of help.

WATER – A CRISIS UNFOLDING

Dir: Atul Pagar on behalf of WOTR | 4 min. | 2014 | English

This short documentary depicts water scarcity in villages in Maharashtra and Rajasthan, and the struggles faced by its inhabitants.

MAKING DROUGHT A MEMORY

Dir: Atul Pagar on behalf of WOTR | 5 min. | 2014 | English

Drought has hit Marathwada. Farmers who have invested lakhs of rupees planting their orchids have to see them get cut and thrown away. Four kilometers from this village there is a watershed village called Kachner Tanda. This village tells a completely different story...



BLACK WATER

Dir: Karlos Alastruey | 4 min. | 2013 | English



The film chronicles the cycle of water from a river: Starting with the moment the river is tainted by hazardous materials, concluding where that very water ends up inside the body of a human being.

RAINWATER HARVESTING

Dir: Nandita Das | 2 min. | 2013 | English

Commissioned by the Centre for Science and Environment, this public service spot, aims to create an interest in rainwater harvesting. It uses a lyrical approach to communicate an environmental solution which is often inaccessible due to its technical nature. The response to the spot has been overwhelming - by both the audiences and the critics.

THE STORY OF ADYAR

Dir: Siddharth Muralidharan | 26 min. | 2016 | English

In association with Goethe Institut, Chennai

“The Story of Adyar” looks into the environmental issues faced by Adyar River, tracing it from its source to its entry into the Bay of Bengal. From sand mining to industries, the expansion of Chennai city, and illegal construction along its banks have not only choked the river but also jeopardize the livelihoods of people dependent on the river. This film provides glimpses of river restoration efforts done at the Adyar Poonga and contrasts it with the 2015 Chennai flood that swept across the city bringing it to a complete standstill.



CHEONGGYECHEON: RIVER HISTORY AND RESTORATION – A SEQUENCE

Provided by Dr. Yang, Yoon-Yae, Senior Adviser of Korea Rural Community Corporation

As part of his presentation “Back to a future/Cheonggyecheon Restoration Project” at the Water Forum 2016

3:15 min. | 2014

During the period of economic growth in 1970s it was decided to cover the Cheonggyecheon and build an elevated highway in its place. The idea of restoring the river was the result of reflections on how to revitalize the old town of Seoul and make it more sustainable. Many oppositions had to be overcome and the constraints had to be cleared through the restoration work before the stream was opened to the public in September 2005 and was lauded as a major success in urban renewal and beautification.

BOOK PRESENTATION AND READING

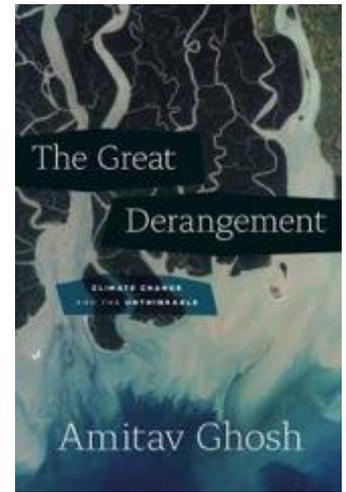
The Great Derangement. Climate Change and the Unthinkable (Amitav Ghosh, 2016)
BY HELMUT SCHIPPERT

24 February 2018 | 5.30 pm | Lalit Kala Akademi

This book has deeply touched and influenced me while working on the theme of urban water", says Helmut Schippert. "In fact it is one of the few books which have changed my life. Shock and revelation at the same time!" In his review Gopalkrishna Gandhi calls it "a book on our burning planet for those who are burning it and are being burnt with it." Haunting words about a haunting book! The profoundly disturbing in Ghosh's masterpiece is the apparent impasse of our modern culture and society. Not even the most imaginative forces like writers and artists are able to find words and forms for what is humanity's biggest challenge.

Ghosh shows how Asia plays a double role as victim and actor of climate change. Victim as it is most vulnerable. In India and Bangladesh alone more than 100 million people might have to migrate due to rising sea levels. Actor because Asia's late but fast industrialization has enormously accelerated climate change, also bringing to light that the western model of life is only for a small minority on earth.

