

TATA TRUSTS

A quarterly update on the programmes of the portfolio



MAP conservation team at work in the now established lab in the new museum space.

With the flagship programme of the Arts and Culture portfolio, the Tata Trusts Art Conservation Initiative, coming to a close at the end of 2023, the first quarter witnessed the roll out of two programmes in art conservation that serve as extensions of the groundwork done during the past five years.

Our partnership with the Museum of Art and Photography, Bangalore, continues with the conservation centre now set up in the new museum space, the focus going forward towards building expertise in conservation of photographic materials. The conservation team has grown these past five years, with younger conservators joining in having been trained in the 3-month training courses held over 2021-23.

The second programme builds on initial steps undertaken last year with the Sikkim State Archives and Museum, Govt. of Sikkim, to help build art conservation-related capacity in the state. In partnership with two partners, Himalayan Society for Heritage and Art Conservation (HIMSHACO), Ranibagh, and Anamika Kala Sangam Trust (AKST), Kolkata, two 3-month training courses are being implemented in 2024 that have a two-pronged focus: train personnel in best practices of conservation of materials that make up Sikkim's heritage; and to learn from existing, local practices of care in the region. The first of the two training courses commenced in March 2024.

This newsletter also highlights two past programmes and their continued relevance today—

The Students' Biennale 2022 finds its way on Google Arts and Culture where viewers can experience the exhibition virtually that brought together 50 artworks by art students from across 50+ colleges in India, mentored ably by 7 curators. The 2022 edition of Students' Biennale marked the third tranche of support by the Trusts in strengthening this national platform and making accessible opportunities for young artists to hone their practice, experience exhibition production and make forays into the Indian contemporary art world.

From the archives, we recall the programme with The 1947 Partition Archives where senior and junior fellowships were awarded to engage with the born-digital, 10,000+ oral histories strong archive around the tenuous theme of partition of India. With the general elections upon us, the effort of The 1947 Partition Archive serves as a reminder to remember our multifaceted histories, intertwined communities, complex geographies and contested agencies.



Training Course in Conservation of Material Heritage of Sikkim (Wood and Metals)

The three-month training course, supported by Tata Trusts, and being implemented by HIMSHACO, aims at imparting practical skills to 10 participants for care and conservation of wooden and metal objects that represent a part of Sikkimese heritage.

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Tata Trusts supported Students' Biennale 22-23 on Google Arts and Culture

Titled "Roots & Memories", the virtual exhibition highlights a selection of student artworks from the Tata Trusts supported Students' Biennale 22-23, that explored themes of self, family and nature, marking the first in a series of collaborations between Google Arts & Culture and Kochi Biennale Foundation.

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From the Archives - making accessible The 1947 Partition Archives

From 2018-21, Tata Trusts supported The 1947 Partition Archives comprising 10,000+ oral histories chronicling the Partition of India. Through research fellowships, setting up university access points, and training of librarians, forays were made into understanding this tenuous chapter of our history.

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Image Credit (from the top): Museum of Art and Photography, Bangalore; Tata Trusts; Kochi Biennale Foundation, Fort Kochi; The 1947 Partition Archives, Delhi. .

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