



**Prakriti
Foundation**

**The Poetry with Prakriti Festival
(2016)**

About Poetry Festival 2016

'Poetry with Prakriti' is an annual festival featuring 25 eminent and emerging poets, each presenting four different readings of their poems to small, intimate audiences at several venues across the city – schools, colleges, cafes, IT parks, green public parks, shops, galleries, boutiques, banks and other commercial establishments. The festival is scheduled everywhere, to coincide with the famed 'Chennai Season'.

The aim of the Poetry with Prakriti festival is to get poets from varied backgrounds to read and share their poetry in various languages at different locations across the city. This allows multiple groups of people to enjoy creative expression rendered through poetry.

Over the years, we have presented 200 poets from across India, and from countries such as Spain, France, Canada, U.K, Denmark, Switzerland and the U.S.A.

This festival has featured poets such as Keki N.Daruwalla, Charles Stein (USA), Arundhathi Subramaniam, Denis Mai R(USA), Sudeep Sen, Priya Sarukkai Chabria, Bina Sarkar Ellias, Anne-Marie Kenessey (Switzerland) Kalki Subramaniam, Parvathi Nayar, Renuka Narayan, Anupama Raju, Jeremy Woodruff, Raghavendra Madhu, to name a few.

As part of the festival, a Poetry Slam Contest has been conducted in the past. The top three poems are awarded cash prizes.

In the 2016 edition, the festival showcased Poets translating Poets in collaboration with the Goethe-Institut. Apart from hosting 30 eminent poets, the festival hosted Akshay Manwani who is the author of Sahir Ludhianvi - The people's poet. Two performances - Blank Page (a theatre performance based on Poetry) by Sunil Shanbag and Eternal Embrace by Astad Deboo (based on Bulleh Shah Poem) were also presented. We launched the new poetry book by Perumal Murugan and screened the documentary film Arunagiri Perumale as part of the festival. A slam contest was also held for the college and school children at Alliance Francaise of Madras.

Schedule

Date	Morning		Evening	
	Poets	Venue & Time	Poets	Venue & Time
29th Nov	Mamta Sagar - Workshop	MCC - 10.00 am	Abdul Rasheed, Ali Akbar Natiq, Anita Thampi, Christian Filips, Daniela Danz, Hendrik Jackson, Lalnunsanga Ralte, Mamta Sagar, Nicolai Kobus, Orsolya Kalász, Sajjad Sharif, Shahnaz Munni, Somasundarampillai Pathmanathan	Goethe Institut - 7.00 pm
	Abdul Rasheed, Christian Filips, Lalnunsanga Ralte, Nicolai Kobus, Orsolya Kalasz, Sukirtharani, Sukumaran, Veerankutty	SDNB Vaishnav - 10.30 am		
	Anitha Thampi - Workshop	Anna Adarsh - 9.00 am		
	Ali Akbar Natiq, Daniela Danz, Hendrik Jackson, Sajjad Sharif, Shahnaz Munni, Somasundarampillai Pathmanathan	Stella Maris - 12.00 noon		
30th Nov	Ali Akbar Natiq, Daniela Danz, Hendrik Jackson, Sajjad Sharif, Shahnaz Munni	MCC - 10.00 am	Abdul Rasheed, Ali Akbar Natiq, Anita Thampi, Christian Filips, Daniela Danz, Hendrik Jackson, Lalnunsanga Ralte, Mamta Sagar, Nicolai Kobus, Orsolya Kalász, Sajjad Sharif, Shahnaz Munni, Somasundarampillai Pathmanathan, Sukirtharani, Sukumaran	Madras University - 2.00 pm
	Abdul Rasheed, Christian Filips, Lalnunsanga Ralte, Orsolya Kalasz, Mamta Sagar	Anna Adarsh - 9.00 am		
	Anitha Thampi, Nicolai Kobus, Sukirtharani, Sukumaran, Somasundarampillai Pathmanathan, Veerankutty	Ethiraj - 10.00 am		
1st Dec	Keki Daruwalla, Arundathi Subramaniam	MCC - 10.00 am	Book Launch - Raghavendra Madhu, Sudeep Sen & Anupama Raju	Amdavadi - 7.00 pm
		SDNB Vaishnav - 11.30 am		

