Is there a Succour for Creative Communities under COVID19? Are we listening?

SELECTED STATEMENTS BY TALENTED YOUNG EMERGING ARTISTS, AS THEY SUBMIT FOR CRISIS SUPPORT THROUGH A GOOGLE FORM, RELATE HOW COVID 19 HAS LEFT AN IMPACT ON THEIR LIVES.

“It is very difficult situation to survive without money, and also my parents have no source to send me any money”

26 Artists directly supported by The Kala Chaupal Trust pan INDIA through the FUNDRAISER ON GIVEINDIA ‘KALAKARON KI CHAUPAL’

www.kalachaurpal.org ARTS, CULTURE & ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY

#thechaupalspeaks #theenvironmentalsituationroom @kalachaupal @Allrightsreserved- May 2020
A WORLD WITHOUT COLOUR IS NO WORLD AT ALL.

“My additional source of income by commercial works is completely at an end. I am not getting any new work also my payments are due. COVID19 has made it hard to survive as all my savings are over. Soon I will have to leave my studio space as I don’t have money to pay the rent.”

“I am currently in a financial crisis due to unavailability of work.”

“This is really a bad situation for me, because whatever money I had, it is almost spent and now there is no money source, because in my home also, they do not have a mobile link with their bank account, so they cannot pay by google or phone pay.”

PLEASE SUPPORT ‘KALAKARON KI CHAUPAL’ ON GIVEINDIA SO WE CAN SUPPORT THE UNSEEN CRIES OF OUR EDUCATED ARTISTIC COMMUNITIES WHO WE WILL NEED AS FUTURE THINKERS TO REDRAW INDIA’S DEVELOPMENTAL PLANS.

SUPPORT THEIR RIGHT TO LIVELIHOOD.

SUPPORT THE ARTIST
TO RE-DRAW INDIA’S VISION OF CULTURE & DEVELOPMENT

During this difficult time as we all going through,
It is a great help I have received from Kala Chaupal which I am really thankful of, as an artist I can relax a bit now and focus on my art practice without being worried so much and thanks to all who are supporting to needy in this difficult time!

-Samir Mohanty

The Right to Life and Livelihood is an intrinsic part of our Cultural Heritage

Pencil Sketchings by Ushnish Mukherji

A WORLD WITHOUT COLOUR IS NO WORLD AT ALL.
CRAFT COMMUNITIES COME TOGETHER FOR THE FIRST TIME IN INDIA TO CREATE AN EGALITARIAN PLATFORM FOR ARTISAN LIVELIHOODS.

#CREATIVEDIGNITY* IS AN UNPRECEDENTED MOVEMENT THAT AIMS TO ADDRESS THE CHALLENGES BEING FACED BY 200 MILLION ARTISANS ACROSS INDIA DURING THE PANDEMIC.

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WWW.KALACHAUPAL.ORG ARTS, CULTURE & ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY
ENVISIONING AND INSPIRING
POSITIVE CHANGE-
The Coronavirus Is Rewriting Our
Imaginations

What felt impossible has become thinkable. The spring of 2020 is suggestive of how much, and how quickly, we can change as a civilization.

- KIM STANLEY ROBINSON,
THE NEW YORKER

Cheryial Scrolls were once sociologically and culturally significant. Conventionally used as a tool for educating the unlettered villagers, these painted scrolls were what kept the people of the era gone-by entertained. The village bard would use them as a visual aid to go with his stories and ballads. Today, these scrolls have all but phased out with the more mainstream ways of storytelling and entertainment, leaving not many artists who still practice this dying art form. Sai Kiran is shown on the left still continuing the practice.

The stories in the #CULTUREMASKS are simple stories from all that we are undergoing under COVID19 and how farming and existence are the simple necessities really needed for human existence.

FOR BULK ENQUIRIES WRITE TO JAIPULAKALACHAUPAL@GMAIL.COM
Covid-19: Weaving threads of hope in the times of Coronavirus

The crisis caused by COVID-19 has resulted in a sudden disruption of businesses across the globe and the Indian economy is not immune to this pandemic. The handloom sector has, too, been severely affected with their traditional and contemporary markets for artisans being totally closed.

