

TATA TRUSTS

A quarterly update on the programmes of the portfolio



Image courtesy: Aga Khan Trust for Culture

‘Testing’ Waters

Six months have passed since India confronted the Sars-Cov 2 pandemic on its shores, and yet, this period of adjustment hasn't thrown up real answers - the uncertainty remains even as we learn to live with the virus. As we watch the vaccine development race, 'testing' the easing of lockdown takes on a whole new meaning. How we hold on to programmes and manage integrity in delivery became the last three months' prime deliberation, whether in an ongoing programme or ones coming to a close. As the Trusts stayed committed to their Covid relief work (supplies in personal safety gear, test kits, putting up modular units for Covid hospitals, training medical personnel and building awareness in rural areas), new programming is on hold.

Yet, this time gained allowed reflection into how to re-hone aspects of the Tata Trusts Arts Conservation Initiative (ACI) into an efficient model for the next two years as we take into account the loss of time this year. The workshops in material technology get a whole new look to be unveiled next year that we hope will be a thorough, immersive programme with more immediate outcomes.

In this newsletter we feature the Museum of Art and Photography (MAP), one of the most exciting museum developments in the country. Due to open "digitally" this December, it is not often you see an individual effort grow into a museum for all. The establishment of MAP has seen foundations and CSR come together in a manner not seen in the arts in recent times. The Trusts support of the conservation lab and training of conservators as one of the five partner institutions under ACI, we hope, will help establish a thorough conservation centre in the southern region of India.

The work at two built heritage sites, continued, albeit in a stop-start manner due to the lockdown. At the workshop building models for the site museum at Humayun's Tomb, and at the monuments at the Qutb Shahi Heritage Park in Hyderabad, craftsmen were engaged in much needed artistic and economic employment towards the completion of the projects. Not many know that many of the stone craftsmen in our country double time as construction site labourers. Most built heritage sites combine art conservation - in restoration of relief work or the conservation of wall paintings or intricate woodwork or the making of tiles in the manner of the original. We look to take this aspect forward in future programming, bringing cognizance to skill and dignity to excellence that remains unacknowledged at most sites today.

The Masters in Performance Practice (Dance) at Ambedkar University Delhi, supported in its pilot edition by the Trusts, concluded as so many other courses did - students and faculty having to switch online for the final dissertations. Read about the course that married practice and pedagogy in a novel, unlike the virus, exciting way.

As we remain in the limbo of uncertainty, it is essential not to drop one's guard against the stealth of a very infectious virus. All current programmes work carefully around the situations on the ground, even as we continually work to lay fresh ground in thinking how post-pandemic programmes will address the many new issues that have been exposed in the arts this year.

DS



Establishing the conservation centre at MAP

A review of one of the five partners under the Tata Trusts Art Conservation Initiative.

PS

[READ MORE >>](#)



Supporting dance practice and pedagogy

A review of the Tata Trusts supported MA in Performance Practice (Dance) at Ambedkar University, Delhi.

PS

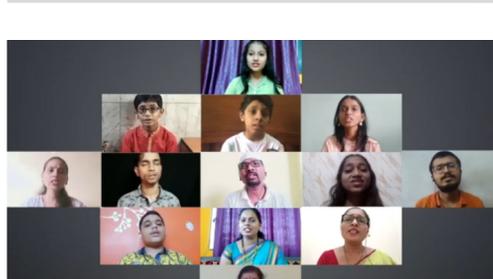
[READ MORE >>](#)



Conservation work at the Qutb Shahi Heritage Park - a photo essay

With the easing of the lockdown, stone craftsmen returned to the site of the Qutb Shahi Heritage Park to continue the conservation work supported by Tata Trusts, in partnership with Aga Khan Trust for Culture.

[SEE MORE >>](#)



Inspire India students perform live at Shankar Mahadevan Academy's annual Sangam event

50 students from Inspire India, a Trusts supported programme, performed live online alongside their global peers in SMA's annual Sangam event. Spread over two days, Aug 8-9th, the students performed in four sessions that can be viewed on SMA's YouTube and Facebook channels.

[SEE MORE >>](#)



Tata Trusts supported IFA fellows present their work at Goa Chitra Museum

Lina Vincent and Aparajita Bhasin received grants under the Archival and Museums Fellowships programme supported by the Trusts, to work with the Goa Chitra Museum collection. They present their work in this talk moderated by the IFA team, as part of their 'Throwback Thursday' series.

[SEE MORE >>](#)



The continuing afterlife of the State of Housing exhibition

The State of Architecture & State of Housing exhibitions by UDRI were both supported by the Trusts. The latter was conceived as a travelling exhibition post its first iteration in Mumbai. So far, it has travelled to CEPT, Ahmedabad and now at the Bangalore International Centre where it has reopened to the public. This is a podcast where two of the curators talk about both exhibitions and the questions raised and addressed.

[SEE MORE >>](#)

Deepika Sorabjee
Paroma Sadhana
Arts and Culture, Tata Trusts

To unsubscribe please write to artsandculture@tatatrusters.org with the subject "unsubscribe"

Copyright © 2018 Tata Trusts

TATA TRUSTS