

# Kolkata Centre for Creativity

## Hosts

### ‘Dialogues in the Dark’

-Art critic and curator Uma Nair in conversation with photographer Soham Gupta-

**Kolkata, 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2019: Kolkata Centre for Creativity**, the multi-disciplinary interactive Art Centre, hosted a fascinating conversation titled ‘**Dialogues in the Dark**’ today wherein acclaimed photographer **Mr Soham Gupta** spoke about his evolution as a photographer and his recent experience at the 58<sup>th</sup> Venice Biennale with eminent art critic and curator **Ms Uma Nair**. The conversation was steered in the backdrop of the slide show of Soham’s world famous photo series ‘**Angst**’, presented at Venice, that has captured the forgotten people of Kolkata who live their lives in the darkness of the night.

**Mr Soham Gupta’s** work constantly moves between the realm of documentary photography, art and the written word. He responds to themes of loneliness and isolation, of abuse and pain, of scarred pasts and uncertain futures, sexual tensions and existential dilemmas. Through his works showcased recently in Venice, Soham spoke about greater social discourse in the widening of gaps in society.

“‘Dialogues in the Dark’ is a unique conversation between Uma Nair and Soham Gupta two pre-eminent voices from the art fraternity. Soham Gupta’s images are hard hitting that create thought provoking conversations. He is one of the 79 artists who were chosen across the world to be showcased at the prestigious 58<sup>th</sup> Venice Biennale, 2019 and it feels great to have him with us.” said **Ms Richa Agarwal, Executive Director, Kolkata Centre for Creativity and CEO, Emami Art**.

The hour long conversation adeptly conducted by Uma Nair, touched upon a myriad of topics and nuances of Soham’s subjects. It was well attended by photography enthusiasts and city intellectuals.

#### **About Soham Gupta:**

Based in Calcutta, Soham Gupta’s work constantly moves between the realm of documentary photography, art and the written word. He responds to themes of loneliness and isolation, of abuse and pain, of scarred pasts and uncertain futures, sexual tensions and existential dilemmas. He is one of the invited artists participating at the 58<sup>th</sup> La Biennale di Venezia curated by Ralph Rugoff. Apart from various books by great authors, Soham drew his inspiration from Kabir Suman the Bengali balladeer who has often composed music about the downtrodden. Soham’s works at the Biennale focusses on India as well as Kolkata. It speaks about greater social discourse in the widening of gaps in society.

In 2018, Soham was selected by The British Journal of Photography as one of sixteen emerging photographers from more than 500 nominations made by a global panel of experts. In the same year, his book, “Angst” published by Akina Books was shortlisted for the Les Prix du Livre: Photo and Text Book Award at Les Rencontres d’Arles and the Paris Photo - Aperture Foundation First Photobook Award.

**About Uma Nair:**

Nair is a noted critic and curator. She has authored the first book on Paresh Maity titled “25 Years of Paresh Maity” as well as Sayed Haider Raza’s last book just before his passing away in July 2016. The latter was entitled “Reverie with Raza”, published by Akar Prakar and Mapin Publications. She was the curatorial advisor for The Kolkata International Photo Festival 2019. She is based out of New Delhi and has been writing art criticism for 31 years.

**Notes to Editors****Kolkata Centre for Creativity**

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](http://www.kolkatacentreforcreativity.com)

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