Indo Asian News Service
New Delhi

The crisis caused by COVID-19 has resulted in a sudden disruption of businesses across the globe and the Indian economy is not immune to this pandemic. (UNSPLASH)

Cash flow has stopped, with buyers unable to make payments and no sales happening at all. Buyers are not in a position to place new orders – in the craft sector, orders are planned much in advance as usual lead time required to complete a production cycle is 2 to 3 months. Retail events through which artisans get cash sales may not happen for next few months.

Indian handlooms have been picking up in the “slow fashion” market internationally, but with this uncertainty, no overseas orders will be forthcoming. Customer priorities may change with tightened budgets.

What do artisans want? Donation/Funding vs Generation of work… which of these is the artisan demanding at these trying times? The wide segment of artisans of clusters have consensus in attributing their demand to a continued support from buyers and designers by placing advance orders and buying out their existing inventory of finished product rather than request for financial assistance.

The artisans want to present a positive picture and the beauty of their crafts and bond with customers offering them value in exchange for their support.

Isolation Over Money/ Money Over Safety

We are living In-Between.

SHELTER IN PLACE has been the new normal for months now. As the COVID-19 virus continues to strike down more and more people, residents worldwide are fearfully concerned for their safety and futures. Clearly, as we are not out of the pandemic woods, the concept to ease social distancing to open the economy, sounds like a dangerous viral petri dish to some, like a relief to others.

What other choices are there? What kind of projections will work? What will the world be like over the next days, months and year? How will the pandemic’s revelations of major problems affect our global society?

The medical field is focusing on molecular diagnosis and linking basic sciences to clinical research, including human proteomics that use a multi-disciplinary approach to untangle complex disease, as one of many urgent initiatives.

Support to the business world is on a complete downslide everywhere, yet entrepreneurial spirit in some industries is helping the medical field with necessary supplies. Others are running a GoFundMe campaign to help raise money for impacted employees and communities.

Environmentalists are observing positive change during this time of isolation, but remain cognizant that when life returns to an accelerated pace again, threatening global conditions are once more advanced, with a premise of human destruction.

Meanwhile the multi-disciplinary nature of the arts finds our cultural communities still nurturing and inspirational, empathetic and connecting, and looking ahead interactively. The pandemic has pushed the arts into even larger formats about social and environmental sustainability.

This newsletter looks at generational and fundamental change in our society, both long and short-term changes in the state of economies, in government, the environment, our cultural communities, and individual lives.

AREN WE PUSHING ECONOMIC DELIVERY TO LEAD US TO DISASTERS? OR ARE WE INCUBATING ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE? DISPELLING FEARS OR FAILING TO LEARN FOR THE FUTURE? WHO AND WHAT ARE ENVISIONING AND INSPIRING POSITIVE CHANGE?
TROUBLING SCENERIOS:
ARE WE PUSHING ECONOMIC DELIVERY TO LEAD US TO DISASTERS?

Reopening the Economy Would Add 233,000 Deaths by July but Save Millions of Jobs

Many analysts and economists, including Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell, have long contended that the coronavirus outbreak is a public health issue, first and foremost, and that reducing the spread of the virus will be the best and most effective way to restore the U.S. economy to its former glory.

HOW WILL WE CREATE OUR FUTURE?
‘THE CHAUPAL SPEAKS’
IN A 4-PART WEBINAR ON ARTS, CULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

Creation vs Collapse

11 MAY Free-Fall to Creative Paradigms
18 MAY Virtual Environmental Situation Room
25 MAY Language of Regions-Tools at our Disposal
1 JUNE Art as a Sanctuary, Art as an Action

IN COLLABORATION WITH

ARTS, CULTURE & ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY
Webinar Series
CREATION VERSUS COLLAPSE

Like an e-Museum platform, THE WEBINAR series will engage visitors online to enjoy distinguished personal lectures, conversations, and panels that will highlight how cultural institutions, museums, galleries, and collectives are responding to the magnitude of economic and social conditions caused by the Corona Virus.

The webinar seeks to gather a wide range of reactions and responses on the challenges, opportunities & innovations that society, culture and art need to embrace to find resolution to the current crisis.

