

5th edition

# Lang Fest

**FEBRUARY 21,  
2025  
FRIDAY**

DakshinaChitra



The Living Museum



## CAMERA AS WITNESS



**RAM RAHMAN, PHOTOGRAPHER IN  
CONVERSATION WITH R V RAMANI**

**Feb 21, 2025, Friday, 11:30-12:30**

*Supported by*



*Collaborators*





# RAM RAHMAN

Ram Rahman (b.1955) is an Indian photographer, artist, curator, designer and activist based in Delhi. He was born in 1955 to Indrani Rahman, a classical Indian dancer, and Habib Rahman, a noted Indian architect. He initially studied physics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and later completed a degree in Graphic Design from Yale University's School of Art in 1979.

He is one of the founding members of the Safdar Hashmi Memorial Trust (SAHMAT) in New Delhi, a leader in the resistance to communal and sectarian forces in India through its public cultural action. Rahman is known for his street photographs of India and his environmental portraits. He has exhibited a number of his works in both solo and group shows and has curated several exhibitions. He has also published one book 'Bioscope: Scenes from an Eventful Life', (Bodhi Art, 2008) with Peter Nagy.

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# R V RAMANI

R.V.Ramani, 1957 born, is a graduate in Physics from Bombay University. In his college days, his passion for photography, made him take up photojournalism as his fulltime profession. Working in Bombay, his photographs and photo-features have been published in magazines, books, newspapers. After an assignment for still photography for an avant-garde, Hindi feature film, 'Pahela Adhyay', based on a story by CS Lakshmi, directed by Vishnu Mathur, which had Cinematography by Navroze Contractor, Ramani decided to study at the Film and TV Institute of India, Pune, graduating in 1985, with specialization in Motion Picture Photography. Since then he has been a cinematographer, collaborating with many directors.

From 1990, he also started making his own independent documentaries and short films, as avant-garde experimentation. He considers all his films as exploration into the various facets of expression. For him, "The only issue is the need to express and to reach an expression." With more than 30 independent films to his credit, he has established a very unique impressionistic, free-flowing style of his own. His films and retrospectives have been presented in many forums. Ramani also conducts filmmaking workshops at various film schools, in India. He lives and works from Chennai.

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# AI AND LANGUAGE



## MERU GOKHALE, HEMANTH B AND RAMESH ACHARYA IN CONVERSATION WITH JOHN XAVIER

*Feb 21, 2025, Friday 12:30-13:30*



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*Collaborators*



# MERU GOKHALE

Meru Gokhale is the founder of Editrix.ai, an innovative platform dedicated to redefining the world of content creation and editorial precision through cutting-edge artificial intelligence.

Before founding Editrix.ai, Meru held leadership roles in prestigious publishing houses, where she was instrumental in shaping award-winning literary works. Her ability to discover and nurture talent, combined with her editorial expertise, earned her a reputation as a thought leader in the publishing industry. She has worked closely with renowned authors and has an acute understanding of the nuances of creating compelling narratives that resonate with readers.

Meru's vision for Editrix.ai is rooted in her belief in the transformative power of technology to enhance creativity rather than replace it.

A passionate advocate for diversity in storytelling, Meru is committed to amplifying underrepresented voices. Through Editrix.ai, she aims to democratize access to professional-grade editorial tools, empowering creators across the globe.

## *Supported by*





# HEMANTH BHARATHA CHAKRAVARTHY

Hemanth Bharatha Chakravarthy is an AI scientist and the founder-CEO of [jhana.ai](http://jhana.ai). Trained as a social scientist with a passion for making complex systems more transparent, effective, and accessible, trained in Applied Math and Economics at Harvard and spent time in research and policy before founding India's first AI paralegal system. At jhana, he is transforming how legal information is discovered, scrutinized, and understood—both externally in precedents and regulation that affect the lives of people and businesses and internally in the sense of one's contracts and legal documents for the conduct of life and business.

Hemanth is also a writer and translator, and won the Charles Edmund Horman Prize for the best fiction-writer at Harvard. He conducted independent research in translation studies with the Harvard Tamil Chair. Before jhana and AI, Hemanth has panned as a quantitative researcher and policy analyst across government, philanthropic, and academic institutions, including stints at the RBI, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and as assistant to the Chief Economic Advisor, focusing on issues of state capacity, algorithmic public finance, and digital public health.

In rare bouts of free time, Hemanth is a Tamil cinema critique, hobbyist ethnographer, and is profoundly influenced by local politics, queer theory, and anti-caste ideas. Hemanth explores how language—whether expressed through policy, art, or code—can unlock social protection and resilience.

## *Supported by*



# RAMESH ACHARYA

Ramesh Acharya started their career in 2004 as an Assistant Art Director in the film industry, working under the guidance of renowned Art Director, Mr. Rajeevan, for seven years. During this time, [Your Name] contributed to several notable films, including February 14, Aathi, Vettaiyadu Vilaiyadu, Vallavan, and Varanam Aayiram, among others. In addition to their film work, they also gained experience in the advertising industry, working on over 250 ad films for prominent brands like Pothys, Chennai Silks, and Otto.

As Ramesh, honed their skills in poster design, storyboards, concept art, and pre-visualization, they founded R-Art Works, a VFX and animation company. The company specializes in cutting-edge technologies, including CG and graphics, to enhance movie-making. Some of the key VFX projects [Your Name] has worked on include Saithaan, RRR, Petta, Pichaikkaaran 1 & 2, and Radheshyam.

With a strong track record in both the film and advertising industries, [Your Name] has played a pivotal role in the success of many films, working alongside eminent directors and continuously pushing the boundaries of visual storytelling.

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# JOHN XAVIER

John Xavier is the technology editor and podcast host at The Hindu, where he writes about emerging trends in technology, shifts in business practices and tech policy. As host of 'The Interface' podcast, John connects with key industry leaders and opinion makers to get their perspectives on the dynamic world of business and technology.

John has also written for Bloomberg on India's shadow banking crisis, taxation, budget, market regulator's mutual fund policy, and mobile payment businesses.