	Bina Sarkar Ellias & Sudeep Sen	Ethiraj - 10.00 am MGR Janaki - 11.30 am		
2nd Dec	Bina Sarkar Ellias & Shuvashree Chowdhury	MCC - 10.00 am SDNB Vaishnav - 11.30 am	Akshay Manwani	Madras University - 2.00 pm
	Keki Daruwalla & Sudeep Sen	Anna Adarsh - 9.00 am		ACJ - 5.30 pm
	Keki Daruwalla	WCC - 10.30 am		
	Arundathi Subramaniam & Anupama Raju	Stella Maris - 12.00 noon	Keki Daruwalla, Arundathi Subramaniam, Bina Sarkar Ellias	Apparao Gallery - 7.00 pm
		Ethiraj - 9.00 am	The Park - Screening Room - 7.00 pm	
	Akshay Manwani	Kalakshetra - 8.45 am		
3rd Dec	NR	Akshay Manwani		
5th Dec	Charles Stein & George Quasha	WCC - 9.00 am	Raghavendra Madhu, Suvashree Chowdry, Charles Stein & George Quasha	InKo Centre - 7.00 pm
	Raghavendra Madhu & Suvashree Chowdry	Guru Nanak - 10.00 am	Charles Stein & George Quasha	Madras University - 2.00 pm
6th Dec	Charles Stein & George Quasha	Guru Nanak - 10.00 am		
	Rachael Long & Raghavendra Madhu	Ethiraj - 11.30 am	Workshop - Rachael Long	British Council - 6.00 pm
		Anna Adarsh - 9.00 am	Poetry Slam Contest	Alliance Francaise of Madras - 3.00 pm
7th Dec	Priya Sarukkai Chabria	Kalakshetra - 8.45 am		
		MGR Janaki - 10.30 am		
	Charles Stein & George Quasha	KRMMC - 9.00 am		
8th Dec	Charles Stein & George Quasha	Kalakshetra - 8.45 am	Renuka Narayanan & Ajinkya Shenava	Anna Adarsh - 3.00 pm

	Renuka Narayanan & Ajinkya Shenava	KRMMC - 9.00 am		
	Priya Sarukkai Chabria	Stella Maris - 9.00 am	Priya Sarukkai Chabria	eAmbalam - 7.00 pm
9th Dec	Renuka Narayanan & Ajinkya Shenava	Kalakshetra - 8.45 am	Renuka Narayanan & Ajinkya Shenava	Craveyard Café - 7.00 pm
	Charles Stein & George Quasha	MGR Janaki - 10.30 am		
10th Dec	NR		Book Launch - Perumal Murugan	Spaces - 7.00 pm
12th Dec	NR		Documentary Film Screeing - Arunagiri Perumale	Goethe Institut - 7.00 pm
13th Dec	Blank Page by Tamaasha Theatre	MCC	Blank Page by Tamaasha Theatre	Spaces - 7.00 pm
	Hwang Yuwon	Anna Adarsh - 9.00 am	Eternal Embrace performance by Astad Deboo	Alliance Francaise - 7.00 PM
Hindu Senior - 1.30 pm				
14th Dec	Hwang Yuwon	Ethiraj - 10.00 am		
		Stella Maris - 12.00 noon		

Artiste Profile

1. Keki N. Daruwalla

Keki Nasserwanji Daruwalla (Keki N. Daruwalla or Keki Daruwalla) is a major Indian poet and a short story writer in the English language. He has written over 12 books and has published his first novel "For Pepper and Christ" in 2009. He is also a former IPS officer, who retired as an Additional Director in the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW). He was awarded the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1984 for his poetry collection "The Keeper of the Dead" by the Sahitya Akademi, India's National Academy of Letters.

2. Arundhathi Subramaniam

Arundhathi Subramaniam is a poet and a prose writer who has worked over the years as cultural critic, poetry editor and curator. Winner of the inaugural Khushwant Singh Memorial Prize for Poetry, the Raza Award for Poetry and the International Piero Bigongiari Prize, she is the author of four works of poetry, two works of prose and an

editor of several anthologies on poetry and spirituality. Widely translated and anthologized, her most recent book of poems, *When God is a Traveller* (2014) was shortlisted for the TS Eliot Prize. As a prose writer, she is the author of *The Book of Buddha* and the bestselling biography of a contemporary mystic, *Sadhguru: More Than a Life*. As an editor, her anthologies include a Penguin book on sacred journeys, *Pilgrim's India*; a co-edited book of Indian love poems, *Confronting Love*; a Sahitya Akademi anthology of contemporary Indian poetry in English, *Another Country*; and most recently, *Eating God: A Book of Bhakti Poetry*.

3. Raghavendra Madhu

Raghavendra Madhu is Tanjore-Maharashtrian with a Bengali bhadrakok sensibility, blame it on his upbringing in Kolkata. He is the founder of Poetry Couture, a pan-Indian, multi-lingual, poetry movement to free poetry off the shelves. A public health policy expert, Madhu has worked extensively in the field of social rights advocacy including gender equality and women empowerment with the government, national and international organizations. He chose the art of poetry over a lucrative career, and no, he doesn't regret it, for he believes poetry can change the world, and it will.

4. Shuvashree Chowdhury

Shuvashree Chowdhury, born in 1971 in Calcutta, has worked in managerial capacities with several companies including Jet Airways, ITC Sheraton Hotels, Titan Industries, Shoppers Stop and Randstad India. She has also been an avid blogger and writes stories and poems. She left her professional career to write her debut novel titled *Across Borders* that was published and launched in October 2013 and is working on her next, alongside a collection of short-stories. Shuvashree is married to Chennai-based author and journalist Bishwanath Ghosh and lives between Chennai and Calcutta.

