

Press Release

Kolkata Centre for Creativity launches 'Sparsh Drishti'

-An initiative to make art accessible for blind-

**To make Artworks of Masters accessible
for the first time in Eastern India to the visually impaired at KCC**

Kolkata, November 27, 2019: On the occasion of International Day of Persons with Disabilities which falls on 3rd December, Kolkata Centre for Creativity (KCC) launched its **accessible outreach initiative –'Sparsh Drishti'** to make arts and culture more accessible and inclusive for the visually impaired and other special needs groups. This initiative aims to provide **intellectual access** to any art exhibition held at Kolkata Centre for Creativity.

KCC, the outreach partner for Emami Art, conducted a **Tactile Art Workshop for blind and visually impaired students** of Voice of World Blind School, Kolkata on November 27, 2019. The Tactile artworks were inspired from the on-going exhibition 'Reverie and Reality' by Emami Art. The blind children were allowed to touch and feel the art works in a tactile format. The second phase of this initiative will entail a workshop by KCC on tactile artworks with children with special needs at Manovikas Kendra, Kolkata on 3rd December, 2019. The workshop aims at engaging and creating awareness on disability and access. The workshops are conducted by KCC's Accessibility Consultant- **Siddhant Shah, Founder of Access For ALL.**

Ms Richa Agarwal, Executive Director KCC said: "At Kolkata Centre for Creativity (KCC), inclusion and access to art for all is integral to its existence. The mandate for programming and space planning is to make all those who visit KCC, feel welcomed and comfortable irrespective of their challenges, if any. We feel happy and blessed to have been able to provide a platform of 'Accessibility' and 'Inclusivity' to bring in joy through art to all."

At KCC, access to art and culture is a priority and the Centre allows active and diverse participation at its venue. The gallery spaces at KCC provide not only **physical access** but are all **wheelchair accessible** as well and allows free movement for all.

Ms Reena Dewan, AVP, KCC said "In most spaces 'Accessibility' and 'Inclusivity' are limited to physical access. At KCC, we believe art should be experienced by all and none should be deprived of this phenomenal component of our existence."

Mr Siddhant Shah, Access consultant to KCC and founder of Access For ALL said, "Our aim at Kolkata Centre for Creativity was to make the spaces and the art programs accessible and inclusive for all. This is for the first time in this part of the country that art works of masters have been made available for visually impaired and blind audiences."

KCC's Accessibility Statement:

At KCC we are committed to easy access for everyone. We are making our space and programs as accessible as possible to people with special needs, including those with visual, hearing, cognitive and motor impairments.

We ensure that KCC follows accessibility best practices by following the principles of universal design provided by the access audit and consultant.

About Tactile Braille Art-Works:

The main objective of this gallery walk & talk is to give a hands-on experience of the subjects of four selected artworks for which we have designed and produced palpable reproductions which correspond to the selected artworks. To give an understanding of the surface development of other four selected artworks (two paintings and two prints), we have developed perceptible aids that cater to this process of each artwork. **These aids will address the intellectual access of understanding the development of the selected artworks.**

Taking the issue of intellectual access to such information for visually impaired, we have designed and printed, a Braille book explaining the various processes and materials along with the artist biography of the selected artworks. **It is for the first time in east India that such a document on visual art has been conceptualized, designed and printed for those who are visually impaired or challenged.**

Awareness and public knowledge helps the average person understand how this amazing population can thrive in our complex society. ***Take the time to come, learn and enjoy life from a different perspective.***

Note to Editors:

About Kolkata Centre for Creativity

A unit of Anamika Kala Sangam Trust (AKST), Kolkata Centre for Creativity (KCC) is a multi-disciplinary interactive art and creativity center located in Kolkata, West Bengal. The 70,000 sq. ft Centre champions the art and cultural landscape of contemporary India. Inaugurated on 21st November 2018, KCC comprises of an Amphitheater for performances & creative contemplation, Exhibition & Learning spaces, Dance studio, a Conservation lab, Books & Materials Library, a Creative Culinary space- Grace, a Craft & Design outlet and a Skills Development Maker's section to create prototypes using the latest digital technologies.

Showcasing several expressions of art and design to highlight their common creative core – KCC encourages visitors to explore, interact and design ideas on various art forms within its spaces. Arts comprises here of Visual, Performing, Music, Design, Photography, Architecture and Crafts not limited to either traditional, modern or contemporary. KCC works on the principals of Cultural Diversity, Gender Equality, Conservation of Environment and Inclusion of people with disabilities and aim to achieve these through partnerships and collaborations. The Centre offers free entry to the public and is open between 11 am to 6 pm from Tuesday to Sunday.
www.kolkatacentreforcreativity.com