Prior to taking an interest in writing and journalism, John built and ran leadership development initiatives at Mckinsey & Company. At the firm, he was part of several global teams and worked on people strategy, executive coaching, career mapping, alternative career path planning and executive transitions. He continues to make time for specific leadership development and career transition coaching programmes.

John is an alumnus of Tata Institute of Social Sciences (Mumbai), Asian College of Journalism (Chennai), and Loyola College (Chennai).

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# BEYOND DOCUMENTING

## ARTISTIC GLIMPSES IN DOCUMENTARIES



**RR SRINIVASAN, AMSHAN KUMAR, RAVI SUBRAMANIAN IN  
CONVERSATION WITH KUTTI REVATHI**

***Feb 21, 2025, Friday, 14:30-15:30***

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*Collaborators*





# R R SRINIVASAN

R.R. Srinivasan is a multifaceted filmmaker, photographer, and writer who has played a pivotal role in promoting the film appreciation movement in South India. Through his involvement in the film society movement and alternative film journals, he has made significant contributions to bringing serious cinema to a wider audience. Emerging from the Kanchanai Film Society in Thirunelveli, Srinivasan helped introduce non-metropolitan viewers to thought-provoking and impactful films.

He is also a guest lecturer on film, literature, and photography at various universities and colleges. In recent years, he has been exploring the intersection of cinema and visual anthropology, further expanding the boundaries of his creative work.

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# AMSHAN KUMAR

Amshan Kumar is an acclaimed Indian filmmaker and writer with a deep passion for cinema. His 2015 National Film Award-winning documentary, *Yazhpanan Thedchanamoorthy: Music Beyond Boundaries*, remains the only Tamil non-fiction film to earn a National Award in the past 17 years. A respected writer, his book *Cinema Rasanai*, a comprehensive guide to film appreciation, is widely used as a textbook in universities.

Amshan's debut feature film, *Oruththi*, was selected for the prestigious 2003 International Film Festival of India, where it was showcased in the Indian Panorama section. His second film, *Manusangada*, was screened at both the 39th Cairo International Film Festival and the 48th International Film Festival of India in 2017, further solidifying his reputation in global cinema. He has translated the famous Tamil biography of Subramania Bharati written by Va.Ra into English. It won the Kovai Bharati Pasarai award in 2023. Based in Chennai, Amshan continues to contribute significantly to the Indian and international film landscape.

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# RAVI SUBRAMANAIYAN

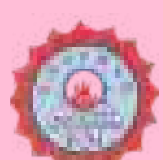
Ravi Subramanian is a distinguished poet, short story writer, essayist, lyricist, composer, and filmmaker. With a prolific literary career, he has authored six poetry collections, two essay collections, and four literary anthologies.

His poems, originally in Tamil, have been translated into eight languages, including English, French, Hindi, Bengali, Kannada, Malayalam, Telugu, and Oriya, gaining international recognition.

Over the years, he has received numerous prestigious awards, including the Honorary Emirates Literary Personality at Tamil University Thanjavur, the Ma. Aranganathan Lifetime Achievement Award instituted by Justice Mahadevan, the Tamil Nadu Government Best Book Award, and the Bharathiyar Poetry Award, among others.

An accomplished composer, he has set to music 93 poems by various modernist and ancient Tamil poets, further enriching the cultural landscape with his creative works.

## *Supported by*



# KUTTI REVATHI

Revathi Suyambulingam @ Kutti Revathi is a celebrated Tamil poet, lyricist and filmmaker, widely recognised for her bold and evocative literary contributions. Her work explores themes of womanhood, identity and social norms often challenging conventional perceptions with her unique poetic voice. She has authored several acclaimed poetry collections, including Poonaiyai Pola Alaiyum Velicham (Light prowls like a cat), Mulaigal (Breasts) and Yanumitta Thee (The fire I lit), which have garnered both critical acclaim and controversy for their unapologetic exploration of feminine identity. She had also edited “Panikkudam”, (Amniotic Sac), the first feminist magazine in Indian vernacular dedicated to feminist body politics and philosophy.

In addition to her literary achievements, Revathi is an accomplished lyricist, having penned songs for Oscar Winning Composer AR Rahman and acclaimed Tamil Films, often infusing her lyrical work with poetic depth and cultural resonance. she has directed the films, Siragu and Kodai irul and a full-length documentary on three thousand years history of Tamil Music, “Abraham Pandithar’s Karunamirthasagaram” for AR Rahman Foundation.

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# BIENNALE - NEGOTIATING ART & IDENTITY



**SIDDHARTH SIVAKUMAR IN  
CONVERSATION WITH  
VAISHNA ROY**

***Feb 21, 2025, Friday, 15:30-16:30***



***Supported by***

***Collaborators***

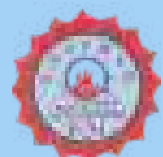


# SIDDHARTH SIVAKUMAR

Siddharth Sivakumar is a distinguished curator and art critic known for his insightful contributions to the fields of contemporary art and visual culture. He has curated numerous exhibitions that explore the intersections of art, heritage, and cultural identity, bringing to the forefront both emerging and established artists. His critical writings have been featured in prominent art journals and publications, where he engages with themes such as postcolonial aesthetics, the politics of representation, and indigenous art traditions.

As an academic, Sivakumar has also been actively involved in art education and has delivered lectures and workshops on art criticism, curation, and visual studies. His work reflects a deep commitment to re-examining traditional narratives and promoting diverse artistic voices within the global art scene. A passionate advocate for public engagement with the arts, he continues to bridge the gap between art theory and practice through his dynamic curatorial projects and writings.

## *Supported by*



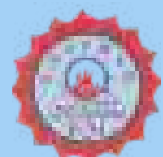


# VAISHNA ROY

With more than 30 years in journalism, Vaishna Roy began her journey with Business Standard in Kolkata and over the years worked with the Hindu group, the Outlook group, and the India Today group, before returning to The Hindu 12 years ago as the editor of the newspaper's Sunday Magazine.