5. Renuka Narayanan

Renuka Narayanan lives in New Delhi and writes on religion and culture. She was formerly the Arts Editor and Religion Columnist, *The Indian Express*; Editor, Religion and Culture, *Hindustan Times* and the start-up Director of the Indian Cultural Centre, ICCR-Embassy of India, Bangkok. Her published books include *The Book of Prayer* (Viking), *Faith - Filling the God-sized Hole* (Penguin) and *The Little Book of Indian Wisdom* (Penguin).

6. Priya Sarukkai Chabria

Priya Sarukkai Chabria's publications include the poetry collections - *Not Springtime Yet* (2008, HarperCollins) and *Dialogue and Other Poems* (Sahitya Akademi 2005, reprint 2006); the novels - *Generation 14* (2008, Penguin-Zubaan) and *The Other*

Garden (1995, Rupa and Co.); and as editor, two anthologies - All Poetry is Protest (2003) and 50 Poets 50 Poems (2006, Open Space). She has translated the songs of the 8th century Tamil mystic poet Aandaal as The Autobiography of A Goddess and a book of essays - Immersions: Bombay/Mumbai.

7. Anupama Raju

Anupama Raju is a poet and literary journalist. Her poetry has been featured in several anthologies, including the Harper Collins Book of English Poetry, The Yellow Nib Modern English Poetry by Indians and Prakriti. Her poems have also appeared in Poetry at Sangam, The Hindu, The Caravan, Indian Literature, Mint Lounge, Pratilipi and The Little Magazine, amongst others. Anupama was the poet for a collaborative Indo-French Poetry and Photography Project (2011 – 2014). She is also a translator who has translated Malayalam author Paul Zacharia's short fiction into English. Anupama lives in Thiruvananthapuram where she also heads Corporate Communications for a leading Digital Services Company.

8. Akshay Manwani

Akshay Manwani turned to freelance writing in 2009. He has since written on Indian cinema and popular culture for a variety of publications such as The Caravan, The Indian Quarterly, Scroll.in, Mint, Business Standard and Mumbai Mirror. He is also senior editor for india.nba.com. Akshay's first book, Sahir Ludhianvi: The People's Poet, was published in December 2013 by Harper Collins Publishers India. In 2014, Akshay won the Red Ink award for Best Lifestyle and Entertainment Story, given by the Press Club Mumbai, for his detailed feature on B.R. Chopra's Mahabharata television series. His second book - Music, Masti, Modernity: The Cinema of Nasir Husain – has been published by Harper Collins India in October 2016. Akshay lives with his daughter and wife in Mumbai.

9. Ajinkya Shenava

Ajinkya lives, works and learns in Bombay. He is deeply interested in arts education, is a student of dhrupad, and believes fiction pre-empts the real. An independent researcher and arts enthusiast he is walking the unwieldy tight rope of Boring-breadandbutter-day-job by day, and poet/musician by night.

10. Bina Sarkar Ellias

Bina Sarkar Ellias is the founder, editor, designer and publisher of International Gallerie, an award-winning global arts and ideas publication from India. Since 17 years of publishing, she has been committed to encouraging critical awareness and

understanding of cultures interpreted through performing arts, essays, poetry, features on communities and people, cinema and photography. Being a poet and a writer, she has published in various Indian and international anthologies and online sites. Her chapbook of poems 'The Room' was published by Aark Arts, UK. As art curator, she has curated shows of Indian artists, besides having curated the 2010 online show for Pen and Brush, Inc, New York. She has also given talks and participated in panel discussions on art and social awareness at several venues in India and abroad. She curated an international photo show for FOCUS in Bombay, March 2015. Engaged in socio-political and community building issues, she received a Fellowship in 2007 from the Asia Leadership Fellow Program and Japan Foundation for research and development of the project: Unity in Diversity. Envisioning Community Building in Asia and Beyond, the Times Group Yami Women Achiever's award in 2008, and the FICCI/FLO 2013 award was given for excellence in her work. Her work is available to view at www.gallerie.net.

11. Sudeep Sen

Poet, translator, artist, and editor Sudeep Sen studied English literature at the University of Delhi and was an Inlaks Scholar at the Columbia University, where he earned an MS in Journalism. Recognized as India's one of the finest younger poets, Sen has published more than a dozen collections of poetry, including *The Lunar Visitations* (1990), *Postmarked India: New and Selected Poems* (1997), *Lines of Desire* (2000) *Distracted Geographies* (2003), *Rain* (2005); and *Aria* (2011), the winner of the A.K. Ramanujan Translation Award. *Blue Nude: New and Selected Poems, Translations 1979 – 2014* (Jorge Zalamea International Poetry Prize) are forthcoming. His collections of prose include *Postcards from Bangladesh* (2002). Sen has translated poetry and worked as an editor on many anthologies including *The HarperCollins Book of English Poetry by Indians* (2012) and *Midnight's Grandchildren: Post-Independence English Poetry from India* (2004). He is the editorial director of Aark Arts and editor of *Atlas*, a journal of new writing and art.

