

NEWS LETTER

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Issue #03

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FROM THE

DIRECTOR GENERAL'S DESK

Greetings from the Bihar Museum!

It is with immense pride that I share the inauguration of the Second Edition of the Bihar Museum Biennale, a momentous occasion which took place on our foundation day, August 7th, 2023, along with the opening of the G20 Art Exhibit, 'Together We Art.' As we unveil the third edition of our newsletter, I am delighted to share this exhilarating news with each and every one of you.

Within the framework of the Biennale, we have introduced two exhibitions, 'Suryakal' and 'In Another Green.' We wholeheartedly invite you to partake in the beauty and intrigue of these two new captivating and aesthetically enriching exhibitions. In the coming months, we eagerly anticipate introducing exhibitions from Italy and Thailand, each bringing unique artistic expressions. Additionally, we are thrilled to present a retrospective show by the Padma Shri Artist Bhramadeo Pandit, offering a glimpse into his journey as an artist.

With a relentless commitment to inclusivity, the Bihar Museum set a groundbreaking precedent by pioneering the world's first-ever Museum Biennale, which aims to push the boundaries of modern museum experiences. The inaugural edition in March 2021 was pivotal in acting as a platform for a nationwide dialogue on museum cultures. This exceptional event unfolded with a two-day international virtual conference on the theme 'Bihar and India, and the World...Connecting People, Connecting Cultures.' Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, the Biennale skillfully blended physical and virtual elements over seven days. The primary objective was to unite museums from every corner of India during the inaugural edition and extend a coveted global invitation in the forthcoming second edition, which commenced on August 7th, 2023.

The Bihar Museum Biennale Second Edition celebrates the significance of museum culture in India and across the globe. This gathering represents a convergence of art, culture and heritage, enthralling attendees with exhibitions, masterclasses, virtual tours, art displays and immersive experiences, all centred around the theme of "Connecting People, Connecting Cultures, Interrogating Museums." Although Bihar Museum is just eight years old, it is swiftly emerging as a cultural centre, and we eagerly anticipate the 2025 biennale.

In this newsletter, we are delighted to offer you a glimpse into the ongoing Bihar Museum Biennale. Here, you will find information about the events, exhibitions, tours and symposiums we have organised over the past few months and a glimpse into the exciting future events. We hope this newsletter provides you with a window into the events we have orchestrated and offers a deeper understanding of the ideas and philosophy resonating with our institution.

I want to thank Ashok Kumar Sinha(Additional Director), Moumita Ghosh(Curator), Suraj Sawant(Designer) and Adeeba(Content Writer) for bringing this newsletter to life.

Looking forward to welcoming you at the Bihar Museum!

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FOUNDATION DAY INAUGURATION

Issue #03
October, 2023

Bihar Museum Foundation Day



"The Bihar Museum transcends the notion of a mere repository of artefacts; it metamorphoses into an immersive experiential Museum. A significant undertaking is currently underway to create an underground pathway that will interconnect Bihar Museum and Patna Museum. The project is anticipated to culminate within the forthcoming three years. Once completed, this initiative will enable visitors to explore both museums through this tunnel on a single ticket."

Shri Nitish Kumar, Chief Minister, Bihar

On the 7th of August, a significant date marking the foundation day of the Bihar Museum, Patna came alive with the grand commencement of the second edition of the Bihar Museum Biennale. Following the virtual debut in 2021, this eagerly awaited event was inaugurated with much fanfare. Bihar Museum Biennale 2023, a five-month-long extravaganza, promises to be a dynamic collaboration among numerous Indian and international museums.

The Biennale was inaugurated by the Chief Minister Shri Nitish Kumar, and during his inaugural speech he shared insightful anecdotes about the museum's genesis, emphasising its significance in safeguarding Bihar's historical heritage.

The driving force behind the creation of the Bihar Museum was to construct a contemporary and splendid platform capable of presenting the state's rich legacy with unparalleled magnificence and distinctiveness. The primary objective propelling this monumental endeavour was to instil every individual born on the soil of Bihar with a sense of pride as they explore the museum's exhibits. Additionally, the establishment of the Bihar Museum

aimed to introduce the global community to the state's priceless heritage and immense potential.

Shri Nitish Kumar expressed the significance of the exhibitions orchestrated by the Bihar Museum Biennale, as they serve as a conduit for fostering connections among people from the nation and the global community through art. He further highlighted how these exhibitions play a crucial role in acquainting the people of Bihar with diverse cultures. In the age of technology, he highlighted the role that technological advancements can play in helping institutions such as museums bridge the divide between the past and the future. Honourable Deputy Chief Minister, Tejasvi Yadav appreciated the Bihar Museum's initiatives and was delighted to be a part of the Biennale and foundation day celebrations.

Honourable Minister of the Art, Culture and Youth Department, Bihar, Mr Jitendra Kumar Rai, highlighted Bihar Museum's dual commitment to preserving ancient artefacts while simultaneously nurturing contemporary artistic creation. In attendance at the event were Finance Minister Vijay Kumar Chaudhary, Chairman of the Bihar Legislative Council Devesh Chandra Thakur, Industries Minister Samir Kumar Mahaseth, Land and Revenue Minister Alok Kumar Mehta, and Law Minister Md Shamin Ahmed.

Mr Anjani Kumar Singh, Director General of the Bihar Museum, provided an in-depth preview of the upcoming programs and exhibitions scheduled to take place in the museum. Mrs Harjot Kaur, Additional Chief Secretary of the Art, Culture and Youth Department of Bihar, extended the vote of thanks to all guests and audience after which everyone explored the exhibitions. The celebration of the Foundation Day encompassed several exhibitions, notably including "Making of Bihar Museum," "Patna: City of Museums," and "Tracing Traditions : Artworks of Padma Shri Artists of Bihar."



Together We Art, G20 Art Project

The centrepiece of the Bihar Museum on the inauguration day was undoubtedly the G20 Art project, Together We Art. It was a contemporary visual arts exhibition conceptualised by the G20 Culture Working Group (CWG), Ministry of Culture and organised by the Bihar Museum, Patna under India's G20 Presidency. This exhibition showcased the works of 19 artists from G20 member nations and seven guest countries, in addition to the contributions of 20 renowned Indian artists from diverse spectrums. Based on India's G20 Presidency theme 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam or One Earth, One Family, One Future', Together We Art was two month long multidisciplinary art exhibition that commenced on 7th August together with the 2nd edition of the Bihar Museum biennale 2023 at the Bihar Museum, Patna. Through their creations, the artists offered artistic responses to a myriad of global challenges, including climate change, gender inclusivity, migration, identity and consumerism.

