

Press Release

Kolkata Centre For Creativity Inaugurates The 6th AMI Arts Festival At The Indian Museum

21st November 2025, Kolkata: The Kolkata Centre for Creativity (KCC), in collaboration with the Indian Museum and the Museum Association of Bengal, proudly inaugurate **Breathing (with) History - Celebrating Rural Heritage Stories**, a distinctive exhibition that brings India's rural cultural landscapes into renewed public focus. Presented as part of KCC's AMI Arts Festival 2025, the exhibition will be on view at the Indian Museum from 21 to 29 November 2025, along with collateral events such as workshops and round table discussions.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Mr. Arijit Dutta Choudhury - Director, Indian Museum; Prof. Sachindranath Bhattacharya - President, West Bengal Museum Association; Dona Ganguly, renowned Odissi Dancer; Dr. Satyabrata Chakraborty, Former General Secretary of Asiatic Society, Kolkata; Prof. Soma Bandyopadhyay, Vice Chancellor, The West Bengal University of Teachers' Training, Education Planning, And Administration, and Padmashri Awardee Baul Samrat Purnadas Baul.

The Exhibition, curated by Bihin Das, features almost 60 rural histories, and participating bodies extend beyond Eastern India and even beyond national borders. Contributors include the **Centre for the Study of Democracy, University of Westminster (UK)**, alongside institutions such as **IGNCA, NATMO**, organisations like **Kolkata Kotokotha**, and the Krishnanagar Museum, participating ahead of its public opening. Kolkata Centre for Creativity has invited 43+ museums and has provided travel grants to deepen their engagement.

Richa Agarwal, Chairperson of KCC, highlighted the festival's focus on celebrating rural heritage — “AMI Arts Festival has always been envisioned as a space for the cross-pollination of ideas, and this exhibition extends that spirit by bringing together a rich tapestry of rural heritage stories. These narratives ground us, reminding us of the communities and custodians who sustain our cultural memory with quiet commitment. It is a privilege to collaborate with the Indian Museum and support nearly 60 village-rooted histories this year. Through these collaborations, we hope to strengthen these ecosystems and deepen our shared responsibility to preserve and celebrate living heritage.”

The exhibition features a diverse array of artefacts and archival records that highlight Bengal's rural history and artistry, such as the ceramics of Chandraketugarh, traditional scroll paintings from Pingla, West Midnapore districts, Bankura's terracotta, chau masks, Dokra art, traditional textiles, garments, accessories, and much more.

In addition to artefacts, the exhibition offers engaging workshops, live performances and panel discussions. These activities aim to foster a deeper understanding of rural traditions and their relevance in contemporary times.



About KCC

Kolkata Centre for Creativity (KCC):

The Kolkata Centre for Creativity (KCC) is a multi-disciplinary arts institution known for making art more accessible and engaging. Through initiatives like "Art for All," DEAL-driven programs such as a Braille Library, and large-scale community festivals - AMI Arts Festival, Ramjhola, Theatre Festival & Bengali Literary meet, KCC builds a dynamic cultural ecosystem. Acting as a catalyst it facilitates Capacity Building, Artistic enhancement of professionals with special focus on emerging and mid-career artists, through its various verticals of KCC Arts Fellowship, KCC Art Laboratory, providing platforms for research, mentorship, and artistic growth. KCC Conservation Lab and related programs underscore the Centre's dedication to the preservation and research of cultural heritage. Whether through children's programs, research projects, or interdisciplinary festivals, KCC remains a vital space where creativity meets community, scholarship, and social change. KCC has worked with renowned artists and performers, including the Indian Ocean Band, Anirban Bhattacharjee, Chandrabindoo Band, Jayati Chakraborty and many more.

Website – www.kolkatacentreforcreativity.org

Instagram – @kccinkolkata

Facebook – KCC in Kolkata

About AMI Arts Festival

The AMI Arts Festival is an annual interdisciplinary celebration of art in all its forms by the Kolkata Centre for Creativity (KCC). It brings together artists, performers, scholars, and communities from across India and beyond, offering a space for collaboration, dialogue, and experimentation. Through exhibitions, performances, workshops, and discussions, the festival connects tradition with contemporary practice while celebrating and preserving diverse artistic and cultural legacies.

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