In May 2022, she took over as Editor of Frontline, the fortnightly news magazine. For eight years, shna wrote a popular fortnightly column in The Hindu's Saturday segment, which was a feminist take on society, culture, and politics.

## *Supported by*



# IT'S NO LAUGHING MATTER: COMICS AND GRAPHIC NOVELS



**Orjit Sen in conversation with Aunohita  
Mojumdar**

**Feb 21, 2025, Friday, 16:30-17:30**

*Supported by*



The Living Museum

**A TRAVANCORE TALE** ORIJIT SEN

I believe my ancestor Nangeli knew what would happen if she continued to cover her breasts like the Nair women, and she was prepared for it.



In those days, we people were not allowed to cover the top halves of our bodies. This was one of the ways that the high caste Nairs and Namboodris marked us as lower, and separate from them.



To enforce the practice, there was the 'breast tax'—Mulakkaram—which all low caste women had to pay if they dared to cover their breasts. To add insult to injury, the tax was calculated according to the size of their breasts: The larger the breasts, the higher the tax!



**River  
of Stories**  
ORIJIT SEN





# ORIJIT SEN

Orijit Sen is a pioneering graphic artist, designer, and storyteller, widely regarded as one of the key figures in the evolution of graphic novels in India. His seminal work, *The River of Stories* (1994), is celebrated as India's first graphic novel and a landmark in the country's visual storytelling landscape.

As a multidisciplinary artist, Orijit's creative journey spans diverse mediums, including illustration, comics, murals, installations, and digital media.

Orijit is also a co-founder of People Tree, a collaborative arts and design studio and retail space that champions socially conscious art, fashion, and publishing.

A passionate advocate for the arts as a tool for activism, Orijit Sen continues to push the boundaries of visual storytelling, blending aesthetics with a commitment to addressing contemporary challenges. His work remains a touchstone for creativity and social engagement in India and beyond.

## *Supported by*

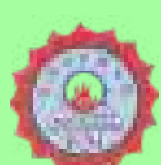




# AUNOHITA MOJUMDAR

Aunohita Mojumdar is an Indian journalist who has been a reporter and editor for over 34 years. She is a former Editor of the South Asian magazine Himal Southasian. She has lived and worked in Afghanistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and India. She has published in numerous regional and international media outlets including The Guardian, Financial Times, BBC, Asia Times, Al Jazeera, Eurasianet, the Hindu, Women's eNews, Times of India, Outlook, NewsLaundry, The Scroll and The News Minute. She is currently based in Bangalore.

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The Living Museum

# Naan Savithiribaiyai Padikiren

A solo play by  
**P. Arokia Mary Stella**

Script and Performance Design - Gobi G

Production - Yaazh Theatre and Research Foundation

21 February, 2025  
17:30 PM - 18:30 PM

## Venue

**Kanali Mandapam**

DakshinaChitra Museum, Muttukadu,  
ECR, Chengalpet District, 603 112.





# About the Play

"Naan Savithribaiyai Padikiren" is a solo play performed by P. Arokia Mary Stella, a renowned Tamil theatre actor and senior member of the Yaazh Theatre Group.

The play highlights the life and contributions of Savitribai Phule, India's first female teacher and a social reformer who founded the country's first girls' school. Savitribai challenged social norms by advocating for women's education, speaking against practices like rape and widowhood rituals.

Her forward-thinking actions laid the groundwork for a more equitable society, emphasizing empowerment and education for marginalized communities.

The performance contextualizes her struggles and connects them to contemporary social issues. The play has been presented to a variety of audiences, including teachers, development professionals, and rural communities in Tamil Nadu, and has featured at national theatre festivals and book fairs. It is the first Tamil play to focus on Savitribai's legacy.



# About the Actor

Dr. P. Arokiya Mari Stella began her theatrical journey in 2002 as part of her Elective - Softcore syllabus coursework at the Department of Performing Arts, Pondicherry University. She made her acting debut in the play *The Museum of History*, written by S. Murugaboopathy and directed by Dr. G. Gobi.

She participated in various theater forms, including street plays, theater festivals, and awareness dramas, which allowed her to explore diverse roles. These experiences led her to travel across India, further enriching her theatrical journey.

Reflecting on her role as a woman in theater, she mentions how acting helped her confront power struggles, emotional turmoil, and societal injustices. She hopes that her performances inspire change.

Over her 22-year career, she collaborated with eminent Tamil playwrights and performed in critically acclaimed plays like *Red Mirror* and *I Am Reading Savitribai*. Stella has also acted in award-winning films, including *Peranbu* and *Baaram*.



5th edition

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Fest**

**FEBRUARY 22,  
2025  
SATURDAY**

DakshinaChitra



The Living Museum



# People's Music in the 21st Century

**Arivu in conversation with Karthik Raja Karuppasamy**



**Feb 22, 2025, Saturday, 11:00-12:00**

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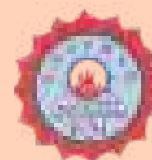
# ARIVU

Arivu is a groundbreaking Tamil rapper, lyricist, and musician, celebrated for his socially conscious lyrics and genre-defying artistry. He blends elements of hip-hop, folk, and contemporary sounds to create music that resonates with diverse audiences. His work often addresses issues of caste, identity, inequality, and social justice, positioning him as a powerful voice for marginalized communities.

Arivu first gained widespread recognition as a member of The Casteless Collective, a Chennai-based music ensemble that uses art as a platform for anti-caste activism. His thought-provoking tracks like "Anti-Indian" and "Quota" boldly challenge societal norms and spark essential conversations about equality and inclusion. In 2021, Arivu achieved international acclaim with the chart-topping single Enjoy Enjaami, a collaboration with singer Dhee, which celebrated Tamil cultural heritage and the contributions of marginalized laborers.

His work continues to inspire change, redefine Tamil music, and resonate with listeners worldwide.