The exhibition encompassed various artistic forms, including paintings, digital installations, ceramics and sculptures. Indian luminaries such as Jayasri Burman, Seema Kohli and Sudarshan Shetty, among others, shared their exceptional creations. Alongside them, international artists like We Weishan from China, Thijs Biersteker from the UK and Tholente Khomo from South Africa, to name a few, added their unique perspectives to this global dialogue. Omani artist Abdulmajeed Karooh, captivated by Patna, Bihari cuisine and the rich cultural heritage of India, used his Art to explore cultural shifts in Omani history.



Other contemporary Indian artists, including Subodh Gupta, Sanjay Kumar, Sanatan Dinda, Ravinder Reddy and Ayesha Seth Sen, shared their visions, contributing to the exhibition's overarching theme of cultural synthesis and individual expression.

Art and culture, powerful communication mediums, served as bridges connecting diverse communities within the framework of the G20. The collective participation brought together around 50 artists representing G-20 countries, guest nations and India, contributing their creative works to this culturally enriching exhibition. G20 Art Project: Together We Art strives to create a platform that celebrates the imagination creative expression and diverse video practice of G20 members and guest countries.



FOUNDATION DAY MUSEUM BIENNALE

Issue #03
October, 2023

Inauguration of the Second Edition of Bihar Museum Biennale

In March 2021, the Bihar Museum achieved a significant feat by hosting the world's inaugural Museum Biennale, setting the stage for a new era of artistic innovation. This pioneering event featured an online exhibition that presented a curated selection of artefacts sourced from eminent museums across India. Building on this success, the second edition of Bihar Museum Biennale has now unfolded on an even grander scale, a testament to the museum's unwavering commitment to ingenuity and progress.

The Bihar Museum Biennale, the world's first museum biennale, was conceived under the leadership of Shri Anjani Kumar Singh, Director General of Bihar Museum. As Anjani Kumar Singh noted, "While travelling to museums across the world, I realised that there was no common platform for museums to showcase their works and rich collections," explaining how the idea for the Biennale took root. The Bihar Museum Biennale commenced on the 7th of August and will continue until the 31st of December, offering a unique platform for art enthusiasts and museum professionals.



Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Vastu Sangrahalaya

For this second edition of the Biennale, the Bihar Museum has transformed into a jubilant hub, with artworks from both across the globe and India. Inaugurated on the 7th of August and continuing until December 31st, the Biennale has already mesmerised audiences with exhibitions hailing from Brazil, France, Russia, Italy, Costa Rica, Panama, Israel and Nepal. The Foundation day saw the inauguration of four exhibitions from different Indian Museums, featuring institutions such as Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Vastu Sangrahalaya, Hyderabad's Salar Jung Museum, Delhi's Kiran Nadar Museum of Art and Gujarat's National Maritime Heritage Complex in Lothal.



Nepal Exhibition



Among the notable exhibitions, Nepal Art Council's "Nepal: Where the Gods Reside" stood as a vibrant showcase of artistic expressions from Nepal, spanning various genres that reflect the genius of Nepali creativity across history and into the present day. Mystic Universe – an immersive show by Russia – was also on display.



Mystic Universe – Russia

Another highlight was the selection of fifteen exquisite paintings from the Salar Jung collection, carefully chosen to grace a special exhibition at the Bihar Museum. This exhibition, an integral part of the Bihar Museum Biennale, captivated audiences from the 7th of August to the 7th of September along with "Three Dimensions of Divinity – Thanjavur Art Revealed", yet another extraordinary exhibition, offering a glimpse into the captivating world of Thanjavur paintings.



Salar Jung Exhibition

FOUNDATION DAY MUSEUM BIENNALE



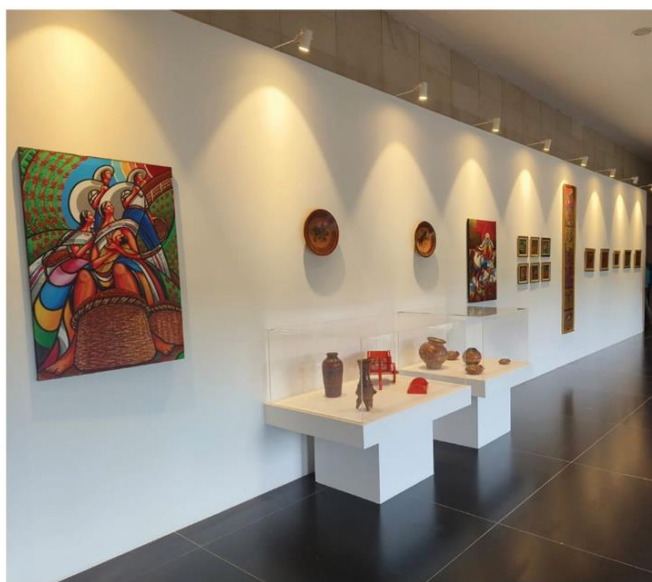
Installation by Sudarshan Shetty

The Kiran Nadar Museum of Art unveiled two expansive installations that delved into the intricate layers of contemporary existence. Crafted by artists Subodh Gupta and Sudarshan Shetty, these installations offered an exploration of our multifaceted world, employing innovative materials to weave their narratives. Unveiled on the 7th of August, 2023, at the Bihar Museum Biennale, these installations will grace the Bihar Museum in Patna until the 31st of December, 2023.



Installation by artist Subodh Gupta

Opening a window into the world of Central America, Songs of the Earth was an exhibition drawing on artistic traditions of the neighbouring nations, Costa Rica and Panama. The exhibition offered a glimpse into the artistic traditions of two neighbouring nations, Costa Rica and Panama known for their lush rainforests, vibrant agricultural economies, and deep indigenous roots.



Costa Rica and Panama

Tracing Traditions, an exhibition for the Bihar Museum Biennale, exhibits the traditions of Bihar. This exhibition brings together outstanding art by six Padma Shri awardees from Bihar. From visionary Madhubani artists – Jagdamba Devi, Baua Devi, Godavari Dutta and Dulari Devi to the papier-mache artist of Subhadra Devi and the masterful craftsman Kapil Dev Prasad, a Bawan Buti artist, this exhibition shines a spotlight on the luminaries who personify Bihar's cultural legacy. This exhibition, specially curated for the Bihar Museum Biennale, celebrates the immeasurable contributions of these Bihari artists to the world of art. This exhibition, running from the 7th of August to the 31st of December, brilliantly casts a spotlight on these luminaries who embody Bihar's cultural legacy.



Tracing Traditions

Inauguration of the Museum Shop



On the occasion of the Bihar Museum Foundation day, Chief Minister Mister Shri Nitish Kumar inaugurated the new museum shop. During this momentous occasion, distinguished personalities such as Padmashree Kapildev Prasad, Padmashree Baua Devi and Padmashree Dulari Devi were in attendance. After the inauguration, Director General of Bihar Museum Anjani Kumar Singh and Additional Director Ashok Kumar Sinha accompanied the Chief Minister on a tour of the museum shop. The Chief Minister meticulously examined the diverse artworks showcased in each section, acquiring in-depth knowledge about their significance. His satisfaction was evident upon learning that these artworks were exclusively crafted by traditional artists indigenous to Bihar. Ashok Kumar Sinha gave the Chief Minister a comprehensive overview of the exquisite artworks crafted by over six artists, each bestowed with the Padma Shri award.