12. Hwang Yuwon

Hwang Yuwon was born in Ulsan, Korea in 1982. He received a B.A. in Religious Studies and Philosophy from Sogang University and is currently working on his Ph.D in Indian Philosophy at Dongguk University. His master's thesis is titled as "A Study on the Concept of Yajña in the Bhagavadgītā" and his recent article is titled as "The Meaning of Om and its Relationship with Īśvara in the Yogasūtra".

He made his debut as a poet, winning the Munhakdongne New Artist award in 2013. He has published over eighty poems in numerous literary magazines during the last three

years. His first book of poetry *Everything in the World, Maximized*, published in 2015, was awarded the 34th Kim Soo-Young prize, which is one of the most famous poetry awards in Korea.

13. Rachel Long

Rachel Long is a London Laureate, a poet and a spoken word artist who has performed at the Royal Festival Hall and the Olympic Stadium. She has had her poems published in three Emma Press anthologies, as well as *Magma* and *Synaesthesia* magazines. She has an MA in Creative and Life Writing from Goldsmiths University London, and is one of three current poetry awardees on the prestigious Jerwood/Arvon Mentorship Scheme (2015-16) mentored by Caroline Bird. Rachel facilitates workshops in schools, libraries and organizations such as Apples and Snakes and The Poetry Society. She is a tutor on the Barbican Young Poets programme (2015-16). She has curated literary events for Deptford Cinema – celebrating the life of Malcolm X through poetry and film, Clear Lines Festival – raising awareness about sexual abuse and consent, and most recently for Tate Britain, where she invited millennial female poets to respond to Tracey Emin’s ‘My Bed’. Her website - <https://writesrachell.com/>

14. Charles Stein

Charles Stein's work comprises of complexly integrated field of poems, prose reflections, translations, drawings, photographs, lectures, conversations, and performances. Born in 1944 in New York City, he is the author of thirteen books of poetry including *There Where You Do Not Think To Be Thinking*, (Spuyten Duvil); *From Mimir's Head* (Station Hill Press); a verse translation of *The Odyssey* (North Atlantic Books); a forthcoming translation of *The Iliad* (Station Hill Press); and *The Hat Rack Tree* (Station Hill Press). His prose writings include a vision of the Eleusinian Mysteries, *Persephone Unveiled* (North Atlantic Books); a critical study of poet Charles Olson’s use of the writing of C.G. Jung, *The Secret of the Black Chrysanthemum* (Station Hill Press); *Placing Space, Picturing Time: Time, Space, and Emergent Pictoriality in some Recent Painting(s) of Terry Winters* (Autonomea) and a collaborative study with George Quasha of the work of Gary Hill, *An Art of Limina: Gary Hill's Works and Writings*, Ediciones Poligrafa. He holds a Ph.D. in literature from the University of Connecticut at Storrs and lives with guitarist, choral director, and research historian Megan Hastie in Barrytown New York.

Website: www.charlessteinpoet.com

15. George Quasha

George Quasha, poet, artist and musician, explores an inter-medium principle in language, paint-drawing, sculpture, video, sound and performance. Awarded a

Guggenheim Fellowship (2006), his video art includes Art is: Speaking Portraits, recorded over a thousand artists/poets/composers in eleven countries (saying what art/music/poetry is), including Art is/India. His twenty books in poetry include Glossodelia Attract (preverbs) (2015), The Daimon of the Moment (preverbs) (2015), Things Done for Themselves (preverbs) (2015), Verbal Paradise (preverbs) (2011), Ainu Dreams (1999) with Chie [Hasegawa] Hammons, and Somapoetics (1973); in art: Axial Stones: An Preverbs or proverbs? Art of Precarious Balance (foreword by Carter Ratcliff), Art is (Speaking Portraits)(2016), An Art of Limina: Gary Hill's Works and Writings (2009) with Charles Stein; foreword by Lynne Cooke; and the poetry anthology: America, a Prophecy: A New Reading of American Poetry from Pre-Columbian Times to the Present (with Jerome Rothenberg, 1973/2014). Being a recipient of the NEA Fellowship (poetry), he is a co-publisher with Susan Quasha at Station Hill of Barrytown.

Work at: quasha.com and vimeo.com.

16. Abdul Rasheed

Abdul Rasheed, a resident of Mysore, completed his Bachelors in Journalism, English Literature and Public Administration from Maharaja College, Mysore in 1985. He has a Masters in English Literature from the University of Mysore. His published works include Hoovinakolli, a Kannada novel, four anthologies of short stories, Hallu Kudida Huduga, Pranapakshi Eethanakada Kathegalu and Sampoorana Parijatha, four books of creative essays and column writings namely Kaaluchakra, Mysorepost, Alemaariya Dinachari, and Mathigoo Ache as well as two anthologies of poetry Nanna Paadige Nanu and Narakada Kennaligeyantha Ninna Benna Huri. He has translated Hemingway, Rilke, Camus, Rumi, Pushkin and other world writers into Kannada.