## *Supported by*



# KARTHIK RAJA KARUPPUSAMY

Karthik Raja Karuppusamy is an academic and author, primarily recognized for his work in political studies and social justice. One of his most notable contributions is as co-editor of the book *The Shudras: Vision for a New Path* alongside Prof. Kancha Ilaiah Shepherd.

He pursued his PhD at the Centre for Political Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi. Currently, he is the manager of The Ambassa Band and works across various projects with the Composer, Songwriter and Rapper Arivu.

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# THE ARTISTIC LANGUAGE OF SCIENCE



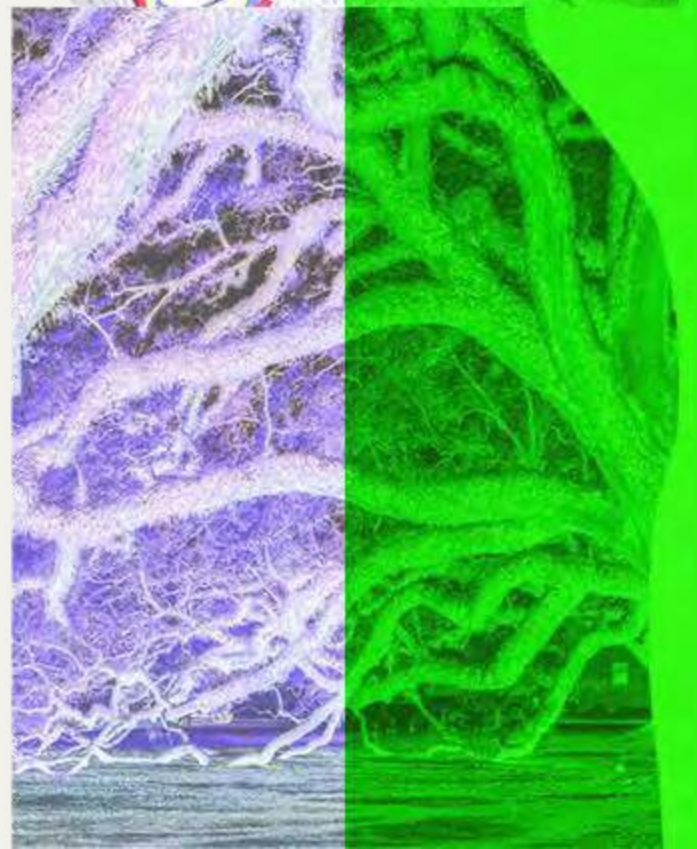
**JAHNAVI PHALKEY IN  
CONVERSATION WITH  
SHUBASHREE DESIKAN**

**Feb 22, 2025, Saturday, 12:00 - 13:00**



*Supported by*

*Collaborators*



# JAHNAVI PHALKEY

Dr Jahnavi Phalkey is the founding Director of Science Gallery, Bengaluru. She is also a filmmaker and historian of science and technology. In 2023, Jahnavi was awarded the Infosys Prize in Humanities for her brilliant insights into the individual, institutional, and material histories of scientific research in modern India.

Jahnavi was external curator to the Science Museum London, and has been a Scholar-in-Residence at the Deutsches Museum, Munich. She is the author of Atomic State: Big Science in Twentieth Century India and has co-edited Science of Giants: China and India in the Twentieth Century. She is the producer-director of the documentary film Cyclotron.

Jahnavi read civics and politics at the University of Bombay and the School of Oriental and African Studies, London. She holds a doctoral degree in history of science and technology from the Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta.

## *Supported by*





# SHUBASREE DESIKAN

Shubasree Desikan is a science journalist based in Chennai. After getting her PhD in theoretical condensed matter physics from The Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai, and post-doctoral research in Harishchandra Research Institute, Allahabad, and IIT Kanpur, she worked as a lecturer with BITS Pilani, copy editor and publisher's editor with Universities Press. After a brief stint in freelancing as a science writer, she found the career of her choice in science journalism with The Hindu, where she worked for 10 years. During this time, she wrote extensively on the fundamental sciences and mathematics.

In 2022, she moved to IIT Madras Shaastra magazine, where she now works as an Associate Editor. She is interested in literature and poetry and has translated two novels from the Tamil to the English. She teaches an elective on science journalism at the Asian College of Journalism, Chennai and is on the editorial team of Confluence, an online forum of the Indian Academy of Sciences, Bengaluru. She also helps with the Tamil Nadu Science Forum's Popular Science Lecture group. She was presented with the National Award for Science Communication in Print, by the Department of Science and Technology, Govt, in 2017.

