

TANVEER AJSI

Arts Administrator, Cultural Practitioner, Art Historian, Writer

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CURRICULUM VITAE

Education

Postgraduate Degree (MVA) Visual Art - Art History and Aesthetics (Indian and Western, awarded with first class), The MS University of Baroda, 2009-11.

Qualified the UGC-NET, 2012.

Diploma in Film Editing from the Centre for Research and Industrial Staff Performance (established under the Indo-German Technical Co-operation), Bhopal 2007.

Bachelor of Fine Arts (Painting – awarded with first-class), University of Kashmir, 2002-2007.

Fields of expertise/interests

Arts Administration, Grantmaking, Curation, Museology, Art History and Aesthetics Cultural Studies, Visual Culture, Theatre, Curatorial Studies, Critical Theories.

Languages Known

English: Fluent (speaking, reading and writing); Urdu: Fluent (speaking, reading and writing);

Hindi: Fluent (Reading and speaking); Kashmiri: Native; Kannada: Basic; Punjabi: Spoken;

Haryanvi: Basic.

Work Experience

Senior Programme Officer: Arts Research, India Foundation for the Arts, Bangalore: May 2018-April 2023.

Programme Executive: Arts Research, India Foundation for the Arts, Bangalore: May 2013-May 2018.

Guest Faculty at the Department of Art History and Art Appreciation, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, 2011-13.

Curator of the M. F. Husain Art Gallery, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi: March 2012-April 2013.

Consultant Publications and Gallery in-Charge at the Lalit Kala Academy: 2012

Artist in Residence at the Roopankar Museum of Fine Arts, Bharat Bhawan, Bhopal: 2007-2009.

Co-Founder of 'Harkat'- A performance and multimedia arts initiative at the SARAI, Centre for Study of Developing Societies, New Delhi.

Consultant Assistant Editor at the Daily Kashmir Times: 2003-2007.

Presenter/Announcer with the Samooh Theatre, Jammu: 2002-2006.

Journalist with the Daily Rah-e-Manzil, Jammu as a Journalist: 2002-2005.

Artistic Director with the Anjuman Taraqi Gojri Zuban-o-Adab, Dharamsala, Kalakote, Rajouri, J&K from 2001 to 2007.

Skills and Expertise/Experience

Extensive knowledge of the contemporary arts practices, traditional arts practices and discourses.

Since 2013, at the India Foundation for the Arts (IFA), I have mentored and supervised over 100 arts research and arts practice projects in contemporary arts, traditional arts, music, ethnography, anthropology, photography and theatre across India in various Indian languages, including English.

Conducted and published extensive surveys on the state of arts research and practice in India over the last 10 years and worked with reputed practitioners and scholars in the arts and culture sector.

Policymaking, programming and implementing programmes like Arts Research Programme, Arts Practice Programme, Museums and Archives Programme, Arts Education Programme and Project P560 Programme at IFA for 10 years.

Conceptualised and curated exhibitions and conferences such as *Old Routes/ New Journeys* and *Past Forward* with over 100 artists and scholars from multiple artistic disciplines at the Max Muller Bhavan Delhi and Bangalore International Centre in 2018 and 2019 as part of IFA's Arts Practice and Archival and Museum programmes.

Conceptualised and curated Exposure Visits of Arts Educators to Kochi Muziris Biennale, Heritage Sites in Madhya Pradesh and Ajanta and Ellora: 2014-15, 17-18 and 18-19 as part of IFA's Arts Education Programme.

Organised over 30 exhibitions of visual arts from across India and various countries from across the world at the Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi, 2011-2012.

Supervised Artists' Camps and Residencies at the Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi, 2011-12

Conceptualised and curated Performance Art workshops at the Kiran Nadar Museum, New Delhi and KHOJ 2010-2012.

Supervised over 30 Undergraduate and Postgraduate dissertations at the Jamia Millia Islamia during my stint as a guest faculty at the Faculty of Fine Arts.

Publications

For Now, It Is Night: Short Stories of Hari Krishna Kaul – translated with *An Introduction to Kashmiri Literary Landscape from 1947 to present* – HarperCollins India, 2023 and Archipelago US, 2023.

Songs of Separation and Remembrance, Acts of Recollection and Resistance: Narratives of Partition in Haryanvi Folk Songs – Routledge Handbook of Performing Knowledge, 2023.

Footprints without Feet: Theatre as Recourse to Collective Memory in Kashmir, Representation in Drama and Education, Taylor and Francis, London, 2022.

Articulating the Unsayable, Exposing the Fault Lines: Politics, Identity and Representation in H.K. Kaul's Short Stories – Submitted for *The Intersections of Representation and Empathy in Applied Theatre: What have we lost? What can we gain?* Guest Editors: Yasmine Kandil and Tim Prentki, RiDE, 2023.

