

International Interaction at IMFA: An Attempt to create a Creative Environment

Jang S. Verman

Institute of Music & Fine Arts (IMFA), Jammu is a premier organ of Jammu University, Jammu and catering professional training in visual arts, music and classical dance in the disciplines of Painting, Sculpture, Applied Art, Vocal Music, Sitar, Tabla, Voilin and Kathak dance. The Institute has made its presence felt in the art world in the country as well as abroad with its role of participation and performances. Many of its products and faculty members have excelled at international and national level by getting International and National Awards and performing music & Dance or displaying their art at those levels. In this context, a long list of artists in the field of visual art, music and dance, can be accessed to. The Principals who were assigned the responsibility of running the Institute had been themselves eminent artists and musicians or dancers.

In the recent past, on the initiative taken by Prof. Poonam Choudhary, the in charge Principal of IMFA, she has been able to accomplish a good number of visual art and music based activities including interaction- cum- demonstrations under SVAPADA programme, for the benefit of the students and faculty to have better interaction at international and national level. An International Art Exhibition was also organized at Jammu University, Jammu under this programme.

According to Poonam Choudhary, ‘The objective of arranging this programme is to incorporate & sharing the information and skill among artist communities of all art forms being undertaken at IMFA and the artists, working in other parts of the country and abroad. The scope of exploring art related activities and sharing of knowledge among the students’ community & faculty members of IMFA with those performing elsewhere has been kept in mind while initiating this programme.

In this programme well known musicians, performers and visual artists are invited to display their work and perform for the students and faculty of the institution, sharing their views and hitting to explore more in their respective disciplines of art’ She added that this will also help explore information to the outside world, about the activities being practiced in the institution. She told that during the last year, a number of noted musicians, classical dancers, vocalists, painters, print makers and photographers etc. have successfully delivered lectures and demonstrations and created compositions with the students and staff.

So far demonstrations and interaction sessions by Kakoli Mukerjee, A Grade approved artist and a disciple of well known vocalist Girja Devi (Thumree & Daadra), Nivash Joshi (Vocalist) from Pune and son of Bheem Sen Joshi, the great vocalist, Santosh Sant, well known flute artist from Mumbai and disciple of flute maestro Pt. Hari Parsad Chourasia, Dr. R S Shandil, from Performing Deptt., HP University, Simla, as well as local well known experts of music & dance like Rajinder Raina (Tabla), Savita Bakshi (Sitar) and Narayan Prasad (Kathak Dance).

Similarly eminent visual artists were invited to demonstrate and interact with the faculty members and students at the institute. The invited artists included Pad-

amshree Rajinder Tikku, Sculptor from Jammu, T S Batra, well known Painter & former Principal of the Institute, Chandan Sunder, a renowned photographer of Jammu, Jang S. Verman, well known Graphic artist of Jammu and columnist on Art & culture, Liqi, a Chinese artist, Damon Kowarsky, an Australian print maker and Hyun Ju Kim, a South Korean printmaker.

This time, The School of Visual and Performing Arts, Design & Architecture (SVAPADA) in collaboration with Institute of Music & fine Arts (IMFA), Jammu, University of Jammu, Jammu hosted a two days’ Lecture- cum- Demonstration programme on 20th and 21st February, 2017 at IMFA. The invited guests for this programme were print makers Damon Kowarsky (Australia) and Hyun Ju Kim (South Korea). The students and faculty of Visual arts participated in the event. The programme was coordinated by Amarjeet Singh, Lecturer Applied Art, IMFA.

On the first day, power point presentations on the works of these artists were presented. They interacted and shared views on techniques, making creative drawings & design, prints and discussed various modes of expression in their visual art. On the second day, practical work was undertaken. The students made sketches, creative drawings and could mould them into desired compositions. Collaborative art works were also created by the participants. A number of art sketches and raw material for creative visuals was prepared during this event of two days. The programme concluded successfully today.

It would be appropriate to mention here that a creative environment is being induced in the functioning of IMFA. The staff and students can be seen busy in doing their creative activities in the premises and outside. A large number of prints, sculptures and drawings by the students and pass outs of IMFA made their existence felt boldly and even some of them being awarded in the recently concluded State Art Exhibition organized by J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages at Kala Kendra, Jammu.

