



Kolkata Centre for Creativity

Presents

Ramjhol 1.0

Rajasthan: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow

Kolkata, 18th August '23: Ramjhol 1.0 - Rajasthan: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow is an exploration of the culture of Rajasthan and its ties with Kolkata. It is not a mere exhibition in a traditional sense, but a conclave of Rajasthani culture across platforms and KCC tries to touch upon all aspects of creativity through this conclave including contemporary art, theatre, film, craft, design, architecture and history and language & literature, culminating in three days of performances, workshops, talkss and exhibitions.

The Conclave's exploration tries to go beyond the celebratory cliches one usually encounters—the usual contrast of rustic and royal, rustled up for the tourism industry. Ramjhol 1.0's take on Rajasthan culture is completely different from the usual and focuses on aspects such as Rajasthani language, its literature, its unique poetic and musical traditions.

The Conclave will present Dingal and Maand, two rare genres of poetry and music respectively that developed in the feudal milieu so unique to the region. Dingal with its unique metres, performative styles and alliteration patterns like बयणसगाई and Maand with its distinctive repertoire of songs and murkis and khatkas.

Migration to Kolkata from Rajasthan dramatically increased after the छप्पनियो काळ – the terrible drought of 1899. In the aftermath of this increased migration, the profits from business here, in East India, were used to build some of the most marvelous havelis in Rajasthan— particularly in Shekhawati. KCC is excited to present a talk on this chapter in the backdrop of the history of Kolkata and Rajasthan.

Even as Ramjhol 1.0 engages with the 'traditional', it will also present the 'contemporary': adapting to the new media of OTT platforms and social media, new literature which engages with a history of migration, theatre based on multi-lingual adaptations of traditional folk stories, and contemporary apparel made using the traditional weaving and embroidery forms. The Conclave also offers film screenings, workshops and performances.

Scholars, poets, craftsmen and artistes from across Rajasthan including Bikaner, Barmer, Alwar and Beawar will be participating in this Conclave.

Richa Agarwal, Chairperson of Kolkata Center for Creativity said, “Over these three days, KCC will come alive with a series of events that will transport us to the land of royals — from an art exhibition by the renowned artist and researcher Madan Meena that will showcase the intricate craftsmanship of Rajasthan, to insightful talk sessions, Pop Ups, musical performance by Pandit Pukhraj ji Sharma, a play by Ramanjit Kaur and group, traditional performances like Ghoomar and multiple workshops on folk art forms like Pichhwai and a lot more. It is our privilege to have scholars, poets, craftsmen and artistes from across Rajasthan including Bikaner, Beawar Kota & Bharatpur among us for Ramjhol 1.0 We promise you an experience that will leave an indelible mark on your senses and your soul.”

Please find below the detailed schedule of the festival for information. It will provide you with a fair idea of the expanse of this Conclave that KCC is so proud to organize.

Day 1 – 18th August’23

Exhibition Opening -

सांस्कृतिक पैछाण ने ढूँढबो: In the Quest for Identity

Mapping Cultures by Madan Meena, curated by Vishes Kothari – 4:30 PM, 1st Floor

Madan is a visual artist and a researcher of oral and textile traditions and hails from Kota.

Map-making, block printing and miniature painting all come together in Madan’s art that is at once traditional and contemporary. Even as he draws inspiration from the Barahmasa theme, using imagery and motifs to depict the seasons and their moods, he also uses his extensive research on the Ajrakh printing traditions in his work. All manner of imagery— chilies from Mathania, miniature paintings from Bundi and Kota and the Indus Valley sites of Kalibanga are woven together in his compelling imagery.

डिंगल: क्रांति, शौर्य अरु व्यंग्य-- पांच सो बरसां री जातरा : Five Hundred Years of Dingal Poetry -- Valour, Satire and Revolution, Keynote Address by Girdhardan Ratnoo Dasori -- 5:30 PM, 1st Floor

Dingal is the style of poetry developed by the Charans-- the caste of bards and chroniclers.

Highly distinctive in style with its own distinctive prosody, styles of alliteration and metres.

Sometimes used as a call to battle, sometimes satire, and sometimes as a cry for revolution, it is said that even Rabindranath Tagore found this style of poetry deeply inspirational. Ratnoo ji is a renowned scholar and practitioner of Dingal from Bikaner and will take us through key moments

in its history.

दबदबो/Power, A bilingual play, in the traditional storytelling style, by Ramanjit Kaur and Group -- 6:30 PM, 1st Floor

Ramanjit Kaur and her group of actors narrate an old folk story, based on Vishes Kothari's translations of the beloved Rajasthani folklorist, Vijaydan Detha.