Of Stones, Songs and Freedom: Languages of Resistance in Kashmir – The Routledge Companion to Applied Performance, edited by Tim Prentki and Ananda Breed, Routledge Taylor and Francis Group, London, 2020.

Urdu's "Other": Exploring the Popular Culture of Urdu language, published on website www.tasveeurdu.in, 2016-17.

At the Crossroads - The end of Art and the Beginning of a New Art World, presented at the international conference organized by Swissnex Bangalore in 2016 and published by Swissnex subsequently.

Voices from the field: Arts and Culture Research Landscape in India, published by India Foundation for the Arts: <http://www.indiaifa.org/programmes/voices-field-arts-research.html> 2014

Turning Art into Activism, Art and Deal, Issue 54/Vol.8 No. 23/December 2012.

Afterglow: Performance Art and Photography, Art and Deal, Issue 53/Vol. 8No.23/November 2012.

Subjectivity and Body: A Trajectory, Art and Deal, Issue 53 /Vol. 8 No. 22/October2012.

Performing Live, Re-presenting the Body, Art and Deal, Issue 45/vol.8, No. 15/January-February 2012, ISBN: 978-81-909969-4.

Performance Art: Breaking Down the Barriers, Miraas, A quarterly publication of the Kasheer Foundation, Vol. IV October-December 2011.

Self As Narrative, Art and Deal, Issue 41/vol.7 No.11/September 15, 2011, ISBN:978-81-909969.

The Eye That Sees Its Own Vision, an essay on Artist Kishori Kaul Published by Art Heritage and Alkazi Foundation for the Arts 2012.

The Drama of Nature, an essay on artist DN Wali, Published by Art Heritage and the Alkazi Foundation for the Arts, New Delhi, 2012.

...be in: A catalogue essay for artist Anant Kumar Sahu's exhibition at the Jahangir Art Gallery, Mumbai, 2011.

Video Lectures

Online lectures for Paper 09 of the e-PG Pathshala – A Ministry of Human Resource and Development Project under NME-ICT run by the University Grants Commission, New Delhi. The project entailed writing content for 35 modules on the History of Modern Western and Indian Art and subsequently recording them for students to access online. The following are the 35 modules:

Post-impressionism; Major Artists of Post-impressionism; Neo-Impressionism and Pointillism; Art Nouveau and Symbolism; Fauvism; Introduction to Expressionism; Major Artists of Expressionism; Introduction to Cubism; Major Artists of Cubism; Introduction to Futurism; Major Artists of Futurism; Dadaism and Surrealism; Abstract Expressionism; Pop Art, Op Art and Minimalism; Conceptual Art; Postmodernism; Feminism and Art; Tradition and Modernity in Indian Art; Introduction to Modern Indian Art; Art During the British East India Company; Academic Realism; Raja Ravi Varma; Nationalistic Developments in Bengal; Major Painters from Early Modern Bengal; Progressive Artists Group; Modern Indian Art Between 1920s and 1940s- Part I; Modern Indian Art Between 1920s and 1940s – Part II; Government Art Patronage; Others Artists Collectives of India – Part I; Other Artists Collectives of India – Part II; Modern Indian Sculpture – Part I; Modern Indian Sculpture- Part II; Modern Indian Art and the Idea of Indigenous Contemporary; Printmaking in India; Postmodern Period in Indian Art(<http://epgp.inlibnet.ac.in/index.php>)

Current Projects

The “Paradise” without People: Representation of Kashmir in Mughal and Dogra Painting.
The Absent Native: Exploring the Topography of Cultural Identity of Kashmir in Hindi Cinema.

An Anthology of writings by Hari Krishna Kaul in Kashmiri.

History of Modern Art in Kashmir.

Awards/Scholarships/Fellowships

State Award by J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages in field of visual arts 2008.

Research Fellowship by Contemporary Centre on Theory, Baroda in collaboration with Ford Foundation, 2010.

Scholarship in the Field of Visual Arts by Ministry of Human Resources and Development, Department of Culture India for the years 2009 and 2010.

Seminars/Webinars/Lectures/Conferences/Symposiums/Panel Discussions

Tradition as Resistance: Eight Shabirs of Marathwada – Organised by IFA, 2022.

...aise mein dhoond lana: Hidden Histories of Bombay Cinema with Siddhi Goel and Ira Bhaskar – Organised by IFA, 2022.

Urdu-e-Mohalla: A Journey through Urdu’s Popular Culture with Yousuf Saeed – Organised by IFA, 2021.

