

THE PURSUIT OF KNOWLEDGE AT THE 'RAZA-SOUZA DIALOGUES'

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The pursuit of knowledge is a never-ending journey. It can be a very interesting, amusing and reflective experience. The various shades of knowledge one aspires to gain changes over a period of time. From childhood to adulthood, the interests and our pursuit to learn more adds colour and texture to one's life.

The dialogues conceived to be an ideational exchange between eminent artists and scholars of diverse disciplines will hold panel discussions between seemingly disparate arenas of art and expertise including contemporary visual art, literature, design and also art institutions & administration. The symposium curated by poet, art critic, cultural theorist, and writer Sabitha Satchi constitutes of four discussions between nine eminent artists and art institution builders from all over India.

The first dialogue will be between Oriji Sen and Wendell Rodricks and will be moderated by Sabitha Satchi on Feb 23. It will be a dialogue on art and design, the conversation would touch upon textile history, supporting local craftsperson and indigenous traditions as well as working with art and design collectives. Oriji's work as a graphic artist and novelist and Wendell's writings where art, design and writing intersect would also be a part of the discussion. This will be followed by another dialogue between Arundhati Ghosh, Suresh Jayaram & Subodh Kerkar also moderated by Sabitha Satchi. This conversation will focus on art institutions, the conversation would focus on India Foundation for the Arts as a patron for arts and ideas and 1 Shanti Road as a supporter of art projects and creator of archives. The importance of art institutions that support experimental work, community outreach and mentoring as well as the significance of artist-driven contemporary arts-institutions would be the highlights of the conversation.

On Sunday, Hemant Divate and Damodar Mauzo will have a conversation on the relationship between Marathi and Konkani literatures, writing and publishing in bhasha languages and the politics of bhasha literatures. The discussion will also touch upon the idea of writer as publisher and the role of the writer in today's times. This session will be moderated by

The Museum of Goa Foundation in collaboration with the Raza Foundation is organizing Raza - Souza Dialogues, a two-day symposium. Eminent artists and scholars will be part of the panel discussions that will take place over this weekend, February 23 and 24



Eminent artists and scholars who will be part of Raza-Souza Dialogues

Subodh Kerkar. The final dialogue will feature Jeet Thayil and Sabitha Satchi. A dialogue on the written word, Jeet Thayil would talk about Narcopolis, The Book of Chocolate Saints and his other published works. The conversation would also traverse through his process of research and writing for music. Sabitha Satchi would discuss her own work as poet/lyricist in Insurrections Ensemble: an Indian/South African poetry-music collaborative project. She will also talk about her poetry, music and transcontinental solidarity as well as writing in contemporary times.

Like the people who will feature in the dialogues, the curator has a distinguished track record. An Assistant Professor of English at the University of Delhi for fifteen years, Sabitha is an art critic, freelance curator, cultural theorist, poet, and writer. Born in Kerala, India, Sabitha was published at the age of fifteen by the eminent Malayalam poet Ayyappa Panikker, and writes and publishes in both English and Malayalam. Sabitha has been the recipient of several coveted fellowships and awards including the

Commonwealth Research Fellowship in Art History at UCL, London (2011-2017), the Paul Mellon Fellowship at Yale University, New Haven, U.S.A. (2014), and the Sarai-CSDS Independent Fellowship in Delhi (2003-2004). She has published several articles in journals and anthologies of literature, art, and

the humanities in English, and has presented papers on Indian art at many conferences worldwide, including Columbia University, New York; Warwick University, U.K.; the University of Oxford; Yale University, U.S.A.; C.S.S.S., Calcutta; Sarai-CSDS New Delhi; Delhi University and Goa University.

This festival of ideas is the brainchild of the Museum of Goa Foundation a charitable trust that endeavours to make contemporary art accessible to all and widen its reach to the masses. The foundation has been involved in propagating and nurturing art by organising seminars, lectures, debates, concerts, workshops and the implementation of art programmes with various artisan communities. It is partnered by the Raza Foundation, a arts and culture organization established by the master of Indian modern art Late Shri Sayed Haider Raza. The Foundation has been instrumental in creating spaces for various art and culture programs, publications and fellowships to the younger talent and also carrying a deeper research into the work of the masters.

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