The works wood prints, paintings and sculptures of Mohnika, Shivali Jamwal, Sonika, Khushboo Sharma, Deva Sharma, Tuskar Verma, Mehak Sharma, Jaswinder Singh and Rohit Verma left their impact on the visitors in the exhibition. This week a number of students participated in art oriented programme at Amar Mahal Museum, Jammu where the created monumental works of painting and sculpture. A number of faculty members and student are also participating in Art Mart- 2017 a segment of International Dance Festival at Khajuraho (MP). The introduction of e- facilities is an addition in this direction.

Similarly, the music department of IMFA also conducted a programme on Indian classical music form ‘Dhrupad’. Ganesha Vandana in Teen Taal composed by Dr. Priya Dutta, I/ C Dance Deptt. and performed by Raksha Godya and Ankita Yadav, students of Kathak was presented. Accompanists for this dance were Purshotam Kumar (Pakhavaj) and Rajkumar Behrupia (Vocal and Harmonium). Dr. Roshni Shaminotra along with Kul Mehak, Vikram, Shiv, Pankaj, Sunil, Ravi, Ramandeep and Mohit, the students of Vocal Department, presented Dhrupad Gaayana on Raag Bhopali. Jhap Taal on Tabla, prepared by Jagdish Raj, was performed



Students working in a creative environment and with Hyun Ju Kim and Damon Kowarsky



presentation and interacted with the faculty members and students of Institute of Music & Fine Arts (IMFA) under the series of events being conducted by SVAPADA, University of Jammu at IMFA.

I had the chance to interact with her and on her work. It was explored that she has done fine works of print making in etching and lithography etc. and drawings. She is professionally qualified print maker with her post graduation in print making in India from Vishva Bharti Vishva Vidyalaya, Santiniketan (West Bengal) but gained her experience of life from her visits to and working in various countries. There she got her education, displayed her work, attended residency programmes and served in different institutions.

Her work is perceived with the concepts associated with nature’s phenomena. It relates to the themes with varying moods and tones of natural flow of energy and human concerns. The factors like laborious work, immense craftsmanship, innovative applications and emotive quality in her work are eminent. Her versatility in using the media with conviction is commendable.

Soft by her nature Hyun Ju Kim has done BFA (Fine Art), Dankook University, Korea (2005) and MFA (Printmaking) Visva Bharati Vishav Vidyalaya, Santiniketan, India, 2009. Since then she has exhibited in London, Greece, Cairo and India and undertaken residencies in countries including Egypt, Greece and India. Hyun Ju Kim has taught at Lalit Kala Akademi, Bhubaneswar, India and taken part in a Serigraphy Workshop at

by Amit, Prabhat and Darbari accompanied by Dr. Sujata Rajput on Harmonium. Khushi, Nisar Ahmed, Chanderdhar, Ashish and Manoj, students of Violin Department presented Raag Bheemlasi in Madiya and Dhrut Laya in Teen Taal prepared by Dr.

Hyun Ju Kim



the Government College of Art and Craft, Kolkata. She has held Solo shows in Cairo, Egypt, Melbourne, Australia, Sydney, Greece and Kolkata, India. She has also participated in Biennial Exhibition Bhopal Bharat Bhavan, India, 2008.

She has attended Residencies and recipient of prizes and commissions like Artist in Residence, Guanlan Original Printmaking Base, China (2014), Artist in Residence, Trinity Grammar School, Kew (2012 to 13), International Painting Symposium, Patras, Greece, Fayoum Winter Academy, Fayoum, Egypt and SAWA Drawing Workshop, Town House Gallery, Cairo, Egypt, (2011), Artist in Residence, Fayoum, Egypt (2010 to 11), Luxor International Symposium, Luxor, Egypt (2010), Serigraphy Workshop, Government College of Art and Craft, Kolkata, Lecture in Kala Dhara Programme, Lalit Kala Akademi, Bhubaneswar, India, Artist in Residence, Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi, Bhubaneswar, India (2009 to 10), Scholarship, Visva Bharati University (2009) and Scholarship, Dankook University (2001 to 2004).

