

Biographies of Participants for TippingPoint INDIA 2011

1. Ayisha Abraham

Ayisha lives and works in Bangalore, as an installation artist and short filmmaker. She works at the Srishti School of Art, Design, Technology, as a visual arts consultant and is a member of the BAR1 (Bengaluru Artists Residency).

2. Heather Ackroyd

Heather has collaborated with Dan Harvey since 1990, exhibiting internationally in galleries, museums and diverse found and public spaces. Sculpture, photography, architecture and biology intersect in their time-based practice, revealing an abiding interest in processes of growth and decay. This year they won the major "Mapping The Park" public art commission in the Olympic Park, ten sculptures acting as a lasting legacy for London 2012. Since 2003, they have made expeditions to the High Arctic studying the effects of climate change on the fragile ecosystem, and shown the resulting artworks worldwide. www.ackroydandharvey.com www.capefarewell.com

3. Navjot Altaf

Navjot has been engaged with interactive / cooperative / collaborative installation art practice with Indian and international artists, classical vocalists, documentary filmmakers, activists, students and technicians since 1992. Simultaneously, she has been engaged with projects in public spaces (inclusive of people's participation) in metro cities and ongoing site oriented projects with Adivasi artists in Bastar, Central India .The process deals with the questions related to collaborative processes as a negotiated strategy, representation, identity, gender, and discourse regarding what is contemporary in contemporary art.

4. Digu Aruchamy

Digu is working with the Green Initiatives team of Infosys where he is responsible for water sustainability, employee awareness and waste management initiatives across the company. He was selected as an International Climate Champion by the British Council as part of their Low Carbon Futures project in 2009 and he has been working in the area of youth engagement in projects related to climate change. He is an active member of IYCN, an NGO dedicated to mobilizing Indian youth in climate change mitigation.

5. Atul Bhalla

Delhi-based Atul Bhalla is known for his sustained preoccupation with the eco-politics of water, which forms the basis for his diverse practice. Questioning the distribution, regulation, commodification and pollution of water, Bhalla has over the years explored its physical, historical, spiritual and political significance in relation to the population of New Delhi. Some describe Bhalla as an environmental activist, however his work may be considered not overtly political, instead socially concerned, engaging a poetic style of presentation. His personal negotiation of water provides a stage from which to address larger political issues concerning bodies of water and the urban environment.

6. Prof Dipanka Banerjee

Presently Associate Professor @ Indian Institute of Astrophysics Dipanka has a PhD in Astrophysics and M.Sc. in Theoretical Physics from the University of Kolkata. Post Doctoral work took place at the Centre for Plasma Astrophysics, Leuven, Belgium and Armagh Observatory, Armagh, N.Ireland, U.K He is Co-PI of the Coronagraph mission to be launched on Indian Satellite "Aditya". Aditya-I is India's first dedicated scientific mission to study the sun. He has participated in several Total Solar eclipse expeditions to different parts of the globe. Dipanker has over 50 published peer-reviewed publications. He is an active member of a theatre group called "Enad"

7. Sheba Chhachhi

Sheba works with lens based images, both still and moving, investigating questions of gender, ecology, violence and visual culture. Her photo and video based installation works address the question of transformation, personal and collective memory, retrieving the marginal, and the play

between the mythic and social. In recent years public art interventions around questions of urbanism and environment have become an important part of Chhachhi's practice. She has exhibited widely in India and internationally.

8. Neha Choksi

Neha received her MA in Classics from Columbia University, New York and her BAs in Greek and in Art from the University of California, Los Angeles. Her work has been shown in Los Angeles, London, New York, Madrid, Amsterdam, Sydney, Hong Kong, Istanbul, Delhi, Bombay, and as part of the 10th Venice Architecture Biennale. She is a member of the Artist Pension Trust, Los Angeles, and is a contributing editor for X-TRA, a critical arts journal published out of Los Angeles. Her work is represented by Project 88, Mumbai.

9. Zack Denfeld

Zack is an artist who has worked in the U.S., India and Europe. He is currently researching and making work about the human food systems on spaceship earth with the Center for Genomic Gastronomy. He is co-curating a show about the future of food which will open Feb. 9th at the Science Gallery in Dublin, Ireland. Zack holds degrees from the University of Michigan and Syracuse University.

