UNDERSTANDING THE VIRTUAL
The Kala Chaupal Trust reinvents engagements to keep arts and culture relevant and sustainable.

This second newsletter again combats social isolation by using knowledge triggers to influence the relevance of arts, culture and it’s relationship to ecological changing times.

Intertwined yet independent, artistic and ecological, cultural and relevant.

Edvard Munch’s ‘Self-Portrait with the Spanish Flu’ is one of few pieces of art documenting this condition. He did not die from the illness. (www.wellcomcollection.org)
We navigate with you in this virtual unknown, beginning with looking the devil straight in its face….COVID-19. Quarantine or pandemics are not new to society or humans.

**THE ENIGMA: CULTURAL AMNESIA**

**Do we forget?**

This absence of artistic responses and conscious acts of public remembrance puzzled commentators at the time. “There is some psychological interest in the fact… that actually the emotional impression created [by the influenza pandemic] was fainter than that produced by much less grave epidemiological happening,” observed Major Greenwood – a classically trained scholar and epidemiologist who helped compile the official British government report on the pandemic – in his 1935 book *Epidemics and Crowd-Diseases: An Introduction to the Study of Epidemiology*.

The environmental historian Alfred Crosby was similarly perplexed, writing in his history of the pandemic in 1976: “One searches for explanations for the odd fact that Americans took little notice of the pandemic, and then quickly forgot whatever they did notice.”

Crosby’s book was originally entitled ‘Epidemic and Peace’.  
*Citation: American pandemic : the lost worlds of the 1918 influenza epidemic / Nancy K. Bristow*

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**Acts of Optimism**

https://www.reporternewspapers.net/2020/03/22/iconic-dunwoody-mural-becomes-yard-signs-to-support-artists-during-pandemic/
COVID-19 & Artist Actions

ARTS, CULTURE & ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER
31 March 2020

ARTS, CULTURE & ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY

EXPRESSIONS OF SELF ISOLATION FROM ARTIST HENRIK DRESCHER

https://www.printmag.com/daily-heller/henrik-drescher-on-self-isolation/?fbclid=IwAR3LYHrCWtOwQbosAkYLUMjDBgpxLUSX0GauoUKwsflw1ULALyTABZwhIQ

Acts of Optimism
CULTURAL TRADITIONS OF NATURE CONSERVATION IN INDIA
- S.M. Nair

Living in harmony with Nature has been an integral part of Indian culture. This has been abundantly reflected in a variety of traditional practices, religious beliefs, rituals, folklore, arts and crafts, and in the daily lives of the Indian people from time immemorial. The present day global concerns for sustainable development and conservation of natural resources spanning the two decades between the Stockholm Conference of Environment in 1992 and the United Nations Conference on Human Environment and Development (Earth Summit) at Rio de Janeiro in 1992 are of recent origin in comparison to the long tradition and cultural ethos of nature conservation in India.


Khovar & Sohrai of Jharkhand, Patachitra in West Bengal & Odisha and Gond Art of Madhya Pradesh
The Visual Landscape of a World Shaped by Pandemic

- ALAN TAYLOR MARCH 26, 2020 32 PHOTOS IN FOCUS

The drastic impacts of the coronavirus outbreak have changed nearly every aspect of daily life, leaving a visual impact on the world around us. Grounded aircraft, deserted beaches, temporary hospitals, idle buses, quiet streets, empty shelves, and socially distant behavior have quickly become common sights. Gathered here, a few more glimpses of our new reality as billions of people stay home.


Delta Air Lines passenger planes are seen parked at Birmingham-Shuttlesworth International Airport in Birmingham, Alabama, on March 25, 2020, due to flight reductions made to slow the spread of the coronavirus. #Elijah Noueljege / Reuters

Food-delivery staff members sit on social-distancing chairs as they wait for their customers’ orders at a department store in Bangkok, Thailand, on March 24, 2020. #Chalinee Thirasupa / Reuters

 Serbian military personnel set up beds inside a hall at the Belgrade Fair to accommodate people suffering from mild symptoms of COVID-19 on March 24, 2020. #Vladimir Zivojinovic / AFP / Getty

A man walks between two terminals at the Franz Josef Strauss Airport in Munich, southern Germany, where many flights are currently canceled by the airlines, on March 17, 2020. #Christof Stache / AFP / Getty
Recommended Books: Adults

Recommended Books: Kids

Sketching for Relaxation during Shelter@home: Initiative by Asian Art Museum, San Francisco and is recommended by them:

Did you know? The rhythmic and repetitive motion of drawing helps synchronize hand and eye, body and mind, and can be used to elicit what Harvard cardiologist Herbert Benson has identified as the "relaxation response."

Take a look at some of our favorite sketches created by our talented museum visitors.

You can write back to us on info@kalachaupal.org with your recommendations.
SOME INTERESTING RESEARCH

6 Environmental Artists Who Celebrate Nature and Promote Positive Social Change

By Emma Taggart on December 5, 2018

https://mymodernmet.com/environmental-art/

FAMILY TIME: FILM WATCHING

ARTS, CULTURE & ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY

MELODIES FOR THE SOUL

IDEA CONTRIBUTIONS

You can write back to us on info@kalachaupal.org with your recommendations.
CONTRIBUTE TO A NEW DIALOGUE

The Kala Chaupal Team- Helen Frederick, Premila Singh, Leenika Jacob & Sibdas Sengupta (Right to Left)

STAY SAFE IN YOUR HOMES AND TALK TO US

An invitation to communities to join the “ENVIRONMENTAL SITUATION ROOM”

A Curatorial Premise by Helen Frederick- Organisational Curator Kala Chaupal

YOU are invited to the global situation art project. Send experimental images, texts, designs, robotic diagrams, any and all forms of collective concepts for innovative environmental change. Respond to the transformation YOU are experiencing during OUR world-wide crisis, and the need to preserve life from disease, to protect and restore the world's environment, its oceans, air, forests and populations; and to activate a creative virtual community for behaviour and ecological change.