Sumeet Madan and accompanied by Vijay Kumar on Tabla and Mohit. The students of Vocal Department and Dhrupad Gaayana on Raag Bhopali, were presented on this occasion. Paper reading with power point presentations, were presented by the students



classical musician but it seemed the artists were always cooler. There was also the issue of portability- I played tuba. Art travels well. It is also more solitary and self- contained. We absorb so much of the world, through our eyes. I wanted to be part of that conversation... Building a career is a gradual process though... there have been many steps along the way- a solo show, a commission, a grant or award that have made the difference and allowed me to continue making art full time.’

Damon has worked with printmaking in aqua and etching on copper plates, drawings with charcoal on paper and multimedia technique in paintings in miniature format. The multi-media material generally includes pencils, crayons and water colours. The themes are generally associated with nature, landscapes, city- scape from different angles and full of serenity and varying human mental states in different emotive angles. Intricacy in this techniques and working is quite convincing. During an interaction with him, his keen interest in humanity and values was reflected. Also it was known that he has vast experience of his techniques and work as well as vastness in his vision yet with a humorous tint in dealing.

He has displayed his art globally and travelled widely interacting with art people county wise during the residency programmes, exhibitions and teaching art in various disciplines of visual art.

Damon Kowarsky has done Bachelor of Fine Art (Honours), Victorian College of the Arts (2000); Advanced Figure Drawing, RMIT University (1998). He has taught drawing in Lahore and printmaking in Karachi in Pakistan. He has also worked as a courtroom and



'City' Etching Print by Damon Kowarsky

archaeological illustrator, and assisted on digs in Egypt. An extensive collaborator, his work can be seen alongside Kyoko Imazu’s in the form of murals in Sydney, Melbourne, Tokyo and Hong Kong. He has had held residency in China, Cairo, New York, Oman, Victoria, Sydney, Melbourne, Tokyo and Hong Kong, Kew, Canberra, Muscat etc. He is the recipient of Grants and Awards like Mitchell Cox Residency Portland Bay Press (2015), Australia Council Asia- Australia Creative Partnerships Grant (2014), Arts Victoria Arts Development Grant Commendation- Australian Arts in Asia Award (2013), Japan Foundation Sydney Facet nate! New Visual Artists Grant (2008), Toyota Community Spirit Artist Travel Award (2011), Ian Potter Cultural Trust Grant Megalo Printmaker in Residence- Visiting Interstate Artist (2007), RMIT Project Space/ Visual Arts Printmaking Summer Residency (2006), ‘He- Who Inspires’ Intrude Contemporary Art Award (2005), Australian Print Workshop Collie Print Trust Emerging Victorian Printmakers Scholarship NAVA Visual and Craft Artists’ Grant (2004) and Ian Potter Cultural Trust Grant (2002). He has the following published articles to his credit: ‘Hyun Ju Kim- Place to Place’ IMPRINT Magazine Summer (2013), ‘Elaine Su Hui- Dream Journey’ IMPRINT Magazine Summer (2012) and ‘An Australian in Lahore’ IMPRINT Magazine Autumn (2008).

Deepali Singa, Kul Mehak Singh, Nisar Ahmed and Khu. One hopes for further advancement in respect of infrastructure and

studio facilities for the better functioning of the staff and students in a conducive and congenial atmosphere.

Talent Displayed during Cultural Event of JKAACL

Jang S. Verman

J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages presented a cultural event on 15th February, 2017 during the closing ceremony of Daastaane- Hunnar, National Handloom Expo- 2017 organized by Directorate of Handloom Development, J&K Govt. at Kala Kendra, Jammu lawns. The dance artists, singers and accompanists presented a cultural programme of songs in Dogri and Punjabi as well as Kashmiri and Dogri folk dance sequences.

Among others who presented their cultural items in a professional way, Vaishali Prajapati presented her devotional song in a melodious voice that impressed all the listeners and received tremendous applause. Her pitch of notes, rhythmic expressions with proper intonation and execution of the composition was presented in an appreciable manner.