## *Supported by*

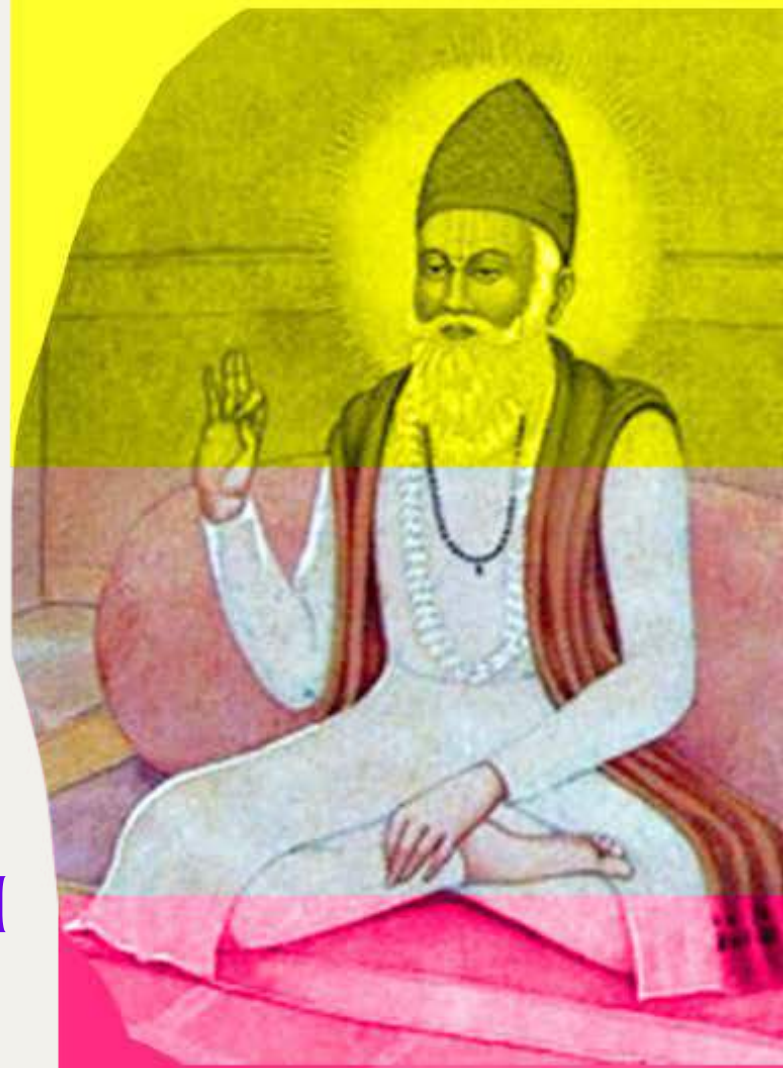
## *Collaborators*





# BURN DOWN YOUR HOUSE | PROVOCATIONS FROM KABIR

SHABNAM VIRMANI IN  
CONVERSATION WITH A MANGAI



*Feb 22, 2025, Saturday,  
14:00-14:45*



*Supported by*

*Collaborators*



# SHABNAM VIRMANI

Shabnam Virmani is a documentary film maker, artist, archivist, curator and writer. Currently an artist in residence at the Srishti school of art, design and technology. Her practice is an exploration of the philosophy of Kabir, Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai and other mystic poets.

Through a deep engagement with oral folk traditions for over two decades, her deep inspiration in poetry and its wisdom has taken the shape of four documentary films on Kabir, a digital archive called Ajab Shahar, writing books, curating and organizing urban festivals and rural yatras, and a program called Shabad Shaala to inspire students with the challenge and wonder of mystic poetry.

Her three published books are 'I Saw Myself: Journeys with Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai' (Penguin, 2019), 'One Palace. A Thousand Doorways: Songline through Bhakti, Sufi & Baul Oral Traditions' (Speaking Tiger, 2019) co-authored with Vipul Rikhi and 'Burn Down Your House: Provocations from Kabir' (Speaking Tiger, 2024). Her film 'Kabira Khada Bazaar Mein' won the Special Jury Prize at the 52nd National Awards in 2011.

*Supported by*

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# MANGAI A

A.Mangai is the pseudonym of Dr. V. Padma, who is a retired Professor in English from Stella Maris College, Chennai. She has been actively engaged in Tamil theatre as an actor, Director and Playwright for almost four decades. She writes bilingually. Her fields of interest are theatre, gender and translation studies. She hopes that her academic, activist and artistic selves can find a vibrant intersection.

## *Supported by*





# KOI SUNTA HAI: JOURNEYS WITH KUMAR & KABIR

A FILM BY SHABNAM VIRMANI

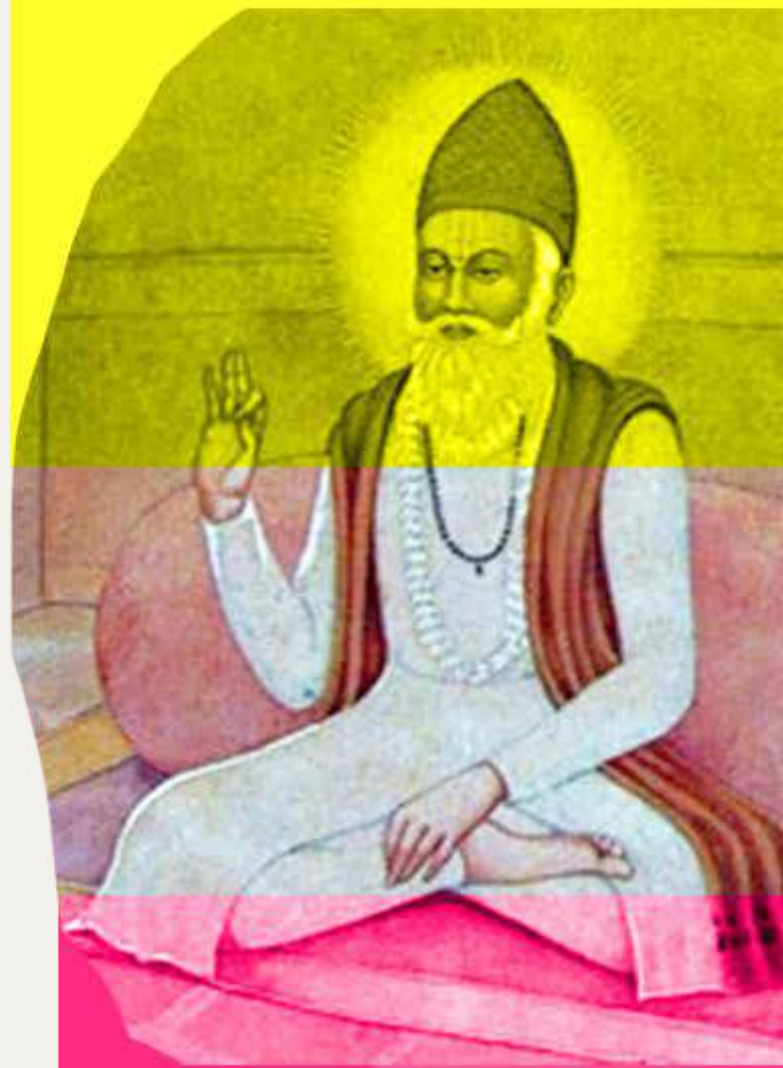


*Feb 22, 2025, Saturday,  
14:50-16:26*



*Supported by*

*Collaborators*



# SYNOPSIS OF THE FILM

Interweaving the folk music traditions of the mystic poet Kabir with the life and music of the late Indian classical singer Kumar Gandharva, this film searches for that elusive sound, that "jhini si awaaz", that Kabir urges us to hear. Where does it resonate, that subtle sound?

