

Press Release

Kolkata Centre For Creativity Inaugurates The 5th Edition Of AMI Arts Festival

21 November 2024, Kolkata: Kolkata Centre for Creativity (KCC) today witnessed a grand inauguration of the 5th edition of its annual interdisciplinary arts festival – AMI Arts Festival 2024. The festival with an extensive line-up of exhibitions, talks, dance, music, and theatre performances, film screenings, workshops and more, started off on KCC's Foundation Day – 21 November 2024, celebrating all that KCC has achieved while looking forward to many more vibrant milestones in the future.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by: Smt. Alokanda Roy – celebrated classical dancer, choreographer, social reformer and therapist; Dr. Rudrangshu Mukherjee – noted historian and Chancellor of Ashoka University; Smt. Sudeshna Roy - Filmmaker, Writer & Social Worker; Smt. Lopamudra Mitra – renowned singer; Smt. Priti Patel – acclaimed Manipuri dancer; Shri Tejendra Narayan Majumdar – renowned sarod player; Shri Gautam De – former regional director of the ICCR in Kolkata; and Prof Ananda Lal – academic and theatre critic.

The inaugural evening on **21 November 2024, 5:00 PM onwards**, witnessed a groundbreaking dance performance by **Korok Biswas**, followed by **Kothao Amar Hariye Jawar Nei Mana** – a soulful musical performance by the distinguished duo **Parambrata Chatterjee and Piya Chakraborty**, setting the tone right for the festival's month-long celebrations. The inauguration also included the **award ceremony of IMAGINARIUM 4.0** -- Emami Art's annual awards and exhibition in collaboration with KCC, where the top 3 out of the 9 selected visual artists chosen from a pool of 500 applicants, were given prizes.

This festival also seeks to create a platform for emerging artists and ignite a dialogue among art practitioners, academics, and experts in a number of ways. *From Fields to Folk: A Journey through Rural Heritage* (22 - 29 November), an exhibition-cum-seminar at the Indian Museum will celebrate World Heritage Week with displays of traditional art, craft, photography, music, dance, and panel discussions featuring artisans and museologists from 20 rural and urban museums and archives. *UTSAV III* (5 – 6 December) will stage dance, music, theatre, and poetry performances by emerging performing artists and organisations at the iconic Victoria Memorial Hall, selected via an All-India Open Call. An *Affordable Art Fair* (11 – 17 December) will focus on established and emerging visual artists from Kolkata, showcasing their art for sale at accessible prices, while *Karigari* (19 – 22 December), a unique art market will bring together traditional crafts, textiles, and endangered folk arts – featuring award-winning artisans who have been recognized for their exceptional craftsmanship at national and state levels.

There's a myriad of musical performances – including *Prabh Deep LIVE* (14 December) by Prabh Deep featuring Smoke; a rock opera *Kabira Khada Bazaar Mein* followed by *Chandrabindoo LIVE* (19 December); *Shujaat Khan LIVE* (20 December), *Hooliganism* (21 December), a band led by Anirban Bhattacharya; closing with performances by *Fakira* and *Indian Ocean* in concert (22 December). A range of 10 dramatic performances will take place – including *Traasadi* by Manav Kaul, *Ravan Reloaded* dir. Debasish, *Puraane Chawal* dir. Sumeet Vyas, *Bechara B.B.* dir. Suman Mukhopadhyay, *Patna ka*

Superhero dir. Nihal Parashar, *Qissebaazi* and *Main Pal Do Pal ka Shayar Hoon* by Danish Husain, *Taking Sides* dir. Atul Kumar, and more.

Ms. Richa Agarwal, Chairperson of KCC, expressed her enthusiasm for the festival, stating, “On the occasion of the inauguration of AMI Arts Festival, I am filled with immense pride as we mark 6 years of Kolkata Centre for Creativity on 21st November, our Foundation Day. This year's festival reflects the vision of our founders, Mr. R S Agarwal and Mr. R S Goenka, embracing a harmonious blend of popular and intellectual art forms.”

About Kolkata Centre for Creativity: Kolkata Centre for Creativity is a multidisciplinary interactive art center based in Kolkata. As a unit of the Anamika Kala Sangam Trust, a not-for-profit public trust, it promotes research experimentation while championing inclusivity accessibility at the intersection of arts and society. Led by Chairperson Richa Agarwal, KCC is dedicated to socially responsible programming that integrates diverse creative and cultural practices. Through curated initiatives, we offer arts and culture collaborative efforts, education, research, support, mentorships, and programs for children and DEAI.