He is a winner of several awards including Sandesha Award, Central Sahitya Akademi Golden Jubille Award, Karnatka Sahitya Akademi Award, Vardhamana Award and lankesh Award. His short stories, poetry and excerpts from the novel have been translated into English, Swedish, Germany, Hindi, and several other Indian languages. As a columnist, he wrote weekly columns in Kannada Prabha, Vijayakarnataka and Udayavani. Currently, he is working as Programme Executive at All India Radio, Mysore, Karnataka. He is also well known as a blogger in Kannada. "Kendasampige" and "Mysoreposts" are very popular among Kannada Netizens.

17. Ali Akbar Natiq

Ali Akbar Natiq was born Okara, Punjab in 1976. He is an Urdu poet, novelist and short story writer. He began his literary career with the publication of two volumes of poetry, Yaqoot kay Warq and Be-yaqeen Bastion Mein. This was followed by the publication of

his first collection of short stories Qaim Deen, by Oxford University Press. The English translation titled What will you give for this beauty? has been published by Penguin, India. His first novel Nau Lakhi Kothi has been published by Saanjh Publications at Lahore and the English translation is also being published by Penguin India. He is also translating his works for publication in Hindi by Penguin, India. Natiq presently works with the Federal Directorate of Education in Islamabad and teaches Creative Writing. He also works with the NGO, Alif Ailaan in Islamabad.

18. Anitha Thampi

Anitha Thampi was born in 1968 in Kerela. She is a Malayalam poet with two collections of poetry to her credit. Her first book, Muttamatikkumbol (Sweeping the Courtyard), published in 2004, was chosen as “the best poetry book of the year” by the influential Malayalam newspaper, Mathrubhumi. Her second collection, Azhakilathavayellam (All that are bereft of beauty) was published in 2010 after a span of seven years. In 2007, her Malayalam translations of Australian poet Les Murray were published in a bilingual edition.

She has been translated into English, French, German, Swedish as well as various Indian languages such as Tamil, Kannada, Bengali, Marathi, Hindi, Assamese, Oriya, Gujarati etc., and her work has appeared in various journals and anthologies.

Born into a progressive political family, Thampi was the eldest of three girl children and describes her growing years “against the rural background of Central Kerala, the green expanse of which turned into crowded towns even as I grew up”. This still unfolding transition, she says, has left a deep impact on her work.

The dynamic tension between “the self and the universe, within and without” –the individual’s subjective consciousness against a vast impersonal expanse of external reality – lies, says Thampi, at the heart of all her poetry. She currently resides in Mumbai and Thiruvananthapuram.

19. Christian Filips

Christian Filips born in 1981 in Osthofen near Worms, lives as a poet, playwright and performer in Berlin. Between 2000 and 2007 he studied in Vienna and Berlin. In 2001, he received Austrian Radio’s Rimbaud price for his first poems. From 2001 to 2003 he was a dramaturge at the Dance Theatre of the Staatstheater Darmstadt. Since 2006 he has worked as a program and archive manager of the Sing-Akademie in Berlin. Since 2010 he has been publishing the “roughbooks” along with Urs Engeler. In 2012, he

received the Heimrad-Bäcker Award for experimental poetry. He currently works for the theater and as a stage director (among others for the Berliner Volksbühne), performer and singer (of songs written for him by the poet Monika Rinck). Additionally, Filipis translates, primarily from English, Dutch and Italian.

20. Daniela Danz

Daniela Danz was born on September 5, 1976 in Eisenach. She studied History of Art and German Studies in Tübingen (under Paul Hoffman among others), Prague, Berlin, Leipzig and Halle (Saale) and wrote her masters' thesis on "Krankenhauskirchenbau der Weimarer Republik" ('Building of hospital churches in Weimar Republic') upon graduation.

She pursued a teaching position in Osnabrück. From 2003 till 2010, she worked as a Kunstinventarisatorin at the Evangelical church. Today, Danz lives as a freelance writer in Kranichfeld and teaches at Hildesheim University. Since 2013, she is also Head of the Schillerhaus in Rudolstadt.

Danz' written works include poetry, prose, essays and children's literature. Besides that she collaborates with composers to add music to some of her works and to translate them in other languages. Her work deals with the classical forms and antique stuff, like the epic of Homer or the Ovids Metamorphosen. From here, Danz transitioned to experimenting with recent history, for e.g. World War II and the current socio-political topics like migration. Florian Illies certified Danz as having a flair for the oppressive presence of history.