Journeying between folk and classical, oral and written, rural and urban expressions of this 15th century mystic poet of north India, the film finds moments of both continuity and rupture between these disparate worlds.

*Supported by*



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# BEYOND AESTHETICS AND BORDERS



**ARRTI KAWLRA , KANAK MANI DIXIT AND  
SWARNAVEL ESWARAN IN CONVERSATION**

***Feb 22, 2025, Saturday, 16:30-17:30***



***Supported by***



***Collaborators***



# KANAK MANI DIXIT

Kanak Mani Dixit is a distinguished Nepali journalist, writer, and civil rights activist, widely recognized for his contributions to media, literature, and social advocacy in South Asia. He is the founder of Himal Southasian, a groundbreaking regional publication that champions cross-border dialogue and fosters a nuanced understanding of South Asian issues. Under his leadership, the magazine became a vital platform for critical journalism and cultural exchange in the region.

A staunch advocate for democracy and human rights, Dixit has been at the forefront of movements promoting press freedom and civil liberties in Nepal.

In addition to his journalistic achievements, Dixit is an accomplished writer of fiction and non-fiction. His books for children, such as the Adventures of Dullu series, reflect his passion for storytelling and his commitment to engaging younger generations with themes of environmental conservation and social awareness.

His multifaceted contributions continue to shape the intellectual and civic landscape of Nepal and South Asia.

## *Supported by*





# SWARNAVEL ESWARAN

Swarnavel Eswaran Pillai is a distinguished filmmaker, film historian, and academic specializing in Tamil cinema and documentaries. He is an Associate Professor at Michigan State University, teaching in the Department of English and the Department of Media and Information. His work bridges the gap between practice and scholarship, offering a deep and nuanced understanding of Indian cinema's aesthetic, cultural, and historical dimensions.

As a filmmaker, he has directed several acclaimed documentaries, including *Unfinished Journey* and *Besieged Land*, which explore themes of displacement, identity, and socio-political issues.

He is also a leading scholar of Tamil cinema, with a focus on its evolution, influence, and unique cultural dynamics. His book *Madras Studios: Narrative, Genre, and Ideology in Tamil Cinema* is a seminal work that examines the industry's history and its interplay with societal changes.

Through his teaching, writing, and filmmaking, Swarnavel Eswaran Pillai continues to contribute to the global understanding of cinema as both an art form and a cultural document.

## *Supported by*



# AARTI KAWLRA

Aarti Kawlra has been the Academic Director of the Humanities Across Borders (HAB) programme since 2016. She has worked with HAB partners to develop spaces for trans-sectorial academia-society exchanges around the themes of ‘place’, ‘practice’, ‘food’ and ‘stories’ using situated learning methodologies at IAS’s experiential schools, practice-based workshops and consultative roundtable meetings.

Aarti is also affiliated to the Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS), Chennai where she is collaborating on a book project with a historian on the politics of craft-based, manual training in colonial south India.

Her book *We Who Wove with Lotus Thread: Summoning Community in South India* (Orient Blackswan, 2018) uses the methods of anthropology, social history and cultural studies to discursively interrogate colonial and postcolonial framings of culture, heritage, and development as they collide with artisanal self-representation in south India. Her experience in working with national and international craft advocacy groups and institutions (she co-founded an ethical craft production enterprise for women workers in rural Tamil Nadu in 2006), has helped shape the place and practice based pedagogical experiments of the HAB program.

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# YEH TO GHAR HAI PREM KA

SHABNAM VIRMANI SINGS TO  
LIFE THE AGE-OLD AND YET-  
SO-FRESH POEMS OF KABIR

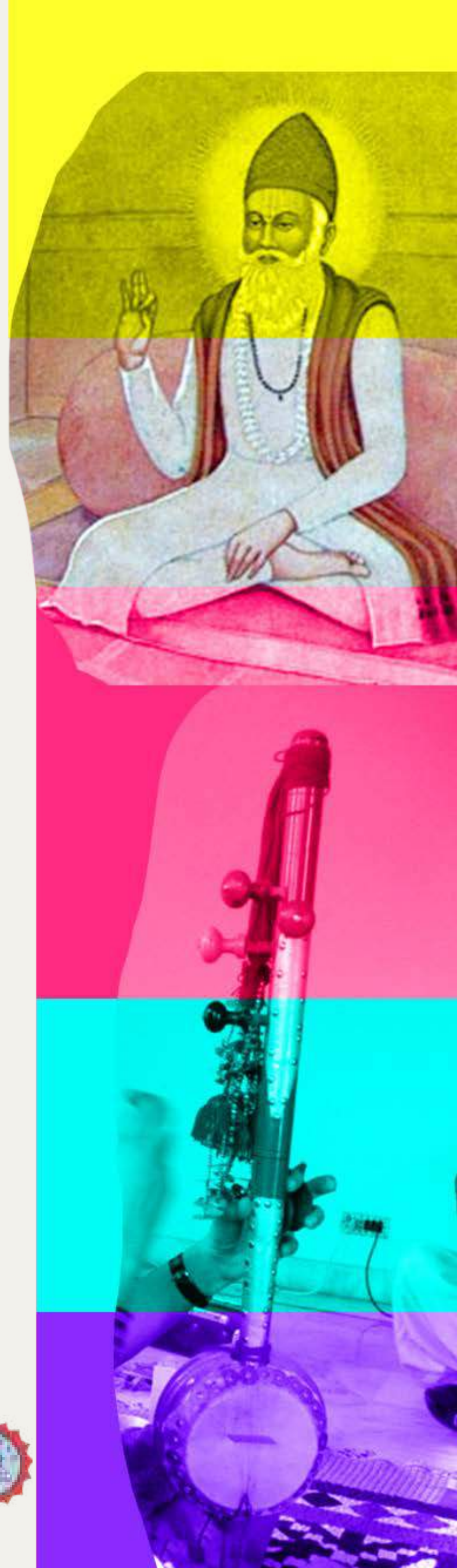


*Feb 22, 2025, Saturday,  
17:40-18:40*



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# ABOUT THE MUSIC

What house of love arises from the ashes of the house Kabir urges us to burn down?