Chief Minister at Museum Shop

Collaboration with Kilkari

The collaboration between the Bihar Museum and Kilkari, Art School Patna, for the Bihar Museum Biennale brought history to life. The young and talented performers from Kilkari left a lasting impact on both local and international attendees with their live portrayals of legendary figures. The performers embodied iconic figures such as Lord Buddha, Sher Shah, Emperor Ashoka, Didarganj Yakshi and Bhikhari Thakur.

These portrayals weren't mere recitations of historical facts but rather narratives delivered in a theatrical manner. The artists became storytellers, weaving together the tales of these iconic personalities with vivid detail and emotional depth. Their performances turned the museum into a dynamic stage where history came to life.



Kilkari Student as Didarganj Yakshi

Collaboration with ICCR

The grand inauguration of the Bihar Museum Biennale was made even more culturally significant by the prominent role played by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), whose performance took centre stage and left a lasting impression.

At the heart of this captivating performance were international exchange students specialising in Indian, classical music and traditional art forms, all part of the ICCR's diverse cohort. This cultural event was possible through a collaboration with the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR). The group choreographed performances that were an effortless chutnification of tradition, as international students showcased different music and dance forms. This collaborative effort resulted in an unforgettable experience that resonated with all those fortunate enough to attend. Distinguished guests, including the Director General of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, graced the event.

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Cultural Relations

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STORYTELLING

“Real Museums are place where Time is transformed into Space”

Orhan Pamuk

Orhan Pamuk's insightful statement encapsulates the profound essence of museums as space where history and culture is meticulously curated, allowing visitors to step into the past, present, and future within the confinement of a single room. This statement has actually dragged me towards memory lane, getting me to think of museums as a time capsule due to its ever-evolving nature.

In the realm of cultural institutions, museums have long held a revered position as the custodians of history, art, and antiquity. Traditionally, our perception of museums conjures images of dimly lit rooms, filled with ancient relics and artefacts, akin to a time capsule from the past. They served as silent witnesses to the evolution of human civilisation, offering a glimpse into the lives and cultures of our ancestors. The dim lighting and hushed atmosphere further enhances the aura of reverence, as visitors tiptoe through history. However, this traditional perception of museums is gradually giving way to a more dynamic and interactive model. This dramatic transformation is often challenging the conservative view of these institutions.

In the changing perception of museums, they have evolved from being an abode of trans-generational memory to vibrant culture shops, where knowledge consumers eagerly consume art in specific time and space. Modern museums are shedding their reputation as solemn halls of the past and embracing their new roles as vibrant cultural experience houses. They have evolved

into spaces where culture, art, and history come alive. Contemporary museums are designed to engage and educate visitors in immersive and interactive ways, transcending the passive role of mere spectators. Museums today host a diverse range of exhibits, from classical art to contemporary installations, and they often feature rotating displays that cater to changing tastes and interests. These cultural storehouses have become hubs for creativity, dialogue, and exploration.

The transformation of museums can be attributed to the changing expectations of knowledge consumers. Moreover, cultural shopping experiences that serve as catalysts for economic development are integral components of the museum's visitor driven infrastructure. Visitors today are not content with passive observation; they seek active engagement. Museums have adapted by offering hands-on experiences, interactive displays, and digital interfaces that allow visitors to delve deeper into the subject matter. Museums host workshops, lectures, and special events to foster a sense of community and learning. The happiness or discontent derived from the features of acquired items and services is reflected in their behaviour towards museums.

Technology has played a pivotal role in reshaping museums. Interactive touchscreen displays, augmented reality experiences, and virtual reality simulations have become common features in modern museums. Furthermore, museums have embraced social media and digital platforms to engage with a wider audience. Virtual tours and online exhibitions have made it possible for people around the world to access museum collections from the comfort of their homes.

The world of museums is in a state of constant evolution, breaking free from the conventional mould of static relic chambers. While they still serve as repositories of history and culture, museums today are more dynamic, engaging, and accessible than ever before. As we continue to embrace technology and innovation, the future of museums promises even more exciting transformations, ensuring that these institutions remain relevant and inspiring for generations to come. The museum of tomorrow is a place where the past, present, and future converge, offering a rich tapestry of experiences for all.

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Symposium

With the grand inauguration of the Bihar Museum Biennale, eight, four-day symposiums unfolded on 8th, 9th, 22nd and 23rd August 2023. Bihar Museum Biennale stands as a glorious testament to the celebration of art, culture and heritage. As part of this prestigious event, Bihar Museum had the privilege of hosting enlightening symposiums. These symposiums ignited dynamic discussions encompassing a myriad of crucial topics, Catering to the audience to ignite their minds from the nuanced strategies of museum curation to the diverse landscape of museum typologies, all while emphasising the pivotal role of preserving indigenous heritage. The discourse delved into areas such as Museum Branding and Merchandising, City Museums and Museum Management, the profound impact of AI on Museum Engagement and the prospects of Reimagining Museums. The overwhelming admiration and appreciation expressed by museum enthusiasts and professionals for the Bihar Museum Biennale served as a resounding affirmation of the museum's commitment to redefining the essence of the museum space.

Symposium 1 : Curatorial Strategies and Displays in the Museums – 8th August 2023

Museum curatorial strategies are not static but rather fluid, continuously adapting to contemporary trends and embracing the rich tapestry of diversity. They are the cornerstone of ensuring museums remain vibrant, ever-relevant spaces dedicated to enriching culture and education. This principle took centre stage during the inaugural Symposium of the Bihar Museum Biennale, themed "Curatorial Strategies & Displays in the Museums." The event served as a convergence point for scholars, visionary curators, and passionate enthusiasts in the field of museology. The Symposium aimed to delve deep into the evolving role of museums in our modern world, where these cultural institutions transcend their conventional boundaries to engage communities and foster cross-cultural understanding.



Professor Yannick Lintz, a historian, heritage curator, and President of Musée Guimet, delivered a captivating presentation that resonated with the Symposium's overarching theme. Her discourse was centred on museums' global adaptation to cultural globalisation, shifting visitor demographics and ecological imperatives.