10. Peter Gingold

Peter was the founder and is the Director of TippingPoint. He has had a very varied career, including spending a number of years working in low cost housing in developing countries, founding an electronics business in the silicon fen, and working as a management consultant. He became Chief Executive of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra in 2001, and founded TippingPoint not long after. He oscillates between optimism and grave pessimism about the future!

11. Dr. G. S. Gujral

Guru is the Science and Environment Head for British Council, India providing science related inputs into major BC projects/programmes besides leading on climate change initiatives especially with young people. With a basic background in biological sciences and a PhD in 'Biomass Conversions', from the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, he joined the Council as Projects Manager in 1988. He managed projects and other Council's initiatives in the field of Science Environment and Technology and subsequently led British Council teams in developing country strategy and operational programmes. Guru has several research papers in national and international journals. He maintains active contact with scientists and scientific bodies both in the UK and India.

12. Vikram Iyenger

Vikram is a Kathak dancer, choreographer, theatre director and performing arts researcher based in Calcutta, India. He is also Artistic Director of Ranan Performance Collective, Calcutta. Production work spans choreography for stage and film, dance-theatre and dance-film explorations, and performance collaborations. His work brings together classical dance, movement and text-based drama for an experience of total theatre. He is Co-editor of the fortnightly e-journal, E-Rang, produced by the India Theatre Forum and is a regular contributor to arts-related publications and seminars in India and elsewhere.

13. Tushar Joag

Born in Mumbai in 1966, Tushar completed his Bachelors in Fine art in 1988 (Sir JJ. School of Art, Mumbai) and Masters in 1990 (M.S. University, Baroda). After spending two years (1998 to 2000) at the Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, he returned to Mumbai and co-founded the artist's initiative Open Circle. He has been involved in organizing and coordinating activities at the World Social Forum in Mumbai, Brazil and Kenya. He has participated in a number of national and international exhibitions and currently lives and works in Mumbai.

14. Dr. Pratibha Jolly

Pratibha is Principal of Miranda House, University of Delhi. A theoretical physicist by training, her pioneering work in Physics Education Research has led to establishment of the D S Kothari Centre

for Research and Innovation in Science Education. She is the chair of the Commission on Physics Education of the International Union for Pure and Applied Physics. As the 2009-2010 Fulbright New Century Scholar, she worked with a multidisciplinary team on the theme The University as Innovation Driver and Knowledge Centre.

15. Sacha Kagan

Sacha is Research Associate at the Institute of Cultural Theory, Cultural Research and the Arts (ICRA/IKKK), Leuphana University Lüneburg. Sacha founded the International level of Cultura21, Network for Cultures of Sustainability, as well as the International Summer School of Arts and Sciences for Sustainability in Social Transformation (ASSiST). The focus of his research and cultural works lies in the trans-disciplinary field of arts and (un-)sustainability. Doctor in Philosophy (Leuphana University, Lüneburg), MA I Cultural Economics (Univ. Rotterdam), Graduate of Sciences (Po Bordeaux).

16. Ranbir Kaleka

Ranbir was born in 1953 in Patiala. He studied at the College of Art in Chandigarh (1970-75) and has a Masters Degree in Painting from the Royal College of Art in London (1987). His works have been included in most of the museum shows of Indian contemporary art that have been mounted around the world in the past decade.

17. Rajesh Kasturirangan

Rajesh is a mathematician turned cognitive scientist and philosopher. He has worked on foundational questions in cognition using ideas and techniques from Indian and Western Philosophy, Mathematical and Computational Modeling and data gathered in the field.

18. Cathrine Kramer

Cathrine is an artist, designer, researcher and curator working internationally. With a focus on food, technology and ecology, her experimental practice employs a range of objects, performance, digital media, graphics, animation, collaborations and gastronomy to uncover the good, the bad and the ugly of life on Spaceship Earth. Most recently, she has been working collaboratively on the development of the Center for Genomic Gastronomy and is a visiting lecturer in the Design & Environment MA at Goldsmiths College, London.

19. Maya Krishna Rao

Maya is a solo theatre performer and teacher who has also worked in the area of drama-in-education – making participatory theatre programmes for children and conducting workshops for teachers on the use of drama as a tool for teaching.