Hailing from a remote village Badola of Udhampur District of J&K state, Vaishali has prac-



Vishali Prajapati presenting a song.

ticed at her own at her home and school. It was a teacher at Gurukul, Charan Paduka, Katra Yogesh Kumar recognized the qualitative value of her voice while she did perform during her assembly’s prayer sessions and presented devotional songs on various occasions. He proved to be a mentor for her.

Vaishali has, till now, participated in many musical programmes. She has achieved positions in these competitions and

other events. She has reached up to national level in the ‘Indian Idols’ during 2016. She got 3rd position in All India Devotional Songs Competition- 2016 and 1st position in ‘Rising Stars- 2015’. She was invites as special guest at Udhampur, for giving title song for ‘Chhoona Hai Aasmaan’, a talent hunt programme of J&K Police department.

Vaishali says, ‘Music should be taken as ‘Sadhna’, as joy comes when you are in a meditational mode that is also required to practice music.’ She said that society should encourage this kind of art forms, particularly for girls because these forms involve meditational aspects in their practices and refine the practitioner’s personality.

In my view Vaishali has a potential to harvest the good results by undergoing professional training instead of just academic qualification in the subject of vocal music. For this, she will have to and should work further with her mentor or otherwise to progress in the direction of her choices.

Theatre Workshop at Reasi

Jang S. Verman

Ten days’ Theatre Workshop for Children and College Students is under progress at Govt. GZSM Degree College, Reasi. It has been organized by ‘Triple ‘A’ Performing Arts’, Reasi in collaboration with Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi. The workshop was inaugurated on 20th February, 2017 by Prof. Sumbodh, I/C Principal Degree College, Reasi, with the lighting of traditional lamp. Prof. Prem Singh HoD Pol. Science was Guest of honour on this occasion.

Prof. Sumbodh told that the purpose of conducting this workshop is to expose to the youth the amazing world of creativity and innovation. Artistic devices of self exploration and personality development will be offered to the participants. Prof. Prem Singh also expressed his views. The workshop is being conducted by Raja Amir Khan, Tarsem Kumar, Shadab Khan, Rohit Kumar, Rajesh Ajnabi, Bodh Raj, Barkha Thakur, Anam Khan and Akram Khan.

According to Anam Khan, Presi-



dent of the organization the participants of this workshop will have an opportunity to develop their skills in acting, imagination, body rhythm, languages, emotion and make- up etc. and discover their inner self, exploring their talent and acquainting with folk art forms, voice and speech modulations etc.

On 23rd February, 2017 Prof. Hemla Aggarwal, Principal Degree College, Reasi along with other staff

members visited the workshop to see the progress of the workshop.

It may be mentioned here that ‘Triple ‘A’ Performing Arts’, Reasi is an organization working for the promotion of art & culture in the region. It was established in 2004 and a registered organization with Anam Khan as President, Sarver Mir Advocate as Vice- President, Rakesh Kumar as Gen. Secretary, Giridhar Lal as Founder Member, Shaista

Khan as Treasurer and Parveen Akhtar as organizer. Triple “A” Performing Arts Reasi also participated in many national level cultural festival included J&K Academy of art, culture & languages, Sangeet Natak Akademi New Delhi, NZCC Patiala, the activities mentioned as under. It has conducted programmes like Composite Mushairas, Talent Hunt, Painting Competition, Nukked and Plays etc.

Balwant Thakur attends high powered Expert committee

Director Natrang, Padamshree Balwant Thakur attended the high powered expert committee meeting of Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India at New Delhi New Delhi on 24th February, 2017. Responsible for the empanelment of the artists and groups for their performances abroad, this high profile committee was mandated to select the ultimate talents of India who could later represent India in international Cultural events thus glorifying India’s immense cultural legacy world over in the field of music, dance and drama. This high powered committee of eminent cultural experts included Chairman Sangeet Natak Akademi Shekhar Sen, Padam Vibhushan Sonal Man Singh, former Chairman Sangeet Natak Akademi, Padambhushan Debu Choudhuri, eminent Odissi dancer Sujata Mahapatra, Raja Reddy and Padma Subarhamanyam.

