As the pandemic continues and a second wave is upon us, performance venues are still to fully open. We have had to adapt and find alternate ways to ensure that the arts continue to thrive. The Trusts have been able to support many of our partner organizations to pursue their mission in creative ways. For example, the Film Heritage Foundation (FHF) and the Mumbai Police Foundation have both been able to continue their digital preservation initiatives, with the former culminating in the release of a digital archive of Nitin M. Desai’s work.

In a year where we have had to cancel in-person events, we have been able to support organizations to shift their focus to online. The Trusts supported the Trusts’ Indigenous Arts & Culture initiative to train 50 students in film preservation in lenses and preservation. The students were able to continue their learning through the pandemic with the support of the Trusts.

As questions are thrown up regarding the acquisition of digital works by institutions and museums, the art world is having to adapt. Digital in art has made it easier to capture, create, and distribute but when it comes to conservation the answer is still in flux. There is a need for a long-term focus on the sustainability of digital works, and the Trusts have been able to support organizations in this area.

Funding is being sought from the National Archives of India. This could be a model that could be adopted by other institutions to support the long-term preservation of digital works. This is important as digital works are not permanent and need to be preserved to ensure they are available for future generations.

As for the future, the Trusts are looking at ways to continue to support organizations towards their mission. We hope to continue to see a world where the arts are able to thrive and continue to bring joy and inspiration to all.

Arts and Culture, Tata Trusts

ARTS TRUSTS
A quarterly update on the programme of the portfolio

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