It plans to make visible significant observations from cultural and environmental leaders about how our altered modes of working and virtual thinking can provide new solutions and change.

JOIN ZOOM

FREE FALL TO CREATIVE PARADIGMS
6.30-7.30 PM ON 11 MAY
https://zoom.us/j/9519805873?pwd=RnBZMnhgZVd2U2dSeVZlOXBxUDU5UT09
Meeting ID: 951 9806 6873
Password: 5C2Qzn

VIRTUAL ENVIRONMENTAL SITUATION ROOM
6.30-7.30 PM ON 18 MAY
Join Zoom Meeting
https://zoom.us/j/93384477148?pwd=L2VTMEdmbm9ra3IkboZQNPnRPSFBUT09
Meeting ID: 933 8447 7148
Password: 3EXsiT

LANGUAGE OF REGIONS-TOOLS AT OUR DISPOSAL
6.30-7.30 PM ON 25 MAY
https://zoom.us/j/91213703464?pwd=ei9Udi1BcmpwSmRnbFBqTVNKhW5Zz09
Meeting ID: 912 1370 3464
Password: lqHzU

ART AS A SANCTUARY, ART AS AN ACTION
6.30-7.30 PM ON 1ST JUNE
https://zoom.us/j/95840981956?pwd=e1RUQno5cXYTSE1pMGFaR3dXejYlUT09
Meeting ID: 958 4098 1956
Password: 8brmrm
Free Fall to Creative Paradigms

‘THE CHAUPAL SPEAKS’

THE 1ST PART OF ‘CREATION VS COLLAPSE’ WEBINAR SERIES ON ARTS, CULTURE & ENVIRONMENT 6.30-7.30 PM, 11TH MAY 2020

JOIN ZOOM
https://zoom.us/j/95198066873?pwd=RnBZMnhpZVd2U2dSeVZLOXBXcUY5UT09
Meeting ID: 951 9806 6873
Password: 5C2Qzn

IN COLLABORATION WITH

INSTITUT FRANÇAIS INDIA

ARTS, CULTURE & ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY
Webinar I

FREE FALL TO CREATIVE PARADIGMS

Monday May 11 6:30-7:30 pm

JOIN ZOOM
https://zoom.us/j/95198066873?pwd=RnBZMnhrZVvd2U2dSeVZIOXByUDU5UT09
Meeting ID: 951 9806 6873
Password: SCZQzn

MODERATOR

Ravi Agarwal
Ravi Agarwal has an inter-disciplinary practice as an artist, photographer, environmental campaigner, writer and curator.

His work explores contemporary questions of ecology, society, urban space and capital. Ravi has also pioneered public advocacy based work in the area of chemical safety and waste. He has authored several books and journals on issues of sustainability and art and serves on boards of civil society originations and art juries.

PANELISTS

Dr Bertrand de Hartingh
Counsellor for Education, Science and Culture, French Embassy in India / Ambassade de France en Inde and Director, French Institute in India (IFI).

Dr Bertrand de Hartingh is a historian, curator and diplomat who helms the educational, scientific and cultural network of France in India and puts perspective on the Indo-French important cultural events and exchanges that are close to his heart have been effected in these unprecedented times and how despite it all there is light at the end of the tunnel since creation is the strength of a creative community.

Alice Audouin, Maskbook Program and Art of Change 21
Founder and Chair of Art of Change 21, and Cofounder and former chair (2008-2014) of the French association COAL Art & Sustainable development.

Alice Audouin will address an art project called “Maskbook,” by the association Art of Change 21, launched in 2015 and sets the note on her journey to environmental activism and global thinking through the MASKBOOK art project that is designed to raise awareness about air pollution and climate change, by getting people to design their own masks from recycled waste and transform dust masks as symbols of pollution into symbols of solutions.

Jack Rasmussen, PhD, Director and Curator
American University Museum at the Katzen Art Center, PANDEMIC, in relation to the 8 shows the museum is opening in September addressing issues in the USA election: environment, immigration, human rights, surveillance, and addiction.
Grandma, how can I live this quarantine?
- By Monika Nataraj

"My daughter, quarantine is a special, mysterious and sacred period. In my days, newborn children could only leave the house for the first time after their 40th day of life. It is a period of waiting and preparing for a new life. It is the period that produces a great change."