21. Hendrik Jackson

Hendrik Jackson was born in Düsseldorf in 1971. He grew up in Münster (Westfalen). He studied Film, Slavic Studies and Philosophy in Berlin, where he lives as a freelance author and translator. Besides his work as a poet, essayist and translator of works primarily from Russian, he also initiates readings and campaigns. Jackson is also part of the editorial board of www.lyrikkritik.de. Besides this he has organized the Literarturreihe Parlandopark with other poets, in which authors like Monika Rinck, Christian Phillips and Steffen Popp among others participated. He has received several awards for his work.

22. Lalnunsunga Ralte

Lalnunsunga Ralte (Sanga Says) teaches English literature in Shillong and is currently a PhD scholar at Nehu (Northeast Hill University). He is a member of the North-East Writers Forum and has presented his work in many literary events across north east India. His poems and writings have been published in several online magazines. He has also worked on some translations from Mizo to English, but these are not published.

23. Mamta Sagar

Mamta Sagar, is an academic, poet, translator and playwright writing in the Kannada language. She has four collections of poems, four plays, an anthology of column writing, a collection of critical essays on gender, language, literature and culture in Kannada and English and a book on Slovenian-Kannada Literature Interactions to her credit.

A recipient of the Charles Wallace Fellowship 2015 at UK, Mamta Sagar has toured with Mark Gwynne Jones in India and UK on 'Melding Voices', the UK Arts Council Funded projects. She has participated in 'Literature Across Frontiers', international poetry translation workshops, collaborated with translation activity in many Indian and foreign languages, engaged in collaborative performances with artists and poets, translated poetry and prose into Kannada and English and has been 'Poet in Residence' with Auropolis, Belgrade, Serbia.

Worlds Literature Festival 2015 hosted by the Norwich Writers Centre opened with Mamta's poetry presentation. She was invited to present a provocation at this festival. Ledbury Poetry Festival 2015 showcased poetry performance by Mamta.

Her poems are widely translated into most of the Indian as well as several foreign languages and have also been published in those respective languages. Her latest book 'Hide & Seek' is a collection of her poems translated into English with source text in Kannada.

Mamta Sagar has conducted poetry workshops, curated poetry events, invited and organised events in India for poets from Senegal, UK, Malta and Slovenia. She has collaborated and performed with artists and poets from India, UK, Australia, Philippines and Vietnam. She has presented poems at poetry festivals including Ledbury and Norwich in UK, STRUGA in Macedonia, Poetry Africa in South Africa, Granada Poetry Festival in Nicaragua, Medellin International Poetry Festival in Colombia, in Cuba, Serbia, Slovenia, Vietnam and Sri Lanka.

Mamta is a columnist with Bangalore Mirror. She teaches at the Centre for Kannada Studies, Bangalore University, and lives in Bangalore.

24. Nicolai Kobus

Nicolai Kobus, a German poet was born on April 29, 1968 in Stadtlohn, Westphalia. He studied Music, German Literature and Philosophy at Wilhems University, Westphalia. From 1993 up until 1998, he worked as an editor and co-publisher at the then Literature magazine Chiffre.

Nicolai Kobus has been a member of the Forum Hamburger Autoren (Forum of Hamburg Authors) since 2009. He lives and works as a freelance writer, literature critic

and copy writer in Hamburg. A larger collection of his poetry was published by the Ardey-Verlag (Münster, September 2006).

25. Orsolya Kalász

Orsolya Kalász was born in 1964 in Dunaújváros and now lives in Berlin. She is a Hungarian poet and translator of literature. Her work has been authored and edited in two languages. Orsolya Kalász is bilingual and grew up speaking two different languages, Hungarian and German. Her father, the Hungarian writer and poet, Márton Kalász, worked at the House of Hungarian Culture in East Berlin in the beginning of the 70s. Orsolya did her schooling till 1974 here. After completing her high school, she studied German Studies, Hungarian Literature and Linguistics at Loránd-Eötvös-Universität in Budapest. In the year 1984, she started to publish her works. Since 1995, she has lived and worked in Berlin. She writes her poetry in both Hungarian and German. She has herself transcribed some of her texts in the second language.

As a translator, she has been editing some of her new works in Hungarian since 1995, together with the German poet Monika Rinck.

26. Sajjad Sharif

Sajjad Sharif was born in old Dhaka and grew up in its colourful labyrinthine alleys. He has been writing poetry since the early 1980s. He attempted to radicalize the expression of contemporary Bangla poetry with some other fellow poets. He was deeply involved with the avant-garde literary journal Gandiva that reshaped the recent scenario of Bangla poetry. With his first collection of poems, Chhurichikitsa (Knife-Therapy), Sajjad broke some usual norms of Bangla poetry. He loves experimenting with the language and transforming old lyrical style into contemporary idiom. Sajjad Sharif's poems have been published in different national and international journals. Sajjad Sharif translates poems and writes essays on literary-cultural issues. He has authored, translated and edited several books. Rokto o Oshrur Gatha: Federico Garcia Lorcar Nirbarchito Kobita (Ballad of Blood and Tears: Selected Poems of Federico Garcia Lorca), the collection of his translation of Lorca's poem, including its long insightful preface, was of great acclaim. His jointly edited anthology on contemporary Bangladeshi poems, Bangladesher Nirbachito Kobita (Selected poems of Bangladesh), was published in India. Jekhane Liberty Mane Statue (Where Liberty is Statue) is his collection of essays.