Lintz traced the origins of the museum model back to the European Enlightenment, weaving together a narrative that provided invaluable insights into the groundbreaking approach of Louvre Abu Dhabi in showcasing the universality of culture. One recurring motif that emerged during the Symposium was the pursuit of creating immersive encounters for museum visitors and the transformation of museums into vibrant cultural hubs that defy conventional constraints. Professor Lintz emphasised the importance of cultivating open and inviting museum spaces, challenging the notion of rigid structures. She stressed the need for fresh narratives, dynamic temporary exhibitions and immersive technologies to captivate audiences effectively. Lintz championed the creation of delightful experiences through the integration of technologies like tablets and immersive displays. Discussions revolved around innovative strategies to attract and retain visitors, spanning the entire spectrum from schoolchildren to adults. The significance of curating exhibitions blending tradition with contemporary themes, such as exploring the influence of manga or the global phenomenon of the Hallyu wave, was highlighted.

The Symposium served as a ground for the exploration of the evolving role of museums in our contemporary world. It provided a platform for experts and enthusiasts to share profound insights, innovative strategies, and inspiring success stories, all aimed at fostering dynamic, engaging, and culturally enriching museum experiences. The Symposium offered invaluable perspectives to guide the future trajectory as museums continue to adapt and evolve in response to the changing tides of our times.

Symposium 2 : Changing the Creative Industry in Museums – 8th August 2023

The second Symposium was on Changing the Creative Industry in Museums, and the first speaker was Norwegian Ambassador Hans Jacob Frydenlund. Taking the discussion forward, Dr. Sharyu Doshi, an Indian art scholar, art historian, academic and curator known for her erudition in Indian miniature paintings and Jain art, delved into the paradox of the creative industry's evolution. She shared insights gained from her association with the Jehangir Art Gallery, tracing the transformation of art museums into enterprises and their significance in urban life. Doshi highlighted the role of technology in enriching museum experiences and expanding visitor engagement.

Prominent art figure Dr. Pheroza Godrej, Founder, curator and Director of Cymroza Art Gallery, Mumbai illuminated on art and culture's unifying and dialogue-fostering capabilities. Godrej urged support for emerging artists and explored the potential of AI to create immersive and transformative museum encounters. "Museums with interactive displays, multimedia installations, and on-hands activities, create meaningful connections between people and the stories they tell," said Dr. Pheroza Godrej, Director, Cymroza Art Gallery, Mumbai.

Rakhi Sarkar detailed her journey into the art world, outlining the inception of the Centre of International Modern Art (CIMA).

She addressed challenges within the Indian art community, such as the absence of a cohesive art policy and association, leading to the misclassification of art as commodities due to complex tax structures and movement issues. Sarkar championed art's role in challenging boundaries and shaping national intellect, calling for governmental support to unlock its full potential. Sarkar concluded by lauding Anjani Kumar Singh, Director General of Bihar Museum, for his visionary contributions through platforms like the Bihar Museum Biennale. She highlighted his efforts in empowering the art world to flourish, contributing significantly to cultural discourse.



Dr Alka Pande concluded the Symposium by concluding the diverse perspectives presented by the speakers. The Symposium emphasised the shifting narratives in museums and art institutions, the fusion of commerce and culture and the promise of technology to transform visitor experiences.

Symposium 3 : New Museums and Typologies – 9th August 2023

In the ever-evolving world of museums, new typologies continually emerge, serving as a new world of cultural evolution and innovation. These novel classifications represent a seamless blend of tradition and contemporary dynamism, mirroring the ever-shifting landscapes of our society. From digital museums, where the boundaries of space and time dissolve into the sublime, to pop-up museums, where art and experience come together in unexpected corners, these emerging typologies infuse fresh vitality into the time-honoured institution.

Dr Alka Pande, the Moderator, expressed her enthusiasm for this symposium, labelling it as a personal favourite among the various sessions she has orchestrated. She embarked on an insightful discourse concerning the evolution and fluidity of museum concepts, tracing the etymology of "museum" to its Ancient Greek roots and highlighting the historical role of Indian temples as repositories of wisdom and wealth. Dr. Pande unveiled the thematic itinerary for the session, offering a glimpse into a global array of museums, ranging from those dedicated to trauma to avant-garde institutions such as the niche museum focusing on noodles in Japan and the Fellini Museum. This set the stage for an exploration of innovative and unconventional museum typologies.



The first speaker, Stephen Inglis, conveyed his sincere pleasure in participating in the symposium, introducing the notion of the "Jaagu Ghar," or magical space. He applauded the Bihar Museum's dynamic character and emphasised the evolving role of curators, extending their engagement beyond traditional curation. The subsequent speaker, Hala Warde, shared her captivating journey with the Louvre Abu Dhabi Museum and the Beirut Museum of Art, offering an ode to architectural marvels. She unveiled the intricate architectural nuances of the Louvre Abu Dhabi, emphasising its ethereal dome and concealed columns, and discussed the design philosophy underpinning the Beirut Museum of Art, highlighting its inviting garden space and seamless integration with outdoor performance venues.

The symposium also featured insights from the Museum of Solutions in Mumbai, an immersive children's museum on the horizon, and a virtual contribution from Michael Peter Edson. Edson illuminated the shifting museum landscape in the face of a pandemic and the emergence of AI, addressing the challenges organisations face when adapting to change and emphasising the imperative for transformative shifts in perspective.

The session served as a nexus of intellectual exchange, unearthing the transformative role of museums. As museums continue to reinvent themselves, these emergent typologies stand as a testament to the enduring enchantment of cultural exploration and the boundless potential of human creativity. Attendees departed with a profound appreciation for museums' dynamic potential in the modern era, a testament to their enduring relevance and adaptability.

Symposium 4 : Indigenous and Intangible Cultural Heritage – 9th August 2023

In the culminating symposium of the inaugural series, the spotlight was cast upon the exquisite realms of Indigenous and Intangible Cultural Heritage. These forms of heritage echo the profound resonance of centuries-old traditions and wisdom passed down through the ages. Indigenous heritage encompasses the palpable facets of a community's cultural identity: the artistry and the sacred sites, each bearing the indelible imprints of a people's history and their profound connection to the land beneath their feet. While intangible cultural heritage gracefully transcends the tangible, venturing into the ethereal domain of rituals, stories and music. Both manifestations of heritage hold a hallowed space within societies, standing as guardians of collective memory and as embodiments of identity, resilience and the enduring spirit of communities across the globe.



The symposium's narrative unfolded around the exploration of tangible and intangible heritage, with Dr. Lars Koch taking centre stage to illuminate the role of music within the Humboldt Forum. Dr. Koch eloquently emphasised the intricate bonds between music, sound and the art of listening, delving deep into intangible heritage. He underscored how cultural memory finds its melodious voice through diverse mediums, ultimately crafting an identity for distinct ethnic groups. Dr. Koch further delved into the realm of the phonographic commission and the dynamic transformation of tangible heritage through the ages. The discourse encompassed the crucial role of the cultural context in preserving and acquiring musical instruments, painting a vivid portrait of museums as evolving entities that transcend their traditional role as artefact repositories to encapsulate the essence of our cultural heritage—a vessel of memory itself.