Shabnam Virmani sings to life the age-old and yet-so-fresh poems of Kabir, searing words that burst with beauty even as they shake us awake. She will be accompanied by Shreeparna Mitra.

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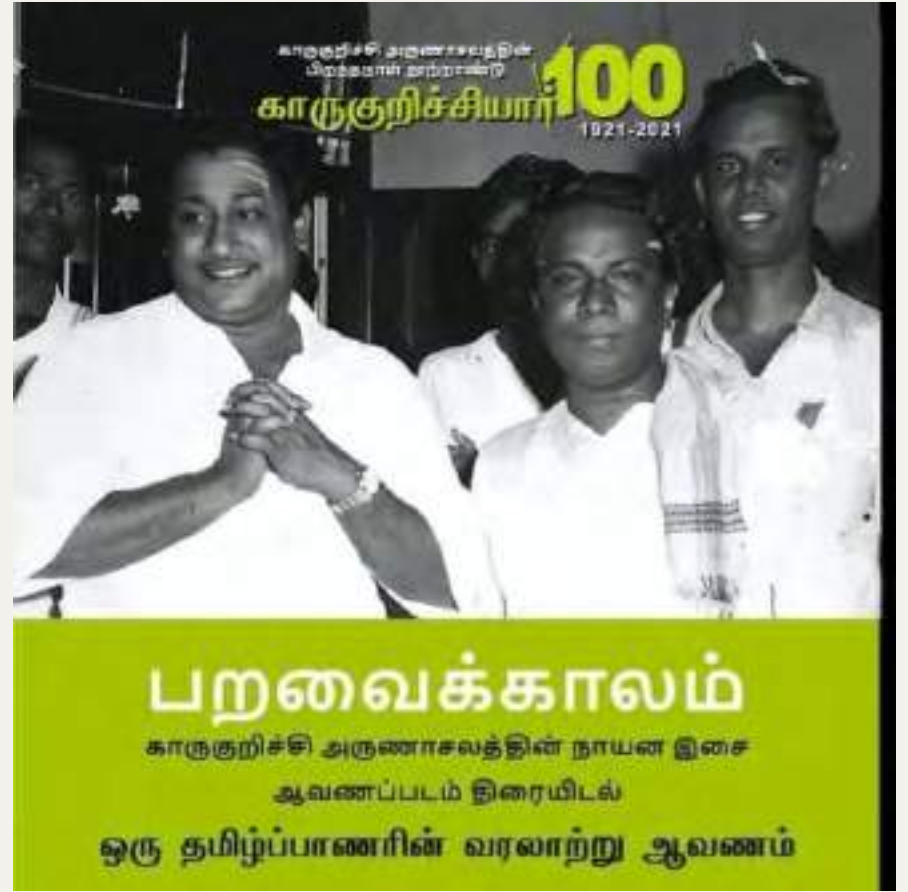
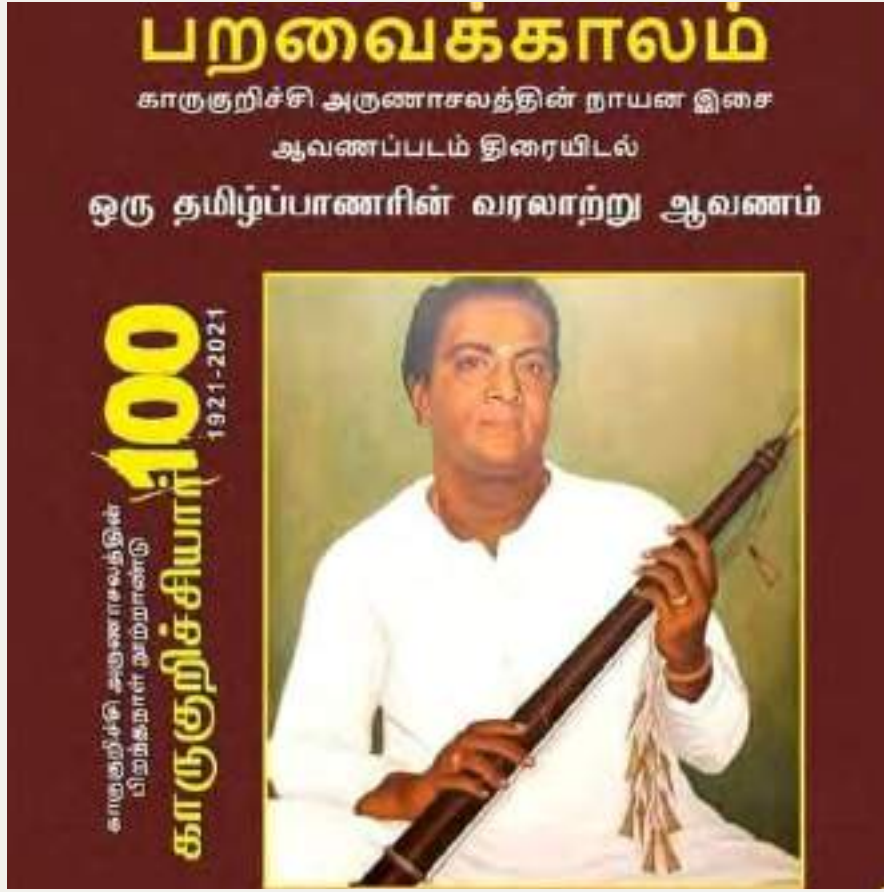
**FEBRUARY 23,  
2025  
SUNDAY**

DakshinaChitra



The Living Museum

DakshinaChitra  
Presents



# LANG-FEST

## FILM FESTIVAL

Screening "பறவை காலம்"

**FEB 23 | 11:00 - 13:30**

Seminar hall, DakshinaChitra Museum, ECR, Muttukadu



## About the film

Karukurichi arunachalam is a Symbol of South Indian Classical Music. He is a descendant of an ancient 3000 years old Tamil Music "Panar Traditions" This documentary aims to present his life interwoven with music.