रजवाड़ी माण्ड - Recital by Pandit Pukhraj Sharma -- 7:15 PM, 1st Floor

Maand is a light classical style of music that developed in the princely courts of Rajasthan. Pandit ji hails from Bikaner, one of the courts where Maand found its tallest exponents.

Day 2 – 19th August'23

Exhibition Walkthrough with Madan Meena, followed by a conversation with Madan Meena and Garima Dhabai -- 12:30 PM, 1st Floor

Dr.Meena and Professor Dhabai will take us through this exhibition, and touch upon urban history, heritage, craft and the political economy of tourism. Prof Dhabai's own research is on political economy with a special focus on the city of Jaipur.

Prof. Garima Dhabai: Professor of Political Science at Presidency University, Kolkata.

Dr. Madan Meena is a visual artist and textile researcher.

Rediscovering जाजम: The People's Textile, A multilingual documentary by The Wabi Sabi Project -- 1:30 PM, 1st Floor

The Jajam is a folk textile– a flatweave dhurri block printed with natural dyes. However, it is so much more than a textile– it has its associated ritual and custom, music and lore. See this multi-lingual documentary by The Wabi Sabi Project in collaboration with the Anokhi Museum of Hand block Printing, Amer, Jaipur which has won a National Film Award and has been showcased at national and international film festivals.

समाज अर संस्था: The future of the 'Marwari' social organisation, A panel discussion -- 2:00 PM, 1st Floor

Nation-building and social reform have been the raison d'être of many organisations and institutions founded by the Kolkata-based Rajasthani diaspora. Some have played a pivotal role in the national and social consciousness of modern India. What is their future?



- Pramod Shah - Past President of All India Marwadi Yuva Manch
- Shiv Lohia - President of All India Marwadi Yuva

Painted Modernity: Travel and Change in the Frescoes of the Havelis of Shekhawati: A talk by Professor Saumya Agarwal -- 3:30 PM, 1st Floor

Listen to this unique talk on the motifs of modernity, travel and change in the frescoed havelis of Shekhawati– trains, planes and more, and how they evoke the emotion of ‘viraha’ or separation. This talk is the outcome of years of research carried out by Prof. Agarwal for her doctoral thesis at Heidelberg University, Germany.

प्रेम, बिरह अर विद्रोह: A Rajasthani Poetry Concert -- 4:30 PM, 1st Floor

A Mehfil of Rajasthani poetry and tales on the theme of love, separation and protest.

- ‘Chhailsa’ Charan - Contemporary poet & writer from Bikaner
- Girdhardan Ratnu Dasori- Renowned scholar and poet in Dingal & Rajasthani language.
- Hemlata Bhutoria - Actor & Theatre Artist
- Mridula Kothari- Renowned Hindi and Rajasthani Poet
- Jai Kumar ‘Ruswa’-- Kolkata’s best known Rajasthani contemporary poet
- Pramod Shah (Chair)

मरूधरा री सुरधरा: A Folk Classics Concert by The Marudhara Choir and Pandit Pukhraj Sharma -- 6:00 PM, 1st Floor

The Marudhara Choir and Pandit Pukhraj Sharma bring to us some evergreen folk classics.

Marudhara is a charitable organisation in Kolkata that promotes and preserves Rajasthani Art & Artists. Pandit Pukhraj Sharma is a renowned exponent of Maand from Bikaner

बोली री क्रांति: Launch of STAGE in Kolkata, A Standup Act by Funnygoat10 & Ujwal Kedia -- 6.45pm, 1st Floor

Most recently featured on Shark Tank, Stage is an OTT platform exclusively for Rajasthani and Haryanvi language content– movies, web-series and documentaries. STAGE has already found



great audiences in the hinterland in Rajasthan and Haryana and is now proud to launch in one of the biggest diaspora hubs.

Stage will launch the trailers of its upcoming Rajasthani movie releases.

अर्बन बिणजारो - STAGE presents RAJAT DAVE - 7.15pm

Rajat hails from Jodhpur and is an upcoming star on the Rajasthani contemporary music circuit. Listen to him perform his own compositions and old classics, all in his inimitable style.

Day 3 – 20th August’23

धरती धोरां री – Land of Sand Dunes : A documentary film by Goutam Ghose – 11 AM, 1st Floor

This documentary film is on the life and times of Mahakavi Kanhaiyalal Sethia. The Director will be present for audience interaction after the screening.