And how do you prepare for this change?

"With simple, genuine and loving actions. Every morning comb your long hair with dedication and untie all the knots, even the most hidden ones that you have always neglected. It is time to put all the knots in the comb. Then dedicate yourself to untangling even your beloved ones skeins. With patience and you will try to find the end of the skein, the exact starting point of the thread. Already with these simple but powerful actions you will create order outside and inside of you. Undoing physical knots with your hands you will begin to touch your internal knots."

And after undoing the knots, what can I do, grandma?

Remove all parts of you that are no longer fertile. In many funeral rites of ancient peoples it is believed that the deceased leaves the body entirely on the 40th day after his death. In these 40 days, my daughter, cut your hair, eliminate clothes that you have not worn for a long time or that you no longer want use, open the windows of your home well to let the stale air out, cultivate new thoughts by abandoning the old, dedicated to creating new habits, new customs, new traditions."

Grandmother, I’m afraid that after this isolation nothing will change. Man quickly forgets...

"How others will react to this quarantine is none of your business. Make a commitment to change and not forget. Make sure this storm shakes you up so much that it completely revolutionizes your life."

—Elena Bernabé, Indigenous Peoples Cultures. April, 2020
Seema Kohli
CREATOR OF THE CANVAS OF LIFE:
Celebrating Eternal Energy Hariti
by Seema Kohli
Text by Habiba Insaf

Seema Kohli’s mythical women have long symbolized fecundity, strength and creative germination. In her most recent work ‘Hariti’ Kohli’s engagement with the leitmotif of femininity to chronicle stories of healing, nurturing and salvation offers a visual talisman amid troubled time.

FERTILITY, SYMBOLISMS, CIVILIZATIONS
In the upper register of the painting, Kohli’s vigorous cross hatching conjures Hariti, the child-devouring demoness turned protector goddess who presides over the world from heaven. She bears a look that is fierce and purposeful, and her long-tousled hair springs forth lotuses of knowledge. In her womb resides the celestial wisdom of the sun, the moon and the stars. Her attributes multiply to transforms her into a three-headed and multi armed goddess. While her outstretched upper hands hold up the cerulean sky, her lower hands firmly rest on her bent knees offering balance. Squatting on her toes that have since grown into a dense capillary structure, she gives birth to a girl with a serpentine plait.
Hariti, who once belonged to the ancient Indic yaksha and yakshi cult, is said to have later converted to Buddhism and become a protectress of children.

Her contemporary worship in the Indian subcontinent is associated with childbirth and healing both closely related to archetypal motherhood. Women’s bodies have long been tasked with procreating and protecting. But for Kohli, the act of nurturing is not exclusively a woman’s task. The three heads of Hariti denote that her attributes live in all of us irrespective of the gender we identify with.

Birthing is not limited to bearing offspring and neither is motherhood tied to childbirth. The surging belly of the woman on the upper right gives birth to civilisations while the child-free woman adjacent to her is impregnated with joyful liberation. Mothers and non-mothers both find a place in Kohli’s visual narrative.

NATURE, PROTECTION, ROLE OF WOMEN

In its visual metaphor of Kartikeya, as in the artwork in progress, a tree, Kohli offers a beautiful double ode-women as nurturers as well as eco warriors. For it was the women forest dwellers in India who have since centuries stood guard by throwing their bodies in front of predatory axes. Their protests against mindless felling of forests continues unabated with the only tools they have-courage and persistence. They are the glorious champions of ecological conservation. Hariti, who once belonged to the ancient Indic yaksha and yakshi cult, is said to have later converted to Buddhism and become a protectress of children. Her contemporary worship in the Indian subcontinent is associated with childbirth and healing both closely related to archetypal motherhood. Women’s bodies have long been tasked with procreating and protecting. But for Kohli, the act of nurturing is not exclusively a woman’s task. The three heads of Hariti denote that her attributes live in all of us irrespective of the gender we identify with.
Forests have deep symbology in Kohli’s works. It is in the abundant forest, the lap of nature where gods and goddesses, rishis and sadhus, demons and nature spirits dwell and complex transformations unfold. In its visual metaphor of Kartikeya as a tree, Kohli offers a beautiful double ode - women as nurturers as well as eco warriors.