The symposium's second speaker, Professor Galla, marked the day's significance as World Indigenous Day, drawing from his experiences establishing the Don Bosco Centre for Indigenous Cultures in Shillong. He navigated the ethereal facets of culture with eloquence—the voices, values, traditions, languages, folklores, and oral histories—accentuating their profound importance. Professor Galla provided poignant insights into the

multifaceted dimensions of intangible heritage, spotlighting an upcoming project in Denmark highlighting the significance of pluralistic museum experiences. He unveiled a remarkable project dedicated to safeguarding intangible heritage, promoting respect, raising awareness, and fostering international cooperation. Professor Galla dissected the five domains of intangible heritage—oral traditions, performing arts, social practices and knowledge about nature and the universe. His discourse resounded with the vital concepts of safeguarding, intergenerational transmission and community participation, emphasising the integral role of communities in preserving and reinvigorating intangible heritage. He presented images illustrating how education can transcend caste and class barriers and commended India's significant contributions to the museum sector. With this enlightening session, the curtain gracefully descended on the first set of symposiums in the Bihar Museum Biennale.

Symposium 5 : Museum Branding and Merchandising – 22nd August 2023

In the world of museums, branding and merchandising have become pivotal players, adding a layer of intrigue and allure to the modern museum experience. Once known solely for their collections and exhibitions, museums have now ascended to the ranks of powerful brands with global recognition. This elevated status isn't a mere accident; it's the result of meticulously crafted branding strategies encompassing every facet of a museum's identity, from its iconic logo and visual aesthetics to its profound mission statement and magnetic pull on the public's imagination. But this art of branding extends beyond aesthetics; it's about crafting narratives that resonate deeply with a diverse audience. Museums skillfully harness their extraordinary collections, mesmerising exhibitions, and cultural histories to forge a unique brand image that indelibly stamps its presence on the global stage.



Delving deeper into this subject, the fifth symposium of the Bihar Museum Biennale turned its focus to museum branding and merchandising. Maureen Liebl, a curator of cultural commerce hailing from Muse India Heritage Concepts, led the discourse. Liebl painted a vivid picture of the absence of professional museum shops in India, using the Mehrangarh Museum shop as a shining example. Drawing upon case studies from institutions like Mehrangarh Museum in Jodhpur, Chowmahalla Palace in Hyderabad, and the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust in New Delhi, she outlined the multifaceted functions of museum shops while shedding light on the challenges and opportunities they present. Liebl generously shared her invaluable insights from her experiences establishing successful museum shops, placing a premium on authenticity, community engagement and ethical practices.

Continuing the symposium's journey, Amrita Singh, also from Muse India Heritage Concepts, unveiled the remarkable evolution of the Mehrangarh Museum Shop. She eloquently narrated the shop's inspiring journey, emphasising its dedication to empowering women in a traditional workspace. Singh celebrated the shop's commitment to sustainability and ethical practices, with the proceeds flowing back into the local communities and artisans, creating a virtuous cycle of conscious retailing.

The symposium reached its crescendo with an enlightening discourse by Dávid Szabó from the Museum of Fine Arts Budapest, who offered a global perspective on branding and merchandising. Szabó presented a case study on the Hieronymus Bosch exhibition, presenting the institution's innovative strategies to engage audiences through various platforms. He highlighted the importance of online promotion, interactive displays and community-building via social media. Showcasing the Museum of Fine Arts Budapest's commitment to sustainability, Szabó unveiled how event banners were ingeniously repurposed into tote bags, aligning seamlessly with the museum's overarching commitment to zero waste.

The symposium culminated in an engaging Q&A session led by Anthony Lopez, where speakers offered glimpses into their future plans and shared their visions for expanding projects, and reimagining spaces.

Symposium 6 : City Museums and Museum Management – 22nd August 2023

In an era where technology reigns supreme, museums find themselves at a crossroads. Here, it faces an imperative to reinvent itself, not merely to stay relevant but to become indispensable in the 21st century. Today, museums have embraced technology, welcoming innovations, interactive exhibitions and visionary storytelling techniques into their fold. Their mission? To captivate a new generation of visitors with immersive experiences that transcend the boundaries of time and tradition. The sixth symposium of the Bihar Museum Biennale explored the synergy between city museums and the art of museum management.



This symposium featured distinguished speakers, Sabyasachi Mukherjee and Malini Goyal, who generously shared their profound insights on the symbiotic relationship between museums and the people they serve and the art of documenting the intricate journey of cities.

Sabyasachi Mukherjee, the Director General of CSMVS, inaugurated the session by recounting an anecdote illuminating the museum as a cherished space in people's hearts. He shared the story of a Mumbai-based museum nestled within the Kala Ghoda art district—a project conceived by the people, intended for the people. In 1905, the prominent residents of Bombay came together with a determination to erect a space dedicated to preserving cultural heritage, thus marking the inception of CSMVS. Mukherjee traced the journey of CSMVS, chronicling its origins rooted in the collective desire for cultural preservation and its evolution into a community-driven institution of today. He underlined the symbiotic relationship between museums and cities, emphasising museums' role as custodians of a city's memories and highlighting how a museum can become an inseparable and cherished facet of a city's cultural fabric.



The second speaker of this session, Malini Goyal, the founder of unboxingBLR, unveiled her visionary journey of establishing a city-focused platform. She delved into unboxingBLR's overarching objectives, which encompass documenting Bangalore's four-decade journey, enhancing engagement with the city and fostering dialogues and connections. She elucidated her book's panoramic perspective on Bangalore—a perspective that ultimately led to the establishment of unboxingBLR as a groundbreaking tech museum startup. Goyal shared the organisation's ambitious plans to host city festivals every December, with a focus on inclusivity.

MUSEUM BIENNALE SYMPOSIUM

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The symposium thoroughly explored the dynamic relationship that unfolds between cities and museums. The panel also engaged in insightful deliberations regarding how artificial intelligence shapes the future landscape of museum spaces and redefines the roles of those overseeing them. The symposium came to a close, leaving behind a world of intriguing and unanswered questions that nurtures our curiosity, urging us to continue our exploration and inquiry.

Symposium 7&8 : AI and Museum Engagement + Reimagining Museums– 23rd August 2023

A spectre is haunting the world – the spectre of AI. Open AI's ChatGPT is the latest in a range of free-to-use Artificial Intelligence (AI) systems to capture the popular imagination. It has also generated necessary discussions on the quality and morality of artificial knowledge. The final day of symposiums at the Bihar Museum Biennale at Patna kick-started with such discussions around AI.

The first panel, comprising Pranav Arora, Upasana Nattoji Roy and Kanya Ramachandran, discussed the role of museums in a digital world and how a museum can become a site for community engagement and negotiate better with changes that include shifting demographics and ever-escalating technologies like that of Artificial Intelligence. Batul Raj Mehta, Chief of Strategy for Bihar Museum Biennale, moderated the session. Moumita Ghosh, Bihar Museum's Curator, warmly welcomed all the speakers and guests.