20. Anil Kulkarni

Anil is working as Distinguished Visiting Scientist at Divecha Centre for Climate Change, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. He received his M. Tech. in Applied Geology from IIT-Roorkee, MS in Geography from McGill University, Montreal, Canada and Ph. D. from Shivaji University, Kolhapur. He has worked for 30 years at the Space Applications Center, Ahmedabad. His research interest are snow and glacier investigations using remote sensing methods, glacier mass balance modeling, modeling influence of climate change on distribution of Himalayan snow and glacier extent and snow and glacier melt runoff modeling.

21. S Kumaran

Is a graduate in mathematics, is project executive with British Council, Chennai since 2004, manages all administrative and logistic support for the Council's programme in South India, particularly in the area of scholarships, climate change and alumni projects.

22. Charu Maithani

Charu completed her Masters in Aural and Visual Culture from Goldsmiths College in 2010. Her final dissertation investigating the poetics of ideology and power in the technique of film montage, has led to her interest in the aesthetics in new media art. Currently she is working with Khoj International

Artists' Association based in New Delhi as Program Officer for New Media and Community Engagement.

23. Dr Neelam Man Singh Chowdhry

Neelam trained in the History of Art and in Theatre. In 1984 she moved to Chandigarh to form The Company and since 1990 teaching at the Department of Indian Theatre of the Panjab University. The Company has participated in a number of major Festivals including The London International Festival of Theatre (LIFT), The Festival d'Avignon, The Festival of Perth, The Japan Festival of the Arts, The Zanani Festival in Lahore. Her doctoral work 'Situating Contemporary Punjabi Theatrical Practice in the Context of the Trends in Modern Indian Drama 1970-2007', has been the recipient of several awards, among them the Padma Shri, the Sangeet Natak Akademi award, and the Shiromani Bhasha Vibhag Award.

24. Mayank Mansingh Kaul

Mayank is the Founder-Director of The Design Project India, a not-for-profit organization promoting curatorial projects and critical writing related to Indian design. A graduate of the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad, Mayank has worked in the past on Cultural and Creative Industries' Policy, and runs an organic fashion and home textiles label, which works with contemporary Indian hand-crafts. Based in New Delhi, he writes regularly on design and craft concerns, and his other interests include alternative healing.

25. Angela McSherry

Angela is an Arts Consultant working with TippingPoint and other arts projects in the UK. For 10 years she was the Producer of the London International Festival of Theatre. Recent consultancies include senior management recruitment, organizational development and cultural strategy alongside a continued commitment to producing performative work and leading TippingPoint's innovative Commissions Programme. Angela is Producer for the Gulbenkian Galapagos Artists Residency Project. She is Chair of Fevered Sleep and a Trustee of the Arches in Glasgow, Scotland and WildWorks in Cornwall.

26. Sadanand Menon

Sadanand is a nationally reputed 'arts editor', popular teacher of 'cultural journalism', widely published photographer, arts curator and prolific writer and speaker at seminars on politics, ecology and the arts. He is currently Adjunct Faculty, Asian College of Journalism, Chennai, as well as at the IIT, Chennai. A former Arts Editor with India's leading financial daily *The Economic Times*. He has curated several exhibitions including a major fifty-years retrospective of Dashrath Patel for the National Gallery of Modern Art, in New Delhi and Mumbai. His photographs have been included in various anthologies and he was Editorial Advisor, *'Better Photography'*, Mumbai. A long-time collaborator with the late dancer/choreographer Chandralekha and he worked with Chandralekha and Dashrath Patel in writing the concept note on the merging of arts and sciences in Indian concepts for the Nehru Science Museum, Mumbai.

27. Adrien Missika

Born in 1981 in Paris, France, Adrien lives and works in Berlin. He is an artist and co-founded the art space1m3 in Lausanne (www.galerie1m3.com) in 2006. He graduated from ECAL in 2007. He primarily works with photography and video, blurring the markers that distinguish fiction from authenticity and illusion. Fascinated by architecture, landscape and archaeology, Adrien constructs his works based on a range of well-known visual cues culled from art history, film, comic books and postcards. His staged photographs and videos of romantic landscapes, sci-fi narratives and natural occurrences are fabricated using imperfect models and stage-sets, or assembled using the artist's own travel pictures together with found imagery.

28. Shobhana Narasimhan

A computational physicist at the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research in Bangalore, Shobhana focuses particularly on the properties of nanomaterials, surfaces and interfaces. She is interested both in basic science and in applications to fields such as energy and the

environment. She also has an active interest in writing about science, gender and science, and teaching science, especially in developing countries. She obtained her PhD from Harvard University.