JKAACL organizes Multi- Lingual Mushiara on Maha Shivratri

Jang S. Verman

J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages, Jammu in connection with Mahashivratri celebrations organized a multi-lingual Mushiara at Diwarka Nath Shri Ganga Dhar Shastri Satwari Block Suanagani, Jammu at 12:30 PM. Ganga Dhar Shastri, Jagmohan Sharma Retd. Deputy Secretary JKAACL and Popinder Singh Paras Editor Sheeraza shared the dias

Earlier in his welcome address Popinder Singh said that Academy has done a great job to organize such programmes at far- flung area of Jammu. he added that it will help the coming generation to contribute in the field of literature, culture and art in future and know the values of the religions. Thousands of devotees were present in the programme.

Jagmohan Sharma in his address expressed his pleasure that the Cultural Academy is doing a lot



in all respects of literary and cultural activities. Gangadhar Shahtri in his address appreciated the initiative taken by the Academy to promote literary activities among the youth. He expressed his happiness that new scholars and students of the Suanagani village are the part of this function.

The poets include, Kuldeep Sharma, Mohal Lal Sharma, Bis-han Dass,Enu Sharma,Sohan Bharti,Rampaul Choudhary, Joginder Singh,Shiv Ram,Tarsham

Lal,Roshan Lal,Rajinder Kmar Ranja,Kewak Kumar Kewal, Randhir Singh Raipuria,Vijay Sharma, Harbans Lal, Swami Anter Nirav,Kuldeep Kippi,Bhupinder Bhargav,Suraj Singh Suraj,H.S Upashak,Bachan Bharti, Kemat Raj Sharma, Ajit paul Sharma,Rajni Sharma Gnga Sharma and Ashok Kumar Gupta recited poetry. Gangadhar Shastri Ji conducted the proceedings of the programme. Bishan Das local extended the vote of thanks.

‘Jashn- e- Baharan’ concludes

Jang S. Verman

Six day festival of Literature, Arts, Crafts, Traditional/ Classical and Contemporary Performing Arts concluded on 22nd February, 2017 at Amar Mahal Museum with the mesmerizing classical vocal recital by Mukteshi Sharma. Jointly organized by Dara Shikoh Centre and Amar Mahal Museum in association with Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages and University of Jammu, this mega cultural event entitled ‘Celebrating Jammu- Jashn- e- Baharan’ featured over 200 artists, writers, poets, scholars, performers, designers, sculptors, painters, crafts people and photographers. Conceptualized by Dr. Jyotsana Singh, Director, Amar Mahal Museum, the festival offered unique opportunity of inter- disciplinary creative encounters amongst varied artistic streams and expressions. Two



major workshops one each for writers/ poets and visual artists were conducted during the event. As a part of the artist workshop, a thirty five feet long painting ‘The River’ was also created by the young artists from all the three regions of the state. Prominent painter Suman Gupta was the mentor of the Painting workshop. The painters and the writers who participated in both the workshops included Aadil Mohi- ud- Din, Dheeba Nazir, Mazafar Parray, Nighat Wani, Taha Mughal, Sonam Angmo, Gawa Norboo, Sharon Sonam, Jampheh Sheyan, Tsering Dorje, Tsering Wangchuk, Surjeet Hosh, Chanchal Basin, Bindu

Singh, Promilla Manhas, Shivani Anand, Sayeed Muddasar, Rajan Thakyal, Mahikshit Singh and Yogita Yadav. The mentors of creative writing workshops included Lalit Magotra, Vijaya Thakur, Naseem Shifaie and Tadzen Jalden. This festival also had the participation of two special invitees A K Merchant and Khawaja Ifkhar Ahmed. Seminar entitled ‘Defining Jammu: Celebrating Diversities, Facing Challenges’ featured top scholars and thinkers of J&K state took part in it. Traditional performing arts showcased Geefru by Khajoor Singh and Party from Basohli, Bhaskar Singing by Asha Kesar and Party from Jammu, Kud Dance by Krishan Singh and Party and a captivating theatrical presentation entitled ‘Parvaaz’ written and directed by Neeraj Kant. In photography section an exhibition of photographs on the fading architectural heritage of Jammu featured photography by Sunny Dua.