Anjani Kumar Singh, Director General of Bihar Museum, said, "Bihar Museum's great focus is on being an interactive and experiential space for visitors. The museum's foremost dedication is to serving the visitors and the community. The focus is on developing community engagement. This pursuit of enhancing community involvement is the question under consideration. I want technology to enrich the experience of my museum's visitors." He expressed optimism that the symposiums would contribute to expanding their knowledge and insights.

The presentation by Pranav Arora, Managing Director of Accenture's AI experience team, shed light on the significant

role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in revolutionising the realm of creating engaging experiences for museums. Pranav emphasised the evolving strategies required to captivate new audiences in today's digital age by discussing examples like the Van Gogh Museum and the Louvre Abu Dhabi. He further delved into the nuanced phases of an experience, explaining that only a quarter of the experience transpires in the actual moment, another quarter is wrapped in anticipation, and half of the value is derived from post-event reliving. From personalised engagement to historical enrichment, AI offers museums unprecedented opportunities to captivate audiences in a multifaceted manner, fostering both education and entertainment.



Upasana Nattoji Roy from Switch shared a prototype she is working on to understand what AI tools could do for an artist; she added, "Tools are about the need to tell stories, and as humans, we must tell stories." During her presentation, she outlined her upcoming endeavours focused on delving into origin stories. The central query that emerged was whether it's feasible to construct an ecosystem that embodies a utopian world where the wisdom derived from lived experiences converges with the advancements in machine learning. This collaborative fusion aims to co-create a symbiotic environment involving artificial intelligence, machinery, and living beings. Highlighting the role of museums, she emphasised their capacity to narrate stories and facilitate a climate receptive to these narratives. In this sense, museums can be a space where stories are not only told but are received, where it is a space for dialogue.

The final speaker of the day's first symposium, Kanya Ramachandran, co-founder of BeFantastic, traced her journey as a tech and art festival curator, recalling FutureFantastic, which was a first of its kind AI and New Media Arts Festival in India. To visualise a constructive and enduring future, FutureFantastic gathered communities of creative minds and technologists to synergise and extend the frontiers of tech art. BeFantastic operates through a three-fold strategy, employing showcases such as the FutureFantastic festival, exhibitions, and pop-ups. The focus is exploring how museums can transcend from mere repositories and evolve into hubs of critical cultural evolution. In this context, museums provide a platform for diverse perspectives to intersect, steering the development trajectory and fostering a sense of community in burgeoning and emergent fields.

"...it (the museum building) must be appreciated by not only clients and users but also by the general public. In this sense, the building must be timeless... because time will be the final judge of the building." Rahul Gore's bonus session on The Making of Bihar Museum was woven around this quote by Fumihiko Maki, Founder and Principal Architect of Maki and Associates and the Architect behind the Bihar Museum. He presented a fascinating account of the creation of the Bihar Museum, shedding light on its architectural marvel and unique design considerations. The session explored the museum's inception, design process, and the challenges overcome to transform it into a significant cultural landmark. With a rigorous four-year timeline, the project was a race against time. Designing occupied a substantial portion of the first year, leaving three years for construction. Rahul Gore emphasised that the museum's design aimed to seamlessly integrate it with the cityscape while maintaining a campus-like approach. The architecture, spanning the ground and first floors, was meticulously planned in a way that exuded openness rather than intimidation.



The second panel, comprising Dr. Jahanvi Phalkey and Zameer Basrai, discussed reimagining the museum's institution. The final symposium of the Bihar Museum Biennale explored the sweeping digital revolution coursing through museums world-wide. This revolution is redefining the very essence of museums, reshaping their purpose, and reimagining the visitor experience.



From enthralling virtual reality tours to the guidance of AI-powered companions, from immersive installations to interactive apps, we delve into the exhilarating ways museums leverage technology to bridge the chasm between the past and the future. In this second set of symposiums, the Bihar Museum biennale traversed the digital age of museums, where history commingles with the future and every visitor becomes an intrepid explorer of time and culture. 'What role must the museum of the future play in society, and what would happen if artefacts have a layered understanding?' were the main questions panellists deliberated on.



MUSEUM BIENNALE EXHIBITION

Issue #03
October, 2023

Second Phase of Exhibition

The Bihar Museum Biennale 2023 opened on August 7, 2023, and since then, the Bihar Museum has been orchestrating a wide range of events, exhibitions, seminars and workshops. With support and collaboration from distinguished artists nationally and internationally, the Bihar Museum is set to unveil many ornate programs in the coming days.

On 15th September the Bihar Museum inaugurated two remarkable exhibitions: "In Another Green," featuring Israeli artists, and "Suryakal," a showcase of the celebrated artist Udayraj's works complimented by photographs by Shailendra Kumar, in partnership with Mentor Art, Mumbai. Director General Anjani Kumar Singh shared insights in his address during the inauguration ceremony held in the Orientation Hall of the Bihar Museum. He revealed that the Israeli exhibition will grace our gallery until October 15, while the "Suryakal" exhibition will continue till November 30, 2023.

At the inauguration ceremony, Rahul C. Mehta, the Founder of Mentor Art, Mumbai, and Supriya Menon, Co-Founder at Batul Raj Mehta Associate, offered a behind-the-scenes glimpse into the meticulous curation process of 'Suryakal' through a presentation. The inauguration ceremony was graced by distinguished individuals, including Padmashri Prof. Shyam Sharma, Batul Raj Mehta, folk singer Neetu Kumari Nutan and photographer Shailendra Kumar. Following the formalities, Mr Anjani Kumar Singh, with a ceremonious ribbon-cutting, officially inaugurated the 'Suryakal' exhibition in the Museum's Multipurpose Hall and 'In Another Green' in the Children's Gallery Classroom.

Suryakal – 15th Sept to 30 Nov, 2023

The Bihar Museum inaugurated the exhibition, Suryakāl, presented by MentorArt, Mumbai on 15th September, 2023. This remarkable exhibition takes the sun as its central motif, offering a profound exploration of our historical, present and future relationship with this celestial body through the three dimensions of Sabhyata (culture), Samaj (society) and Samay (time).



The exhibition Suryakāl has been conceived, curated and meticulously produced by the BRMA team. It promises to be a captivating journey that immerses visitors in the profound influence of the sun on our lives. At the heart of Suryakāl are the twelve captivating Sun Series paintings by Udayraj Gadnis, an internationally acclaimed artist inspired by spirituality. Gadnis' sun-themed paintings traverse historic civilisations from around the world, offering a visual narrative of the sun's significance in various cultures and epochs.