29. Adam Pushkin

Adam has been Head of Arts for the British Council in India since 2009, overseeing a wide range of projects from exhibitions to performing arts showcases, and from networking programmes to supporting collaborations. Before that, he worked in the arts in the UK for ten years, mostly managing festivals including the Cheltenham Literature Festival and the Queer Up North International Festival, and managing the arts programme for an inner-city regeneration scheme.

30. Prateek Raja

Prateek & Priyanka Raja launched a contemporary art gallery, Experimenter in 2009 in Kolkata. Experimenter goes outside the hyper-commercial imperatives of the Indian art market, highlighting instead experimental and alternative artists from all over the world who have a South Asian connection to their practice.

With an ambitious and challenging multidisciplinary approach, Experimenter is an incubator for contemporary artists and mounts interactive installations, multiple channel work, live projects and political interventions that question the fraught and kinetic era we live in.

31. ON Ramesh

ON got his Ph.D degree from Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore then spent 3 years at the University of Cambridge as a post – Doc in the Department of Engineering, Whittle Laboratory. From July 2000 to present I have been working in the Department of Aerospace Engineering, Indian Institute of Science as a faculty member. My research interests are aerodynamics and fluid dynamics.

32. Asmita Rangari

(Andi) is the Co-Curator, Programs at KHOJ prior to which she has worked in the media - Television (NDTV & BBC WST), Animation and Ad Film Production as a Line Producer and in Publishing (Outlook Traveller) as a Photo Editor. Trained as an Architect, with a Masters in Urban Design, she has studied Environmental Management in the UK as a Chevening Scholar and has contributed to several sustainable development programmes across the country

33. Dick Robertson

Dick is a Director of Ideas Unlimited, an international consultancy that develops imaginative approaches to leadership and organisation development. For the last 6 years, in addition to his corporate work, he has facilitated all of the TippingPoint events, in the UK and internationally. He has worked with the British Council, Germany, the Arts Council, England plus other arts/cultural organisations. He is also currently a speaker and facilitator for the Clore Leadership Programme in both the UK and Hong Kong.

34. Pradip Saha

Pradip has been engaged in social communication for the last 25 years. He has produced public art/communication projects as derivatives of environmental research. He collaborated with Raqs Media Collective in projects as a graphic designer. He left the Centre for Science and Environment as associate director and editor at large of Down To Earth magazine last year. Currently, he is producing a video on climate adaptation efforts in coastal and mountain ecologies of India for GIZ. His graphic novel will be published by HarperCollins in February 2012.

35. Sukant Saran

Sukant is an artist. He was trained as a physicist. His art is of two kinds; a) abstract pen-works and b) science-based digital art. His exhibitions include a) Meditations: Nehru Centre, Mumbai (Oct. 27 to Nov. 2, 1998); b) Mindscapes: Nehru Centre, Mumbai (May 15 to 21, 2001); c) Scientific Art - A Creative Interaction: IISc, Bangalore (July 14-15, 2006); and d) SciSights: TIFR, Mumbai (Nov. 20-22, 2009). He works at TIFR, Mumbai as a science editor.

36. Ambarish Satwik

Ambarish is a Delhi based vascular surgeon and writer. His debut work of fiction *Perineum: nether parts of the Empire* was published by Penguin in 2007. His polemical commentary on sundry matters involving food, sex, popular culture and pathology appears most often in *Time Out*. He is currently collaborating with artists to produce graphic non-fiction.

37. Gigi Scaria

Gigi is an artist based in Delhi. His works largely observe the ever-changing character of the urban developments while keeping a close eye on the social systems, migration and architectural spaces of contemporary India. He works with different mediums including painting, photographs, video and sculpture.

38. Yashas Shetty

Yashas is an artist and composer based in Bangalore, India. He is currently an artist in residence at the National Center for Biological Sciences in Bangalore and faculty at the Srishti School of Art, Design and Technology. He helped found the Center for Experimental Media Arts at Srishti and has previously taught at design schools across India. His works look at the relationship between language, ecology and technology

39. A J Solomon

Is Manager, Projects (South India), British Council operating from Chennai. With a masters in English language and literature and specialisations in project management and marketing management, he manages British Council's programmes in South India since 1987 which include educational partnership/collaboration projects in various subject areas and disciplines involving higher education institutions in the UK and South India. He also manages the relationship with UK alumni groups in South India.