‘राजस्थानी रे बिना, क्यांरो राजस्थान!’ - Kolkata and the demand for Rajasthani recognition- A Panel Discussion - 12:00 PM, 1st Floor

- Ratan Shah– Founder & Chairman of Rajasthani Pracharini Sabha
- Hinglaj Dan Ratnoo (Moderator) – Assistant Director of Department of Information & Public Relations. Information Bureau, Kolkata (W.B.)
- Jaiprakash Sethia – Trustee of Mahakavi Kanhaiyalal Sethia Foundation
- Bansidhar Sharma– A well-known Litterateur

‘हवेली रो हवालो’- The Haveli Dialogue - A panel discussion, titled - 1:30 PM, 1st Floor

Bringing together key stakeholders in the issue– owners, conservation architects, tourism industry and adaptive reuse experts to tackle issues around conserving built heritage.

- Pradeep Kr. Chopra - Chairman & Managing Director at PS Group
- Saumya Agarwal - art historian and a cultural studies scholar
- Dr. Prof. B.D. Mundhra - A philanthropist & the Adhyaksha of Bharatiya Sanskriti Sansad
- Iftekhar Ahsan - The mind behind calcuttawalks



- Siddarth Sethia (Moderator) - Trustee of Mahakavi Kanhaiyalal Sethia Foundation
- Dr. Shruti Nada Poddar - Founder and Managing Trustee, Shruti Foundation, Convener, INTACH Shekhawati Chapter

देस, परदेस अर विदेस-Diaspora in Literature and Diaspora Literature – 3:30 PM, 1st Floor

Diaspora writing and diaspora studies have become genres in themselves. How is the diaspora of Rajasthan representing itself and its identity in its writing?

- Alka Saraogi - Writer & Recipient of the Sahitya Akademi Award [2001]
- Supriya Newar - Writer, wordsmith & communications specialist

Garima Dhabai (Moderator) - Professor of Political Science at Presidency University, Kolkata.

किस्सागोई by Zahid Hossain & Palashh Chaturvedi of East India Dastangos - 4.30 PM, 1st Floor

East India Dastangos tells two stories, the first, **बात मूमल महेन्द्रे री**. A legend about two lovers who have been immortalised in the memories of people. And the second, **फितरती चोर**– a tongue-in-cheek black comedy about an honest thief.

घूमर by Vishakha Saraf and Group - 5:30 PM

Vishakha Saraf hails from Jodhpur and will present the traditional Ghoomar dance with her students from Kolkata.

झिणकार: Grand finale by BARMER BOYS - 6:30 PM

The traditional, modern and contemporary— traditional folk songs of celebration, love and devotion, come together with beatboxing in the Barmer Boys' internationally acclaimed repertoire. This promises to be a zinger of a show!

All Day Events – 18th, 19th & 20th August'23

Pop-up @ KCC Gallery Store by Rangsutra, Bikaner, 2nd Floor.

Rangsutra makes products for the likes of global giants like IKEA— all handcrafted, mostly by women from Bikaner and Barmer. They also have clusters in Kashmir and Varanasi. Rangsutra will bring its diverse range of apparel, home furnishings and accessories to our Gallery Store.



पोथीखानो by Storyteller Bookstore, Kolkata and Rajasthani Granthagar, Jodhpur, 1st Floor.

Two storied bookstores– Storyteller Bookstore from Kolkata and Rajasthani Granthagar from its heritage location at Sojati Gate in Jodhpur, bring to us a curation of titles with Rajasthan as a central theme– in Hindi, English and Rajasthani.

Workshops – 2:00pm – 4pm, 2nd Floor.

- Pichwai Paintings - Kalyan Mal Sahu - Beawar
- Phad Paintings - Nand Kishor - Bhilwara
- Sanjhi Paper - Ram Soni - Alwar

About Kolkata Centre for Creativity (KCC)

A unit of Anamika Kala Sangam Trust (AKST), Kolkata Centre for Creativity (KCC) is a multi-disciplinary interactive art and creativity Centre located in Kolkata, West Bengal. It is the first in Eastern India to make Art accessible to the visually impaired and differently abled under their 'Art for All' initiative. Spearheaded by Richa Agarwal as its Chairperson, the 70,000 sq. ft. center has been the leading art and cultural landscape of contemporary India since November 2018. It comprises an Amphitheatre, Exhibition & Learning Spaces, Dance studio, Conservation Lab, Books & Materials Library, Creative Culinary space, Craft & Design outlet, and a Skill Development Maker's section. Integrating 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. KCC works in the areas of Capacity Building, Well-Being, Conservation & Restoration, Craft & Design, Culinary, and Visual and Performing Art. It acts as a catalyst for Artistic enhancement through Displays, Presentations, Fellowships, Laboratories, Residences, Conservation, Research, and Discourses.

The programs at KCC are designed on the principles of Cultural Diversity, Gender Equality, Conservation of the Environment, and Inclusion of people with different abilities.

The Centre offers free entry to the public and is open between 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information about exhibitions and conferences, please visit www.kolkatacentreforcreativity.org

For Further Information Please Contact:



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