

Sumitra

Curator | Art Historian

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Open to Relocate ◇ Open to On-Site ◇ [LinkedIn](#)

SUMMARY

My work connects people, stories and art practice - I have worked with important cultural Institutions across the country scaling my expertise as required.

10+ years of experience in managing national and regional art projects including self driven curatorial work with fellowship support.

Specialist knowledge of trends in Modern and Contemporary Art in India - both traditional forms and modern evolution in the arts and creative industry in the country.

5+ years of dedicated experience as a mentor to artists with tangible results.

Managed developing a curriculum for Postgraduate programs with an emphasis on Masters dissertation work.

Worked with high profile Institutions across India reaching 5000+ people with their stories.

Provided support and skills to coordinate with pan-Indian teams to research and write content for museum outreach manuals.

Provided skills as an event lead to help organise city-wide cultural festivals for 5 years.

Conducted in-depth research to write articles about art practices in South Asia for important publications.

EXPERIENCE: FREELANCE CURATOR - 2015- PRESENT (KEY ROLES)

Researcher

Jan '23 — Mar '25

Transform South Asia

India (Remote)

- Conducting comprehensive research to write for the TransForm South Asia website, focusing on the violence faced by transgender individuals in the region.
- Collaborating with a global team to edit and refine materials, ensuring high-quality outputs that resonate with diverse audiences.

Curatorial Consultant

Feb '20 — Apr '21

Azim Premji Foundation

Bangalore, India

- Partnered with a multidisciplinary team to develop public-facing exhibitions, improving community engagement and the Foundation's image in India.
- Led initiatives in researching and retrieving archival materials, aligning with institutional goals.

Curator

Sep '19 — Feb '20

Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath

Bangalore, India

- Developed audience engagement programs for modern art collections, enhancing visitor interaction and understanding.
- Coordinated state-level exhibitions and worked closely with museum staff to establish best practices in museum operations.

Visiting Faculty

Sep '19 — 2020

Bangalore School of Visual Arts (Evening)

Bangalore, India

- Designed and delivered Bachelor's degree courses in Art History for adult learners.
- Fostered a critical appreciation of art and ensured a cohesive educational experience.
- Collaborated with faculty and administrative staff to implement cohesive modules on art appreciation, ensuring a comprehensive educational experience.

Curatorial Consultant

Jan '18 — Dec '18

National Institute of Advanced Studies and University of Exeter

Bangalore, India

- Provided logistical support for planning meetings and artist sharing sessions, facilitating collaboration among stakeholders.
- Coordinated student involvement in public art initiatives, demonstrating effective event management capabilities.

Co-Curator

Nov '15 — Apr '17

Kochi biennale Foundation

Kochi, Kerala

- Collaborated with a team of 14 curators to select and commission works from over 400 students for installation across 7 venues in Mattancherry, Kerala.
- Conducted research in 3 art colleges in Mysore and Bangalore between January and June 2016 to select artists

EDUCATION

BFA in Art History, College of Fine Art, Bangalore University, Bangalore

Bengaluru, India

MA in Museology, National Museum Institute for the History of Art, Conservation and Museology, New Delhi

New Delhi, India

CERTIFICATIONS

AWARDS/FELLOWSHIPS

Curatorial Fellow

Curatorial Intensive South Asia

Jun '18

Young Curator Award

Kochi Biennale Foundation

Nov '15

SELECT CREATIVE PROJECTS - CURATORIAL CAPACITY

Hyundai Art For Hope, Hyundai

Jan '25 — Mar '25

- Successfully curated a nationally important art exhibition involving 50 artists across India, showcasing strong project management and execution skills.

Jaipur Art Week, Public Arts Trust of India [Link](#)

Aug '23 — Dec '23

- Identified over 20 artists to commission public-facing artwork for Jaipur Art Week.
- Surveyed and planned exhibitions using collaboration skills in 3 UNESCO world heritage sites.

Curatorial Consultant, MagicTail Works Pvt. Ltd.

Apr '21 — Oct '22

- Conducted in-depth research and analysis to support two primary stakeholders in the development of museums in Thrissur, Kerala.
- Designed and presented comprehensive museum plans tailored for submission to the Public Works Department, resulting in a 100% conversion rate into fully operational physical museums.

Curator in Residence, Photo.Circle [Link](#)

Jul '19 — Aug '19

- Served as Curatorial Resident at NPL, which houses an extensive collection of over 100,000 historical images of Nepal.
- Conducted workshops emphasising robust research methodologies and presented curatorial work at an international symposium.
- Presented five years of curatorial work at an international symposium organised by NPL.

Bangalore's Great Transformation, National Institute of Advanced Studies [Link](#)

Jul '17 — Aug '17

- Orchestrated logistics and managed operational frameworks for an international workshop hosted by the National Institute of Advanced Studies.
- Unified over 15 institutions and organisations to collaboratively address critical urban issues impacting the city.

SKILLS

Projects Stakeholder Engagement, Successful Implementation, Project Management, Team Leadership, Expert Communicator, Project Execution**Curating** Art Exhibitions, Exhibition Planning, Coordinating Skills, Conceptualization, Thorough Research**Education** Curriculum Planning, Teaching**Languages** English, Kannada, Tamil, Hindi**VOLUNTEERING**

Resource Person, Karnataka State Akkamahadevi Women's University

Vijayapura, Karnataka

Conducted in-depth research for clients to develop detailed project plans to submit to Government Public Works Departments to build community museums.

Worked with staff to implement museum maintenance best practices based on research

Organiser, CSMR and Namma Pride

Bangalore

Community Support

Coordinating event logistics

Planning two month long festival.

PUBLICATIONS

Write|Art|Connect

Serendipity Art Foundation

Artha: Journal of Social Sciences

Christ University

Re-Reeti: Revitalising Museums**REFERENCES**

Suresh Jayaram, Founder and Curator – 1, Shanthi Road, Bangalore

Dr. Jo Krishnakumar, LSE Fellow, London