Complementing these evocative artworks are the exquisite photographs of Chhath by Shailendra Kumar, a seasoned art photographer based in Patna. His photographs capture the sun's enduring social and cultural significance in Bihar, where it bridges faith, culture and everyday life. In addition, the exhibition features Chatt songs by Neetu Singh Nutan, creating a vibrant ambiance that resonates with the essence of the Chhath festival—a significant celebration in Bihar.

The exhibition's culmination presents a vision of an innovation-driven solar future and its transformative impact on human existence. Here, Gadnis' painting envisions a possible Solar Civilisation, while the concept of Himawari Natural Lighting shows how the possible future with the sun at the centre can be achieved with technologies like the Himawari.



Suryakāl, commencing from September 15th and extending until November 30th, 2023, coincides with the celebration of Chhath, an intangible heritage emblematic of Bihar's rich cultural heritage, both nationally and internationally. The exhibition promises to be a compelling and enlightening journey through the cultural and historical significance of the sun, inviting all to immerse themselves in this illuminating experience at the Bihar Museum Biennale 2023.

In Another Green – 15th Sept to 15th Oct, 2023

The Bihar Museum Biennale is set to captivate your senses with a diverse array of art and cinematic experiences that transcend boundaries and cultures. With film screenings, virtual tours and exhibitions from Israel, this edition promises to be a journey through creativity, storytelling and reflection.



The Israel Exhibition for the Bihar Museum Biennale presents two thought-provoking films that offer a glimpse into the world of art and human emotions.

Curated by Achia Anzi, the exhibition "In Another Green" features the works of Leor Grady and Joseph Dadoune. It delves into the dynamics of power, cultural heritage and marginalised communities in Israel. Both artists, hailing from Eastern Jewish backgrounds and growing up on the periphery of Israeli society, challenge dominant narratives and reclaim their communities' place in Israeli history and culture. Themes of displacement, assimilation and the erasure of traditions take centre stage, inviting viewers to reflect on cultural identity and the impact of migration.

G20 Art Project Celebrates India's Cultural Ties with Mauritius

Among the featured artists who came for the G20 Art Project "Together We Art" was Dharmadeo Nirmal Hurry who represented Mauritius. India and Mauritius share deep-rooted culture and history; the connections between these nations date back to 1730. From the 1800s when the British Parliament abolished slavery, a large group of Indian workers were brought into Mauritius as indentured labourers establishing a sizable Indian diaspora community in Mauritius. The artistic exchange represented by Dharmadeo Nirmal Hurry's participation in the G20 Art Project is reflective of the cultural ties that bind these nations.

Hurry's artistic expression encompasses a wide range of themes, each contributing to the richness of his work. His art is a testament of creativity to reflect and engage with the complexity of human existence. "My fantasy journey consists of a route, with many connected paths and passages, in which it is hard to find my way..." mentions Hurry. His work is a vivid reminder of the ability of art to transcend geographical boundaries. As a member of the diasporic community himself, he digs deep into the themes of journey and displacement – an exploration that deeply resonates with the shared realities of those who have experienced displacement.

Nirmal Hurry's artwork, titled "Basic Laws of Life Energy," composed of concrete, collected coloured plastic strips and airy plant elements and that served as a visual and conceptual exploration of life's fundamental energies—a synthesis of materials that interplay between the human and the natural world.

What makes Dharmadeo Hurry's artistic journey even more intriguing is his connection to the diaspora community of Bihar. During his visit to the Bihar Museum for the inauguration of the G20 Art Project, he spent five days in the region where he visited his native village near Ara. The Bihar Museum anticipates a collaborative project with the Mauritian artist Nirmal Hurry in future.



Indian Heritage Quiz – 19th Aug to 20th Aug, 2023

Amid the bustling Bihar Museum Biennale, a celebration of intellect and heritage unfolded as the Bihar Museum, in collaboration with Extra-C, orchestrated the Indian Heritage Quiz and Crossword Competition on the 19th and 20th of August, 2023.

The Indian Heritage Quiz Competition saw a participation of around 150 young scholars representing 20 schools from Patna. Their enthusiasm illuminated the room as they unleashed their intellectual prowess. Guiding this contest was Quiz Master Alan Cowell, ensuring that the competition flowed seamlessly.



On the second day of the Crossword Competition, the Director General of the Bihar Museum, Anjani Kumar Singh, graced the occasion as the chief guest. He addressed the young participants, congratulating them for their spirited engagement. Director General Anjani Kumar Singh shared the profound purpose of the Museum Biennale at Bihar Museum—bringing forth the rich culture and heritage from India and beyond to enlighten the people of Bihar.

He urged all the participating students to delve deeply into the treasures of Bihar Museum, an institution brimming with the heritage and culture not only of Bihar but also from across the globe. As a token of recognition for their exceptional efforts, the Director General presented certificates, mementoes and cash prizes to the winners of the crossword competition.



The results were nothing short of spectacular in this competition of words and wisdom. Shraddha Shri of Don Bosco School, Patna, emerged triumphant in the crossword competition, securing the first place. Following closely were Amber Sinha of Saint Karen's School, Patna, in second place, and Adesh Anchal of Saint Karen's Secondary School, Patna, securing the third position. The champions were rewarded with cash prizes for the quiz and crossword competition.

This competition celebrated young minds' intellect and served as a path towards a deeper understanding of our cultural and historical riches. It echoed the spirit of curiosity and the fervour for learning, a testament to the enduring importance of heritage in shaping our collective future.

Tree & Serpent – 18th Sep, 2023

On September 18th, the Bihar Museum had the honour of hosting 'Making Tree & Serpent,' an online presentation by John Guy, Curator of the Arts of South and Southeast Asia at The Metropolitan Museum of Art's Department of Asian Art.

'Tree & Serpent: Early Buddhist Art in India, 200 BCE–400 CE' is an exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art that narrates the story of the origins of Buddhist art through over 60 thoughtfully curated ancient artefacts from various Indian Museums with Bihar Museum being one amongst the generous leading institutions for the exhibition. This captivating display includes more than 140 objects dating from 200 BCE to 400 CE, representing the beginnings of Buddhist art. The exhibition beautifully describes the evolution of Buddhism, starting from its core ethical teachings to gradually blossoming into one of the world's great religions.



The online presentation provided a unique glimpse into the curatorial strategies employed for this expansive exhibition. Attendees had the opportunity to delve deeply into the intricate planning and flawless execution required for an exhibit of such a grand scale. This captivating exhibition is open to the public until November 30th. It promises visitors an enchanting voyage into the world of rich symbols and culture of early Buddhist art.

Movie Screening – 2nd Sep, 2023

Art, in its myriad forms, has been a timeless conduit for conveying emotions, ideas, political narratives and cultural sagas. In contrast, cinema takes this age-old tradition and propels it into a dynamic realm, where moving images, sound and narrative come together in harmonious synchrony. Beyond mirroring our existence, art and cinema are architects of transformation, perpetually challenging and reshaping our perceptions.

