

Emami Art and Kolkata Centre for Creativity present
“Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam”
‘(The World is One Family)’

Art Exhibition: 26 January – 24 March 2019

Annual Conference: 26–27 January 2019

Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam to explore contemporary art & nature

**Mr. Bruce Bucknell, British Deputy High Commissioner, Kolkata
inaugurates the event**

Kolkata, 25th January, 2019: Kolkata Centre for Creativity (KCC), a one of its kind multi-disciplinary art space which opened its doors to the public in November 2018 and **Emami Art** are set to host the first Annual Conference of the Centre along with an Art Exhibition - titled **Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (The World is One Family)**, as the central theme.

The event was inaugurated today in the august presence of **Mr. Bruce Bucknell**, British Deputy High Commissioner in Kolkata; **Mr. Aditya V. Agarwal**, Director, Emami Group; **Mr. Pinakin Patel**, Creative Director, KCC; and, **Ms. Richa Agarwal**, Executive Director, KCC and CEO, Emami Art.

Programmed by **Shwetal A. Patel**, the first edition of the Kolkata Centre for Creativity Annual Conference, examines the notion of ‘*Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*’ and a vision of holistic development and respect for all forms of life. The international conference explores this thought and its influence on creativity, and society more broadly, through symposia, discussions and presentations. The two-day annual conference (26th-27th January, 2019) will see leading thinkers, artists, writers, musicians, practitioners, curators and architects, both national and international, present the soft power of art based on the principle of ‘unity in diversity’.

Alongside, an Exhibition on the central theme, also titled **Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (The World Is One Family)** curated by **Pinakin Patel** is being held at Emami Art – KCC, on contemporary art’s relationship to the environment between 26th January – 24th March 2019. It will highlight how, no matter the geography or time period, the inspiration for all artists is the same. Fascinating artworks by 40 eminent artists from 13 countries, including India are displayed at the exhibition. Some of the key names are - **Ganesh Selvaraj** (India), **Do Ho Suh** (South Korea), **Tony Delap** (USA), **Matthias Bitzer** (Germany), **Camille Henrot** (France), **Iftikhar Dadi & Elizabeth Dadi** (USA) along with many others will be on display at the exhibition.

“The idea for this conference emerged at a time when the necessity for experimental and courageous debate is growing exponentially across India. The Annual Symposium aims to use KCC and its environs as a creative and artistic platform for a series of inter-disciplinary dialogues, presentation, performances and workshops. The speakers and the participants this year are a milieu of art aficionados from nook and corners of the world. We are opening this conference with a diverse exhibition under the central theme “*Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*” where we have attempted to showcase a palette of world art across geographies”, said **Ms. Richa Agarwal, Executive Director, KCC and CEO, Emami Art.**

Mr. Pinakin Patel, Creative Director, KCC said, “All artists draw inspiration from their environment, either by correlating different life forms with their sustaining elements. Beyond earth, water, fire and air, there is ether or spirit. The same spirit that resides in the inert mineral, murmurs within the emotional plant, dreams in the intelligent animals and, is fully alive in the discerning man. This insight gives the artist the ultimate human freedom — the power to choose, respond, and change. This soft power if collected globally can provide an antidote to the current degenerative chaos in man and nature”.

Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam | KCC Annual Conference | List of Speakers/Participants:

Anupam Sah: Conservator (Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya)

Bandana Tewari: Writer & Sustainability Activist (Craft Diplomacy)

Bickram Ghose: Musician

Bose Krishnamachari: Artist (Kochi Biennale Foundation)

Dr. Deepika Sorabjee: Head Arts & Culture (Tata Trusts)

Hena Kapadia: Founder and Gallery Director (Tarq)

James Green: Gallery Director (David Zwirner)

Shuvaprasanna - Artist

Dr. Kalyan Chakravarty: Art Historian & Cultural Administrator

Mark Rappolt: Writer & Curator (ArtReview)

Mukhtiyar Ali: Musician

Parul Zaveri: Architect (Panika)

Pinakin Patel: Architect

Sheela Gawda: Artist

Sneha Ragavan: Researcher (Asia Art Archive)

Dr. Sook Kyung-Lee: Senior Curator, International Art (Tate Modern)

Sudarshan Shetty: Artist

Dr. V. Venu: CEO, Rebuild Kerala (Government of Kerala)

Kounteya Sinha: Photographer & Journalist

Abhishek Poddar: Founder, Tasveer Art Gallery

Prateek Raja: Gallery Director & Co-Founder (Experimenter)

Swarup Dutta: Scenographer

Dr Rory Hyde: Curator of Contemporary Architecture & Urbanism (Victoria & Albert Museum)

Manoj Nair: Writer, Critic & Curator

Notes to Editors:

About Emami Art

A destination for Modern & cutting- edge Contemporary Art, Emami Art is a one-of-a-kind art space built in keeping with international standards. Positioned as a key destination for artists, visitors and art collectors, the gallery aligns with the Emami Group’s mission to support artists & artisans and contribute to society’s wellbeing. A regular programme of curated exhibitions, includes the works of new talents and eminent masters of regional, national and international repute, that aligns with the promoters’ ideology that while the popular contributes to the academic, the academic uplifts the popular. Spearheaded by Richa Agarwal, Emami Art’s new 10,000 sq.ft. art space is located in the Kolkata Centre for Creativity (KCC), a state-of-the-art multi-disciplinary interactive art centre, off Eastern Metropolitan Bypass, Kolkata, India. www.emamiart.com

About KCC

Kolkata Centre for Creativity (KCC) is a new multi-disciplinary interactive art and creativity centre located in Kolkata, West Bengal. The 70,000 sq. ft Centre champions the art and cultural landscape of contemporary India and is designed by architect Pinakin Patel, who is also its Creative Director.

KCC anchors on Emami Art, a 10,000 sq ft art gallery, spearheaded by Emami Group Director Richa Agarwal who is also the Executive Director of the Centre. Alongside Emami Art, which hosts a regular programme of art exhibitions by artists of national and international repute, KCC also encompasses distinct exhibition spaces that showcase art, craft, antiquity and product design from contemporary culture as well as traditional Indian handicrafts. KCC also includes a classical amphitheatre for performances and creative contemplations; a children's creativity corner; modular spaces for events; and an art conservation studio. Additionally, KCC houses a book and materials library, dance studio for workshops, a skills development and a maker section to create prototypes using the latest digital technologies, an art shop offering specially commissioned products and a vegetarian café.

Showcasing several expressions of art and design to highlight their common creative core - Kolkata Centre for Creativity encourages visitors to explore, interact and design ideas on various art forms within its spaces. KCC is thus envisaged as a space of collocations, not only in the visual arts, but also in craft, design, music, textiles, architecture, photography, film, poetry & literature, independent publishing, graphic design, conservation, urbanism, ecology, technology and the culinary arts in a symbiotic and fluid structure.

Kolkata Centre for Creativity and Emami Art offers free entry to the public and is open between 11am to 6pm from Tuesday to Sunday.

www.kolkatacentreforcreativity.com

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