A Community Concept Proposal: IN THE TIMES OF COVID-19 ‘ISOLATION’ IS A REAL TERM

With the current global crisis around the pandemic called the COVID-19, many cities/towns have shut down all public spaces which offer art, music and other entertainment activities, leaving the common man, woman & child sitting at home with a lot of free time on their hands. We propose to get the community active together (virtually) and excited about an interactivity that uses Art and invites knowledge & skill based participation.

Find ARTWORKS, POEMS, SONGS, WRITINGS, VIDEOS on #theenvironmentalsituationroom @KALACHAUPAL

If you would like to share your works then email: thesituationroom@kalachaupal.org
We all have our creativity to share

Find ‘The Environmental Situation Room’ online
#theenvironmentalsituationroom @kalachaupal

From Isolation in Silver Spring, USA
Artist: Helen Frederick
‘Crisis’, 2020
48" x 58", pulp painting

“CRISIS reflects upon unknown territories and conditions that we are now experiencing. By using text in this piece, I trust the work provides a voice or voices who are globally sharing psychological changes. Our responses that are collectively urgent consider humankind’s survival while we are perpetuating so many things that contribute to our own demise.”

www.helenfrederick.com

Nature as a mystery, studies in isolation.
Kolkata
Artist: Dr. Paula Sengupta

“Far from representational, in the conceptual tradition of the Eastern schools, these motifs lie somewhere between the plant and animal world, irresistibly beautiful, yet menacing, uncontrolled and erotic. Camouflage is also an inherent characteristic of chintz, deriving once again from Nature’s intrinsic order.”

www.helenfrederick.com
Visit ‘The Environmental Situation Room’ online
#theenvironmentalsituationroom @kalachaupal

From New York City
Artist: Bette Alexander
30” ht., oil paint, oil sticks and charcoal

“These works were made between January and early March 2020 just before COVID-19 rose to attention in America and hit New York City, where I live, very hard. In retrospect, the two paintings and one collage are like forecasts of a world about to enter chaos, confusion and despair. Actually, in my mind, the entire world was already in the midst of calamity, as the works reference climate change, political dysfunction, and other miseries of the human condition which have been with us for some time.”

www.bettealexander.com

Cyberabad: Not too far away
Artist: Thommen Lukose

“A city that provides housing to an extent that homelessness is a myth. Where wifi is 24*7 but no water, vehicles can teleport but still people can’t find time. Nature is scarce; the cubicle houses are exact replicas of each other. Where ownership by MNCs have ensured a system of efficiency. The pixilation’s and visual distortions paint a utopian image while cleverly hiding it’s shortcomings behind the shining landscapes. The dystopian future, which seems light years away is not too far away.”
‘Migrations’

Artist: Premila Singh

Acrylic on canvas

“Lives hang by fragile threads during present times under the threat of coronavirus. Millions of migrant workers who live on daily wages are facing the trauma of being far away from their families and homes. They are at times the sole earners and have many family members back in their villages, dependent on them. We have visibility to these people on a daily basis in the form of our domestic staff, carpenters, masons, house painters, electricians, tailors, peons, auto rickshaw and truck drivers. The list is endless. In the current scenario all they want is to do is to be with their loved ones.”

You may contribute to: https://www.feedingindia.org

CORPORATE CORNER: Editor’s Choice

“Some you want to some you don’t want to know…..
There is family and there are friends,
Some are just thrown together
Some just for the sake of social media Trends;
Some you know don’t matter
So you don’t intend to know
Some seem to be controlling your destiny
Who for sure feel like your worst foe;
The faster we run and the higher we fly
We try go past people on a sly,
Crammed elevator is virtually empty
Mobile is there to not see eye to eye;

“It’s a race though about running like fanatics,
It’s a race to be won and not one race
What’s in it for me trumps over genetics;
We feel for what would help us win the race
Yes we work together but can’t work together,
We are human beings but not human
We are strangers though we know each other;
It’s a global village
The Earth is but a tiny spec within the universe,
I, me, myself is but The dominant verse……
Lexicon is growing with conundrums Oxymorons, contradictions and paradoxes, The faster we run the higher.”

Acknowledgement: ‘writings’ courtesy, Mr. Sanjeev Shukla. Emphasises that creativity lies in all of us and we are all human first.
SUPPORT THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19
GLOBAL CALL TO CREATIVES- An Open Brief from the United Nations

IT IS NOT TOO LATE...

NO ONE CAN DO EVERYTHING, BUT EVERYONE CAN DO SOMETHING TOGETHER, WE CAN SAVE LIVES, PROTECT RESOURCES AND CARE FOR EACH OTHER

In response to the United Nations current brief, The Kala Chaupal Trust wishes to act as an influencer and share their messages to resonate with you for model behaviours during the COVID-19 crisis.

See the UN GLOBAL CALL TO CREATIVES at this link: https://unfoundation.org/what-we-do/issues/global-health/covid-19-response-fund-toolkit/

The UN has identified six key areas of public activation most essential right now. Together these make up six "mini-briefs" or episodes:

1. Personal hygiene
2. Social distancing
3. Know the symptoms
4. Kindness contagion
5. Myth busting
6. Do more, donate

CALL FOR ACTION POINTS:

IF YOU ARE A CREATOR THEN BUILD VISUAL CONTENT.

IF YOU ARE A MEDIA CHANNEL THEN PLEASE CARRY THE CONTENT.

IF YOU ARE A DONOR THEN PLEASE DONATE.