

Comics in Bengal

A one-of-a-kind exhibition which focuses on Comics in Bengal

Kolkata 01 February 2024: Kolkata Centre for Creativity in collaboration with Comics Culture Collective presents 'Comics in Bengal' a one-of-a-kind, captivating exhibition which focuses on comics in Bengal. The exhibition from 9th February to 9th March, 2024 would shed light on the evolution of Bengali comics from its inception in the 1920s to the present day. The wide array of exhibits including prints of rare newspaper strips, magazines, comics' books, and some original artworks will be on display giving the audience a comprehensive idea about the dissemination of the genre and the manner in which it made its way to the popular imagination of the readers, especially from the 1960s onwards. The display would aim to celebrate the creativity, innovation, and artistry that have shaped the comic culture in Bengal.

Embark on a journey through time, exploring one of the earliest Bengali comic creations that laid the foundation for the vibrant industry we see today. Immerse yourself in the captivating stories, iconic characters, and breathtaking illustrations—from horror and detective comics to advertisements and adventure comics—that have won the hearts of millions.

'Comics in Bengal' is not just an exhibition; it is also a tribute to the brilliant minds behind these masterpieces namely comic book illustrators including Narayan Debnath, Kafi Khan (Prafulla Chandra Lahiri / P.C.L. / Piciel), Mayukh Chowdhury, Sailya Chakraborty, Sufi, Pratul Bandhopadhyay, and Tushar Chatterjee who honed their skills through regular publications in Bengali periodicals like *Mouchak*, *Nabakallol*, *Suktara*, *Sandesh*, and *Kishore Bharati*, among others. This led to them reaching into the hearts and minds of a large number of people, forming a new subculture in Bengal. These artists found a community of target audiences, or a fandom, that validated their work as worthy of attention. This growing community had a significant impact that spawned an unprecedented amount of comic strips on public demand in successive decades. Experience the sheer talent and dedication that have contributed to the growth spurt of this incredibly popular art form.

Richa Agarwal, Chairperson, Kolkata Centre for Creativity said, "I'm delighted to announce that Kolkata Centre for Creativity in collaboration with Comics Culture Collective, is presenting an exhibition 'Comics in Bengal'. This exhibition aims to uncover the vibrant legacy of storytelling, adventure, and creativity that has shaped the comic culture in Bengal. From the early 1920s to the present day, the showcase features rare newspaper strips, magazines, comic books, and some original artworks. It not only brings to life the rich history, creativity, and artistry that have woven comics into the cultural narrative of Bengal, but also pays homage to the brilliant minds behind the iconic characters and captivating stories. We invite all to come and immerse themselves in the nostalgia of Bengali comics, taking a captivating journey through time and imagination."

Whether you are a seasoned comic enthusiast or new to this captivating world, this exhibition promises an unforgettable experience for all. Join us at Kolkata Centre for Creativity as we pay homage to the rich heritage of Bengali comics and explore the diverse creativity that continues to shape their future. Don't miss this exclusive opportunity to witness the magic of 'Comics in Bengal.'

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 visually impaired and differently abled under their 'Art for All' initiative. Spearheaded by Richa Agarwal as its Chairperson, the 70,000 sq. ft. Centre champions the art and cultural landscape of contemporary India since November 2018. It comprises of an Amphitheater, 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, 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 Environment and Inclusion of people with different abilities. The Centre offers free entry to the public and is open between 11 am to 6 pm from Tuesday to Sunday. For more information about exhibitions and the conferences, please visit www.kolkatacentreforcreativity.org



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