“I am a mirror. When I paint, you see not what I have made but what you want to see.” Seema Kohli is a contemporary artist, her work showcases the female form and explores an altered concept of feminine sexuality, bringing to the fore the various aspects of a woman, from her physical attributes, her intellect, her dreams to realities.” Her stories are rooted as much in philosophy as in knowledge gained in modern times, a parable of tales both imagined and real, till one can no longer tell the real from the imagined.

(Note: Habiba Insaf is an art historian and fellow at Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. She holds a Masters in Arts and Aesthetics from Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi).
ARTIST VOICES USA

"She Came First", 24"x18", egg tempera on panel, 2018

In this painting there is a woman/Mother Earth figure clothed in water. She is holding the cosmic egg from which life hatches. Protective serpents are at her feet. She sends love and blessings to the water that is you, your drinking water, and the bodies of water that flow around us.
PUBLIC UTILITY 2.0 is a work that extends through national borders into the non-visible real estate of radio frequencies.

“There are over 60 million people in the United States that are not connected to the Internet. This is a basic issue of need and access to connectivity. My work as an artist, considers this spatially, to transform the spectrum for the 21st century, both architecturally and programmatically to create equitable access for all. ”

- Mary Ellen Carroll.

The collaborative Public Utility 2.0 (2012 — present) positions “Super WiFi” devices beneath New Orlean’s elevated I-10 expressway to provide broadband wire to an underserved African American community.
Let’s take a look at a few examples and talk about the practitioners of interactive art – how is it related to relational aesthetics, and to the Internet today?

This remarkable photo by Warren Neidich synthesizes past & future. This fusion was captured in Giza, inside my pyramid following my death in 2041 (both BC & AC) Posted by Robert Atkins on Facebook

Art World: KAWS Just Entered the Augmented Reality Game With Giant Virtual Sculptures That You Can See —and Buy—in 11 Major Cities

Naomi Rea, March 12, 2020
Governments should focus on climate protection when considering fiscal stimulus packages to support an economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said on Tuesday.

URY.COM
Germany’s Merkel wants green recovery from coronavirus crisis

Speaking at a virtual climate summit known as the Petersberg Climate Dialogue, Merkel said she expected difficult discussions about how to design post-crisis stimulus measures and about which business sectors need more help than others. “It will be all the more important that if we set up economic stimulus programmes, we must always keep a close eye on climate protection,” Merkel said, adding the focus should be laid on supporting modern technologies and renewable energies.

U.N. Secretary General Antonio Guterres told the conference there could be an opportunity for the world in the “dark times” of the coronavirus crisis. “The restart can lead to a healthier and more resilient world for everyone,” he said.
The Three Most Likely Scenarios to Defeat the Coronavirus

MEDIUM.com
Unlike new treatments and a vaccine, wearing a mask doesn’t require scientific breakthroughs to stop the…

An activist wearing protective suit helps a pedestrian to put on gloves, during an awareness campaign, amid the spread of the coronavirus disease. Photo: Reuters

Coronavirus India update: The total number of coronavirus (Covid-19) positive cases in India rose to 21,370 by Thursday, with 681 of them dead, according to Worldometer.

Against the backdrop of attacks on healthcare personnel fighting coronavirus, the Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved an ordinance making acts of violence against them as cognizable and non-bailable offences, Union minister Prakash Javadekar said.

The proposed ordinance will amend the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897.

Mass Incarceration Could Add 100,000 Deaths to US Coronavirus Toll, Study Finds

Ed Pilkington, Guardian UK
Pilkington writes: “America’s addiction to mass incarceration could almost double its number of deaths from coronavirus, with jails acting as incubators of the disease and spreading a further 100,000 fatalities across the US.”
“The Kala Chaupal Trust would like to gratefully acknowledge collaborative artworks, writings, webinar participations that are freely contributed and shared in this edition of The Chaupal Speaks, May 2020. The Kala Chaupal Trust is also deeply indebted to the individuals and teams at Institut Francais and Republique Francaise who worked with us in collation of this webinar series.”

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