Sajjad Sharif has been engaged in the profession of journalism for almost 26 years. Now he is the Managing Editor of Prothom Alo, the most circulated daily newspaper of Bangladesh.

27. *Shahnaz Munni*

Shahnaz Munni, a renowned journalist and writer was born in Dhaka in 1969. She graduated from the University of Dhaka in Social Sciences. Though she is a television journalist, Shahnaz Munni has reflected her passion for writing poems, stories, juvenile literature and essays in the twenty books that she has authored.

28. *Somasundrampillai Pathmanathan*

Somasundrampillai 'Sopa' Pathmanathan was born on 15 September 1939 in Jaffa and continues to live there even today. He is a prolific Tamil poet, well-spoken in English and well published from the North. He is known to be an outspoken poet, who has been politically active during the Sri Lankan conflict. He completed his Bachelors from the University of Jaffna and earned a Diploma in General and Applied Linguistics from the UK and Diploma in Education from the University of Jaffna. He has devoted 18 years of his life as an English language teacher and 13 years as an English language lecturer. He was also the Principal of Palaly Teachers' College for 3 years.

He has authored several books including three volumes of poetry. He is also an acclaimed translator of Tamil literature and many of his translations have appeared in international publications such as Journal of South Asian Literature, Michigan, Penguin New Writing in Sri Lanka, Lutesong and Lament, Canada, Lankan Mosaic, Colombo as well as Mirrored Images, National Book Trust, Delhi. He is a winner of several prizes and awards including the Governor's Award.

29. *Sukirtharani*

Sukirtharani is a Dalit poet and teacher with five publications to her credit, including *kaip pattri yen kanavu kel*, *iravu mirugam*, *Kamatthipoo*, *Theendapadaatha Muttham* and *Avalai Mozhipeyarthal*. Through her poems, she has taken up the cause of the caste system and the plight of women who are oppressed by it. She has won many awards, including the Thevamagal Kavithoovi Award, the Puthumaipitthan Memorial Award and the women's Achiever Award by the Pengal Munnani (Women's Front). In addition, many of her poems are part of syllabi in collage across the State. Sukirtharani has completed her Masters in Economics and Tamil Literature. She lives in Ranipettai district of Vellore and teaches Tamil at the Government Girls High School. She is an active feminist and social activist. She is currently writing a novel on Dalit life.

30. *N. Sukumaran*

N. Sukumaran was born in Coimbatore in 1957. He is an acclaimed poet, translator, writer and editor and currently resides in Thiruvananthapuram. He has published 6 volumes of poems, 6 volumes of essays and articles and a novel in Tamil. He has

translated several works including selected works of eminent writers such as Vaikkam Mohammed Basheer, Zachariah, K. Satchidanandan, Adoor Gopalakrishnan from Malayalam into Tamil. He has also translated works of Pablo Neruda, Gunter Grass, Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Alessandro Barrico, Ayfer Tunc and others from English into Tamil. The translated works have been published in 15 books.

N. Sukumaran was the Editor for Kungumam - Tamil magazine and Chief Editor for Surya TV. Currently he is Executive Editor for Kalachuvadu - an alternative magazine in Tamil.

31. Veerankutty

Veerankutty, is a Malayalam poet of the younger generation. He has to his credit six poetry collections in Malayalam, one in English and three books for children. His poems have been translated into English, Tamil, Hindi, Marathi and Kannada. His poems have been published in several magazines like Indian Literature and Poetry international web magazine. He is the recipient of Cherussery Award, Abudabi Harithakshara Puraskaram, Tamil Nadu CTMA Sahithya Award and SBT Award. Veerankutty's poems have been included in various school and university text books in Kerala. He is now working as Associate Professor in Malayalam at Govt College Madappally.

31. Perumal Murugan

Perumal Murugan is an author, scholar and literary chronicler who writes novels in Tamil. He has written six novels, four collections of short stories and four anthologies of poetry to his credit. Three of his novels have been translated into English: Seasons of the Palm, which was shortlisted for the Kiriyaama Prize in 2005, Current Show and One Part Woman. He was a professor of Tamil at the Government Arts College in Namakkal.

Murugan began his writing career by publishing several short stories in the Tamil journal, Manavosai between 1988 and 1991. These stories were later collected and published in a book titled Thiruchengodu (1994). His first novel, Eru Veyyil ('Rising Heat') was published in 1991, and dealt with the problems that a family faced when their land was acquired for the construction of a housing colony, engaging with themes of family, greed, and corruption. His second novel, Nizhal Mutram (1993), translated into English by V Geetha as Current Show (Tara Books, 2004), drew from his personal experience of helping his father run a soda stall in a cinema theatre.