Old Routes, New Journeys with Abeer Gupta, Latika Gupta and Suman Gopinath – Organised by IFA, 2021.

Mayabazar: The Magic of Science in Theatre with Hansa Thapliyal, Jayachandra Varma and Suman Gopinath – Organised by IFA in association with VITM Bangalore, 2021.

Proposal Writing for Arts Research and Practice: Ideation, Process and Outcome – Organized by Culture Worker Support Trust, India, 2021.

Languages of Resistance in Kashmir – A lecture at 1Shanthi Studio/Gallery, Bangalore, 2019.

Coordinator for the *Old Routes New Journeys: An International Conference on Creative and Critical Approaches to Making Archives and Museums Collection Public*, India Foundation for the Arts and Goethe-Institut/Max Mueller Bhavan, New Delhi, 2018.

Arts and Culture Research Landscape in India at the Savitribai-Jyotiba Phule Library, Museum and Research Centre, Kurukshetra, 2017.

Moderated a panel on the *Feminist Street Theatre in Delhi* in the aftermath of Emergency in India, at the Studio Safdar, New Delhi and the Lamakaan Cultural Centre, Hyderabad, subsequently, 2017.

Chaired the book launch of *Witness: Kashmir – 1986-2016: 9 Photographers* by Sanjay Kak at the

G5A Foundation for Contemporary Culture, Mumbai, People TreeStudio, Goa and Galley Skee Bangalore, 2017.

Unexceptional violence and laughter in Kashmir, in conversation with cartoonist MirSuhail and visual artist/research Mahum Sabhir, Bangalore, 2016.

Kashmir Now: A discussion with renowned documentary filmmaker Sanjay Kak, organized by the Alternative Law Forum, Bangalore.

In the Aftermath of a Deluge: Stories from Kashmir – A daylong seminar on Kashmir at the St Aloysius Degree College, Bangalore, 2016.

Arts and Culture Research landscape in India: presented at the Chitnavis Centre, Nagpur, followed by a discussion with artist Bhagwati Prasad from Delhi 2016.

Exploring the Popular Cultural Forms of Syncretism: In conversation with Epsita Halder and Yousuf Saeed at Lamakaan, Hyderabad, 2015.

Resistance and Dissent in Cultural Practices (with a specific focus on Kashmir) – at the Srishti School of Art, Design and Technology, Bangalore, 2015.

New Developments in Warli Art: A panel discussion with the Warli artists and renowned arts scholars at the Warli art exhibition curated by art historian Jothi Xavier at the Aakruti Art Gallery, Baroda, 2015.

Art Life and Technology: paper presented at the international symposium organized by FOA-FLUX in cooperation with Swissnex India and Srishti, School of Art, Design and Technology, Bangalore 2015.

Is knowledge Absolute? A panel discussion with artists and scholars from across the world organized by the Swissnex, 2015.

Tasveer-e-Urdu: Historical and Sociocultural Relevance of Printed Images from Popular Urdu Literature of Early 20th Century in India, Lucknow Literary Festival, 2015.

Guftagu: An Exploration into Urdu's Popular Culture, With Yousuf Saeed and Gautam Pemmaraju at Project 88 and Percept Art Gallery, Mumbai, 2014.

Art Now: A Panel Discussion at the Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi, 2013.

Representation of Sufism in Literature and Visual Culture – A panel discussion at SARAI, New Delhi, 2013.

History of Islamic Calligraphy in India: A lecture delivered at the Lalit Kala Akademi during an exhibition of calligraphy organized by Nation Council for the Promotion of Urdu Language, New Delhi 2012

Amrita Shergil: Towards a New Indian Aesthetics; Lecture at the Centre on Contemporary Theory, Baroda, 2011.

Curations

Curated an exhibition of *Islamic Calligraphy* in association with the *Daily Siasat* Hyderabad, Department of Islamic Studies and Faculty of Fine Arts, Jamia Millia Islamia at the M. F. Husain Art Gallery Jamia Millia Islamia, 2012.

Curated an evening of performance with well-known performance artists Inder Salim and Parvaiz Imam in association with the Faculty of Fine Arts, Jamia Millia Islamia at the Habib Tanvir Amphitheatre, 2011.

Solo and Group exhibitions and participations

Colours and Chords: A solo show organized by J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages as part of its Golden Jubilee Celebrations at the Kala Kendra Jammu in 2008.

Group shows at the All-India Fine Arts and Crafts Society, New Delhi, Lalit Kal Akademi, New Delhi, Faculty of Fine Arts, Maharaja Sayajirao University Gallery, Lal Ded Cultural Centre Delhi, M F Hussain Art Gallery, Jamia Millia Islamia.

End.