Ghosh's most stunning explanation of the state of torpor we are caught in is the uncanniness of climate change. Nature somehow knocks at our door and fights back. "...the events set in motion by global warming ... are the mysterious work of our own hands returning to haunt us in unthinkable shapes and forms".



LAUNCH OF THE BOOK - PUBLIC ART AND RIVER ECOLOGY

(ed. R. Agarwal, F. Matzner, H. Schippert / Goethe-Institut) with artists Parvathi Nayar, Ooze Architects, authors and guests

04 March 2018 | 5.00 pm | Lalit Kala Akademi

The Embrace Our Rivers – DAMnedART project comes to an end after for weeks. Conceived as a public art project along the Cooum Estuary at Marina Beach, it could not be realized in its original form as site permission was not given for over two years. Public space is contested – Public Art contests.

13 well-known artists from India, Europe and South Korea, have developed their ideas and concepts for the rivers and the urban landscape. What would have been experienced at the river banks was shown in a different form in an exhibition space enriched by manifold cultural programmes. The artistic ideas though conceived and presented site-specifically in Chennai are relevant worldwide. A book in two parts – the first one with a focus on Public Art and the second one on Urban River Ecology – will give the possibility to share the Chennai experience with a broader interested public. Essays on Public Art and the imperative to re-imagine and build new relationships between the non-human and human spheres give the first part of the book a deeper dimension and allow lasting insights..

WATER MAPPING - March 2015

- 94 interviews with citizens at 49 places in Chennai on their water supply.
- Tests on the quality of water.



URBAN WATER EXHIBITION: 26.2. – 13.3.2016

- 15 PHOTOGRAPHERS
- 8-10.000 VISITORS
- > 100 MEDIA COVERAGE
- The 15 participants of the Urban Water Workshop created a collection of works on water in Chennai. The photographs were displayed at Light House MRTS Train Station on the extremely polluted Buckingham Canal.



TWO VISITORS PROGRAMMES OF 23 INDIAN EXPERTS > GERMANY AND THE NETHERLANDS

Visits to river restoration and water projects enabled group discussions and initiated new thoughts and approaches. Rather than exchange of technical expertise, they highlighted the ecological, political, cultural and social backgrounds of the water situations in big cities.



CHENNAI WATER FORUM: 6.– 8.10.2016

- 16 INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS
- 26 PRESENTATIONS
- 9 PANEL DISCUSSIONS
- 50 SPEAKERS FROM INDIA, KOREA & GERMANY
- CONCERTS & POETRY READINGS
- 700 PARTICIPANTS



WATER WALK@THON: OCTOBER 2016

70 SCHOOLS

5000 STUDENTS

65 MEDIA COVERAGE

Over 5000 students walked along the Marina Beach making a strong public statement that WATER matters to them.



WINGS TO FLY - STORYTELLING CONTEST (With Corporation Schools)

3000 PARTICIPANTS

400 SEMI FINALISTS

32 FINALISTS

8 WINNERS

ONE WEEK TRIP TO HAMBURG AND BERLIN

A program of Goethe-Institut Chennai In cooperation with the Rotary Club of Madras East and 70 Corporation Schools in Chennai.



SCIENCE FILM FESTIVAL: 06.10. - 18.12.2017

THEME: ANTHROPOCENE

The Science Film Festival is a celebration of science communication and enjoys a unique position in Southeast Asia, North Africa and the Middle East. In cooperation with local partners it promotes science literacy and facilitates awareness of contemporary scientific, technological and environmental issues through film and television content with accompanying educational activities.

In cooperation with the Rotary Club of Madras East and Corporation Schools



EXHIBITION: UMDENKEN - 14.10. - 02.11.2017

RETHINKING – LEARNING FROM NATURE

Our interactive exhibition aims to raise awareness of environmental themes, addressing young people in particular. It follows the four elements of water, fire, earth and air.





www.embraceourrivers.in



Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan
4, Rutland Gate 5th Street, Chennai 600 006
Ph: +91 44 2833 1314, 2833 2343
Mail: info@chennai.goethe.org

www.goethe.de/chennai | www.embraceourrivers.in
www.facebook.com/embraceourriverschennai