Murugan's third novel, described by the translator and critic N. Kalyan Raman as a 'tour de force' was titled Koolamadari (2000), and was translated by V Geetha as Seasons of the Palm (Tara Books, 2004). The book dealt with the life and travails of its protagonist,

Koolaiyan, a young goatherd of the Chakkili caste, who was bonded to work in a Gounder caste family to repay his father's debts. The book dealt with themes of childhood, autonomy, and freedom.

His next novel, *Kanganam* (Resolve, 2008) dealt with the consequences of sex-selective abortions and female foeticide that caused a skewed sex ratio in the Kongunadu region. It focuses on the protagonist, Marimuthu, unmarried because of the scarcity of women within his caste and society. His novel, *Madhurobhagan* (2010) translated by Aniruddhan Vasudevan as *One Part Woman* (Penguin, 2013) dealt with a young childless couple struggling within their marriage, drawing specifically from the community and culture of the Kongunadu region.

Published by Penguin Books, the novel was originally written in Tamil under the name *Madhorubagan* and then later translated in English by Aniruddhan Vasudevan as *One Part Woman*.

His latest novel, *Aalandap Patchi* (*The Misanthropic Bird*, 2013) again engages with the themes of land, family, and caste in the Kongunadu region, focusing on a young man cast out by his family who struggles with migration, exile, and livelihood. Recently, his novel *Pookkuzhi* (Pyre) has been translated to English by Aniruddhan Vasudevan, as well.

In 2017, an anthology of Perumal Murugan's poems, *Mayanathil Nitkum Maram* (*A Tree that Stands in the Crematorium*) was published, containing his four previous collections of poetry: *Nigazh Uravu*, *Gomuki Nadhikarai Koozhaangal*, *Neer Midakkum Kanngal* and *Velli Shani Bhudhan Nyayaru Vzhyayan Chevvai*.

32. *Astad Deboo*

Astad Deboo was born on July 13, 1947 in Navsari, Gujarat. He showed an inclination towards dance early in his childhood, and by the age of six was learning the Kathak style under the late Indra Kumar Mohanty and late Prahlad Das. After he graduated from Bombay University with a degree in Economics and Commerce, he was greatly inspired by the contemporary work of the American Murray Lewis Dance Company. During the same period, he worked briefly with Uttara Asha Coorlawala, who was studying the Martha Graham technique in New York. These encounters inspired Astad Deboo to undertake a journey of almost two decades during which he traversed the globe, studying different dance styles and performance traditions as he hitchhiked through South and Central America, Japan, Indonesia, Europe and the USA. When he returned to India he studied Kathakali, under Guru E. Krishna Panikar. This eclectic universe of dance coalesced into a unique style, which is a combination of extreme physical control, and powerful visual impact. A style that celebrates in one breath the exuberance of narrative based forms, and the cerebral intensity of contemporary abstraction.

His range is phenomenal, from deeply introspective solo expression, to challenging group work. His dynamic style has attracted critical attention in the world of dance from Pina Bausch of the Wuppertal Dance Company, Germany, to Alison Chase of Pilobolus Dance Company of the USA. In 1986, he was commissioned by the Pierre Cardin to choreograph a work for the prima ballerina Maia Plissetskaia of the Bolshoi Ballet. Channel 4 of U.K. commissioned a film on his work also in 1986. During his rich career, he has danced in 60 countries around the globe, and continues to collaborate with overseas artists.

Astad Deboo's ongoing work with the deaf began in 1986. He has been associated with the Gallaudet University, the largest university for the deaf, located in Washington DC from 1992 to 2002. Deaf dancers trained under him have performed not only in India, but also in Germany, Hong Kong, Mexico and the USA. His work, *Contraposition*, performed by deaf dancers from Chennai, participated in the opening celebrations of the 20th Deaf Olympics in Melbourne 2005.

His work through the last three decades has broken tradition and opened doors for the present generation of Indian dancers to venture into contemporary choreography. In recognition of his pioneering work, and creative dance, he was bestowed the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1995. Recognition has also come to him in the form of invitations to perform at prestigious dance festivals international and national, at Khajuraho in 1991, and 2004, and at the Elephanta Dance Festival in 1992.

33. *Sunil Shanbag*

Sunil Shanbag (born 1956) is an Indian theatre director, screenwriter and documentary film-maker. He has graduated from Mumbai University, and although he didn't have any formal training in theatre, he has worked extensively with Satyadev Dubey, who considers him one of his foremost protégés.

In 1985, Shanbag founded the theatre company Arpana. Its work is characterised by "contemporary and original texts by Indian and international playwrights (in translation), strong performances, minimalist staging, and innovative use of music and design." Sunil along with Sapan Saran have founded the theatre company 'Tamaasha'.

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