40. Pooja Sood

Pooja is Director of KHOJ International Artists Association. As regional coordinator, she has researched and developed the South Asian Network for the Arts which is part of the global Triangle Arts Network. She was Artistic Director and curator of 48C. Public Art. Ecology, a public art project across 8 sites in Delhi, commissioned by the Goethe Institut, and GTZ New Delhi in December 2008. (www.48c.org) and KhojLive08, the first Live art festival in India. She was Curator of the Apeejay Media Gallery from 2002- 2007. In 2009 she was founding Director of ArThinkSouthAsia, (www.arthinksouthasia.org) an arts management programme for young cultural leaders in South Asia and remains its Project Director. She is the editor of the *The KHOJ BOOK: 1997-2007 contemporary art practice in India*, "Video Art in India", 2003. She is currently a Chevening scholar on the Clore Leadership Programme, UK.

41. K. Sridhar

Professor of Theoretical Physics at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai, Sridhar's research is in the area of Theoretical High Energy Physics where he has published widely and has presented several talks and lectures, both at technical and popular levels. Other than physics, Sridhar's interests span philosophy, literature and culture. He has recently published a work of literary fiction called 'Twice Written'.

42. Supreeth Srinivasmurthy

Supreet is a cyclist from India and have been at the helm of the cycling movement in india. He is an engineer by education and work for an Indian multinational in Bangalore. He loves Bangalore, coffee indie music & movies.

43. Anil Srinivasan

Anil is an arts entrepreneur and classical pianist based in Chennai. Equipped with an MBA and MPhil in Management from Columbia University in New York. Over the past seven years Anil has established himself in the Indian cultural circuit as a musician of significance. He co-founded MusicUniv, a company to take structured classical music education to schools in Chennai. He also

serves as its Managing Director. Started in 2010, MusicUniv has already touched the lives of nearly 5000 children across fifty schools.

44. Mukund Thattai

Mukund obtained a B.A. in physics from Cornell University, and a Ph.D. in physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He is currently a faculty member at the National Centre for Biological Sciences in Bangalore. His group at NCBS studies the evolution of cells. Mukund has collaborated on multiple occasions with artists and theatre practitioners, on projects that further public awareness of science.

45. Gayatri Uppal

Gayatri is a Co- Curator and Program Manager at KHOJ International Artists Association since 2009. Previously, she has worked as an Assistant Curator for Delhi's first public art festival around ecology and environment entitled 48°C Public.Art.Ecology, and an Arts Manager for Artist Pension Trust Mumbai (APT- Mumbai); an investment program dedicated to the needs of emerging and mid-career artists.

46. Prasad Vanarase

Vidyanidhee alias Prasad Vanarase, born and brought up in Pune, completed his post graduation from the National School of Drama (NSD), New Delhi. He has directed more than 50 short plays and full-length plays. He has also been involved in Street Theatre performances on socially relevant issues. He has worked in multiple Indian languages and has translated and adapted plays in Marathi. He has gained proficiency in three interrelated areas - Direction, Administration and Management of arts and Applied Arts. He is working as Dean, FLAME School of Performing Arts, Pune.

47. Dr Chris West

Chris trained as an engineer and then as a zoologist. He has undertaken research on gorillas in Rwanda, foxes in Britain and soil animals on South Georgia. He then worked on breeding endangered species at Jersey and Bristol Zoos, before moving to administration of environmental science. He is now Director of the UK Climate Impacts Programme, which works at the boundary between research and society on impacts of climate change and on adapting to those impacts. He is interested in medieval siege machinery and the history of icebreakers; he is an inexpert birdwatcher and is fond of wasps.

48. Abhishek Hazra

Abhishek Hazra is a visual artist based in Bangalore. His work explores the intersections between technology and culture through animated shorts and performance pieces that often integrate textual fragments drawn from real and fictional scenarios. He is also interested in the social history of scientific practices in colonial India.

49. Aditya Dev Sood

Aditya Dev Sood is a leading expert on innovation, particularly its relationship with design entrepreneurship and social change. He is a trained architect and a former Fulbright Scholar with doctorates in Anthropology and Sanskrit.

50. Suresh Jayaram

Suresh Jayaram is a visual artist, art writer and curator from Bangalore. Founder Director of Visual art collective/1shanhtiroad studio space. Bangalore.India and curator of the international art residency program. Currently involved in conceptual art practice, urban mapping, archiving, curation and arts education.