Taking this narrative to the heart of cultural enlightenment, the Bihar Museum orchestrated a cinematic experience as part of the second edition of the Bihar Museum Biennale. Artists, scholars and art aficionados, including those from Patna, gathered in anticipation. The event was a 22-minute film screening jointly produced by Marvel Art Gallery and Vision Celluloid Production in 2006, directed by Mr. Dharmendra Nath Ojha. This cinematic piece delved into the realms of contemporary painting and cultural discourse.

During this event, Mr. Arvind Ojha ignited discussions about the intricate relationship between art and time, while Dr. Jyotish Joshi provided a profound critique of art and cinema. Additional Director Ashok Kumar Sinha warmly welcomed the audience, emphasising the museum's pivotal role in connecting people through seminars, exhibitions and interactive events.

Dr. Joshi took the stage, expounding upon the timeless nature of modern art, describing the film's portrayal of the paintbrush's stroke, the cascade of colours, and the symphony of emotions as an attempt to encapsulate the journey from the external to the internal, and vice versa. The film was a visual feast, skillfully capturing the essence of art through empathetic visualisations and impeccable cinematography, all enveloped in a script by Mr. Arvind Ojha.



The film's narrative unfolded on two distinct levels—a perspective seen through the eyes of an artist and another experienced through the touch of a blind artist. It was not just an artistic expression but a conduit to grasp the boundless facets of the infinite. This remarkable film had already garnered acclaim in cities such as Delhi, Mumbai and Jaipur, where it had enjoyed independent screenings, sparking discussions and winning the hearts of renowned artists and literary figures. At its core, the film delved into the realm of touch, transcending the physical boundaries to offer a blissful experience that defied explanation—a testament to the infinite possibilities of art and cinema.

Norwegian Ambassador at the Bihar Museum Biennale

Hans Jacob Frydenlund, currently serving as the Norwegian Ambassador to India, made a significant mark at the second symposium for the Bihar Museum Biennale on "Changing the Creative Industry in Museums." The symposium was centred around redefining the creative landscape within museum spaces. It aimed to explore museums' transformative potential as hubs for artistic and cultural narratives. The symposium's opening speaker was Ambassador Hans Jacob Frydenlund, whose insights paved the path forward.

Ambassador Frydenlund's keynote address resonated with the audience as he passionately emphasised the need to establish secure havens for the creative industry within museums. Drawing inspiration from Edvard Munch's iconic masterpiece, "The Scream," he showcased the enduring influence of this artwork across diverse media. This reference highlighted the universality of art and its ability to transcend cultural boundaries.

What emerged from his speech was a vision of museums not just as repositories of history and art but also as dynamic platforms for creative storytelling. He emphasised the unique potential of museums to foster innovation and growth within the creative industry. This perspective breathed new life into the role of museums, casting them as catalysts for artistic exploration and cultural development.

Ambassador Frydenlund's engagement with the Bihar Museum did not end with his thought-provoking session. On August 8th, he extended his warm hospitality by hosting a dinner at Hotel Maurya in honour of the Bihar Museum, strengthening cultural ties and promoting artistic exchange.



Shadow Puppetry : Collaboration with Kiran Nadar Museum of Art – 28th to 1st, Oct, 2023

The Bihar Museum, Patna, introduced an engaging Shadow Puppet Making Workshop in collaboration with the Kiran Nadar Museum of Art as part of the ongoing Bihar Museum Biennale. In this four-day workshop, which took place from 28th September to 1st October 2023, more than 50 eager participants from 15 schools in the city were introduced to the art of shadow theatre.



Shadow theatre is a form of performance art where a story is told through actors' shadows cast over a screen. Each show, lasting from 5 to 10 minutes, is a meticulously crafted masterpiece. It begins with creating a compelling storyline, followed by the scripting of dialogues and ultimately culminating in the shadow puppet performance. Participants learned to create captivating effects by manipulating both the puppets and the light source through coordinated motions of body shadows and flat articulated cut-out figures.

The four-day workshop was inaugurated by Director General Anjani Kumar Singh, who encouraged the participating students to explore their creative potential and expressed great anticipation for the creative journey that lay ahead.

The workshop was facilitated by Ms Somya Sahni, an accomplished art educator associated with the Kiran Nadar Museum of Art in New Delhi, joined by educators Avirup Mukherjee and Sukanya Marwaha.

Saumya Sahni, unveiled the unique approach where the human body becomes the canvas for storytelling, a departure from traditional puppetry. Over four days, students embarked on a comprehensive journey. The chosen topic for this creative exploration was the festival of Chhath Puja, a subject close to the hearts of the young participants, given its significance in the region. They visited the Suryakal Exhibition at the Bihar Museum, drawing inspiration for their forthcoming shadow plays.

During the workshop students underwent a comprehensive journey through the various facets of shadow puppetry. From the art of storytelling and scriptwriting to crafting dialogues and learning presentation techniques, participants acquired a holistic understanding of this art form. On the fourth and final day, students proudly presented their shadow puppet plays to an audience which included their parents and other eager observers.

Additional Director Ashok Kumar Sinha took the stage to present certificates to the participants. In his heartfelt appreciation, he extended his gratitude to the dedicated Kiran Nadar Museum of Art (KNMA) team for their invaluable contribution in bringing this workshop to the Bihar Museum.



Museum Engagement

13thOct, 2023

The Indo-Siam Connect

20thOct, 2023

International Print Exchange Programme

20thOct, 2023

Screening of “Grinding Humanity”

28thOct, 2023

BBC/Talk Show Bihar Collection

29th Oct, 2023

Stop Motion Animation

24th to 26th Nov, 2023

Continuum: Vision of India – Tarshito, Italy

1st to 30th Dec, 2023

From Clay to Beauty: Terracotta art by Brahmdev Pandit

1st to 30th Dec, 2023

Scenography & Curation

22nd to 24th Dec, 2023



Milinda Moragoda, High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to India



St Xavier's Academy



Saurabh Dwivedi founder of The Lallantop



Culture and Art enthusiasts of Patna



Journalist Ravish Kumar



Students of NIFT, Patna

MUSEUM
INFORMATION

Visiting Hours

Tuesday~Sunday: 10.00 AM to 5.00 PM

Evening Visiting Hours: 5.00 PM to 7.00 PM

Monday is weekly Off

Tickets

Indian Adult-	100 INR
Indian Children- (5-12 Years Old)	50 INR
Foreigner Adult -	500 INR
Foreigner Children - (5-12 Years Old)	250 INR
School trips-	25 INR

Evening Tickets

Indian Adult-	50 INR
Indian Children- (5-12 Years Old)	25 INR

Facilities

Wheel Chairs
Ramp
Elevator
Child Care Room
Volunteer Guides
Cafeteria
Amphitheatre
Museum Shop
Library

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