

Knowledge partner



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**This pride month Kolkata Centre for Creativity proudly presents
'Learn Togetherness'**

**An online exhibition and webinar series based on the theme:
Beyond Binaries: Sensing Art through Queer lensing**

*In the words of Aristotle, "The aim of art is to represent not the outward appearance of things,
but their inward significance".*

Kolkata, 15th June 2021: Kolkata Centre for Creativity (KCC) presents 'Learn Togetherness'- an online exhibition and webinar series starting from 19th June to 27th June on KCC website, Zoom and Facebook Live. Supported by 'British Council' with 'Sappho for Equality' as Knowledge Partner, Learn Togetherness will illuminate the theme Beyond Binaries: Sensing Art through Queer Lensing.

Art and creativity can also be used as tools to challenge the normative narratives and this initiative will attempt to explore and understand better the use of art in questioning the hegemonic and oppressive social norms while expressing, celebrating, and reclaiming the non-normative spaces 'beyond the binary'. Starting from expressing queer desire to celebrating queer bodies; from activist art having strong political intent with a war cry for revolution, to presenting an art form bending its own rigid rules, the theme of the pride month this year aims to applaud all those artists who seek to blur these boundaries, break the binary and fracture the rigid hegemonic narratives through their art.

The online exhibition hosted on KCC website will showcase 40 plus exhibits from various artists across the country from the area of photography, painting, sculpture, abstract performance arts including music, poetry, dance and theatre performance that will ponder on the theme. The series of webinars scheduled from 20th to 26th June, 2021 will comprise of experts of national and international repute, team members and executives from the knowledge and support partners of Kolkata Centre for Creativity.

"In KCC DEAL, we have been working for Diversity, Equity, Accessibility and Inclusion. Through 'Learn Togetherness', we seek to spread awareness to create an inclusive society with people of different identity and choices. The art exhibition and webinars aim to achieve the mission and blur the idea of 'other'. We believe that Learn Togetherness will provide the platform to encourage inclusion and enable spaces for self-expression, creative collaborations and community building" said **Richa Agarwal, Chairperson Kolkata Centre for Creativity.**

Speaking on the association **Jonathan Kennedy, Director Arts India, British Council, said,** “The arts are most powerful when they reflect diverse cultures and show how we are connected through sharing stories, artistic collaboration, and a sense of international community working together. Creative expression which represents voices of artists who are often marginalised is critical to better understanding for all our futures. What’s really important – is the enterprise of arts companies such as KCC - who offer a safe platform for audiences to access diverse artists such as those from the LGBTQI+ community. As we tentatively look to a post-Covid era I hope work of KCC with LGBTQI artists leads the way in imagining a new creative order.”

He further added, “Through our work in the arts, British Council aims to address gender equality and support actively raising the voice of the LGBTQI+ creative community to achieve positive recognition. The ‘Learn Togetherness’ initiative is a simple yet powerful way to bring about greater gender sensitisation. We hope the addition of some fabulous UK artists, performances and handpicked films on the LGBTQI+ community enable the digital festival to bring about positive change by enabling understanding and empathy between artists, activists and audiences in the UK and India.”

“Kolkata Centre for Creativity has been addressing issues of gender sensitivity and inclusion, and hence talking about equality, equity, acknowledgement and acceptance of various kinds of sexual and gender identities and behaviours. In a society where intolerance has been dangerously rearing its head every now and then from various quarters, an engagement with the concept of queer is a breath of fresh air, inviting freedom, dignity, love and choice. It is this engagement that led Sappho for Equality to collaborate with them in an effort to promote various expressions of queerness through different art forms like photography, painting, theatre, poetry, dance and sculpture. This collaboration opens up a precious scope for queer presentations and representations in the creative world.” - **Kolika Mitra, Program Associate, Sappho for Equality**

Speakers to be confirmed:

20.06.21	6-7 pm	Gender-sexuality in Art	1. MonamiNandy
			2. Rudra Kishore Mandal
			3. Rosemary Parkhil
			Madhu Raghavendra- Moderator
22.06.21	6-7 pm	Gender-sexuality in Music	Speakers to be confirmed
23.06.21	6-7 pm	Gender-sexuality in Literature	1. Niladri R. Chatterjee
			2. Paramita Chakrabarty
			3. AfshanD’souza-Lodhi
			Modaretor- DebanjanChakraverty
24.06.21	6-7 pm	Gender-sexuality in Schools	1. Koyel Ghosh
			2. SatarupaSantra
			3. Yvette Hutchinson
			Arna Seal- Moderator
26.06.21	6-7 pm	Gender-sexuality in Policy Making	1. Kolika Mitra
			2. Kaushik Gupta
			3. Ruth Mccarthy
			Sreyashi Ray- Moderator

Link for registration: <https://www.kolkatacentreforcreativity.org/program/learn-togetherness-beyond-binaries-sensing-art-through-queer-lensing>

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