The film presents the history of the unique Tamil Musical Instrument, namely, NAGASWARAM. The narration covers his life as presented by the lovers of his music and those who intimately moved with him. The viewers can well appreciate that his music was loved by not only those who are musically knowledgeable but also the common people.

Director credit: Kutti Revathi

## About the filmmaker

R.R. Srinivasan is a versatile filmmaker, photographer, and writer who has significantly contributed to promoting film appreciation in South India. Through his involvement in the film society movement and alternative film journals, he made serious cinema accessible to a broader audience, especially in non-metropolitan areas. A key figure from the Kanchanai Film Society in Thirunelveli, Srinivasan introduced thought-provoking films to new viewers. He is also a guest lecturer on film, literature, and photography at various universities.

Srinivasan's work spans documentaries such as Close Your Eyes (1997), The Ruins (1998), Invisible Children (2003), Silk Route (2001), Corrupt Electricity (2016), and ADHICHANALLUR THAMIRABARANI CIVILIZATION (2021), among others. Recently, he has explored the intersection of cinema and visual anthropology, expanding his creative range. Through his documentaries, Srinivasan continues to address social, cultural, and historical themes, cementing his legacy as a leading figure in Indian documentary filmmaking.

DakshinaChitra  
Presents



# LANG-FEST

## FILM FESTIVAL

Screening "எல்லைகளை விஸ்தரித்த  
எழுத்து கலைஞன் - ஜெயகாந்தன்"

**FEB 23 | 13:30 - 15:00**

Seminar hall, DakshinaChitra Museum, ECR, Muttukadu



## About the film

எழுத்தாளர் ஜெயகாந்தனின் அறிவார்ந்த தர்கம், மகிழ்ச்சி, கோபம், மலர்ச்சி, இசை, கலை, அரசியல் போன்ற பல துறை சார்ந்த சிந்தனைகள், சம்பவங்கள், உணர்வுகள் போன்றவற்றோடு அவரது வாழ்க்கைக் குறிப்புகளையும் இந்த ஆவணப்படம் முன் வைக்கிறது.

அவரது வீடு, பிறந்த ஊர், வாழ்ந்த இடங்கள், அவர் முழங்கிய மேடைகள், அவர் நண்பர்கள் என பலவிஷயங்களோடு அவரது பலவீனங்களும், அவரைப்பற்றிய விமர்சனங்களும் இதில் இடம்பெற்றுள்ளன.

இசையமைப்பாளர் இளையராஜா தயாரித்து இசையமைத்த இப்படத்தில் ஒளிப்பதிவாளராக பணியாற்றிய இயக்குனர் செழியனின் கைவண்ணத்தில் ஜெயகாந்தனின் ஆளுமை ஒரு வண்ணச்சித்திரமாக வார்க்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.

பலதரப்பு கலைஞர்களாலும் பாராட்டி பார்க்கப்பட்ட இப்படம் முன்னாள் குடியரசு தலைவர் அப்துல்கலாம் அவர்களால் வெளியிடப்பட்டது

## About the filmmaker

Ravi Subramanian is a distinguished poet, short story writer, essayist, lyricist, composer, and filmmaker. He has authored six poetry collections, two essay collections, and four literary anthologies, with his works included in university syllabi for both bachelor's and postgraduate courses. His Tamil poems have been translated into eight languages, gaining international recognition.

Subramanian has received several prestigious awards, including the Honorary Emirates Literary Personality at Tamil University, the Ma. Aranganathan Lifetime Achievement Award, the Tamil Nadu Government Best Book Award, and the Bharathiyar Poetry Award.

Beyond his literary contributions, Subramanian serves as a jury member for eight major literary awards and has directed over 100 social-oriented films, including seven biographical documentaries. He also wrote and directed the short film Thamarai. As a composer, he has set to music 93 poems by modernist and ancient Tamil poets, further enriching Tamil culture with his creative output.

DakshinaChitra  
Presents



# LANG-FEST

## FILM FESTIVAL

Screening "ஈழ கூத்தன் - Portrait of a  
Tamil Theatre Artist by Amshan Kumar"

**FEB 23 | 15:30 to 17:30**

**Seminar hall, DakshinaChitra Museum, ECR, Muttukadu**



## About the film

A.C.Tarciisius (b.1940) has been active as a theatre director, playwright and actor for more than six decades. He has evolved a unique style combining the traditional Eastern and modern Western theatrical forms. His contribution to the contemporary Tamil Theatre as a whole is remarkable. Now in his eighties, he continues to teach and inspire theatre artists.

This documentary has recorded his reminiscences, interviews of important theatre personalities, a nostalgic reunion with his longtime close associates and excerpts from theatre workshops recently conducted by him. It also has rare archival footage of his memorable plays. It was filmed in India, Sri Lanka and Europe.

## About the filmmaker

Amshan Kumar is an acclaimed Indian filmmaker and writer with a deep passion for cinema. His 2015 National Film Award-winning documentary, *Yazhpanan Thedchanamoorthy: Music Beyond Boundaries*, remains the only Tamil non-fiction film to earn a National Award in the past 17 years. A respected writer, his book *Cinema Rasanai*, a comprehensive guide to film appreciation, is widely used as a textbook in universities.

Amshan's debut feature film, *Oruththi*, was selected for the prestigious 2003 International Film Festival of India, where it was showcased in the Indian Panorama section. His second film, *Manusangada*, was screened at both the 39th Cairo International Film Festival and the 48th International Film Festival of India in 2017, further solidifying his reputation in global cinema. Based in Chennai, Amshan continues to contribute significantly to the Indian and international film landscape.