

Journey



Mentoring workshop venue - Sanskriti Kendra, Delhi



Mentoring session with Artist Atul Bhalla



Work in progress during the workshop



Jubilant awardees and scholars



Guests with Shri O. P. Jain on the award day



Padma Shri Keshav Malik presenting the award



Guests at the award ceremony in Sanskriti Kendra

Future Plans

Kala Sakshi aims to be the aspirational scholarship for young artists in the country. Over the next five years the Trust plans to increase the amount of scholarship offered. In addition, it aims to open avenues which will allow the awardees to gain wider exposure to art and related fields. The awardees will also be asked to contribute back to the Trust by undertaking smaller workshops and mentorship sessions in regional art colleges / institutes around the country. Moving forward the Trust will endeavor to promote art in the wider community through lectureship programs and exhibitions.

Selected Quotes from Participants

Thank you Kalasakshi. I was a little lost when I came here, but the camp and lectures were fantastic. I am going back with lot of confidence. **Soghra Khurasani, Varodara.**

I got good knowledge, now I am thinking what is art before I never thought this deep. **Surakala Appalaraju, Vishakhapatnam.**

The interaction with fellow artists and the senior artists, critics, curators really helped us to enhance our knowledge of art. **Aditi Agarwal, New Delhi.**

It was a life changing experience for me. I came across so many artists from so many provinces –it surely has enriched me and my art. **Pallavi Majumder, Kolkata.**

Advisory Board

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Kala Sakshi
Helping Young Artists Grow

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Kala Sakshi
Helping Young Artists Grow

Kala Sakshi Memorial Trust

The Inspiration

Kala Sakshi Memorial Trust (Kala Sakshi) was founded in 2009, by Kavita and Pawan Nayar, in the memory of their daughter, Sakshi Nayar (1985-2008), a multi talented, dynamic young artist. Sakshi was passionately engaged with art in all its forms, including painting, and believed that artists need a supportive environment to evolve their talent. The Trust, under the leadership of Kavita, an eminent artist herself, takes forward Sakshi's passion by promoting and mentoring young art students.

The Objective

The objective of the Trust is to recognize talent in young students of fine arts across the country and assist the deserving aspirants to tap their full potential as artists.

The Unmet Need

Immediately after graduation, art students in India have limited options at hand, in the professional art market or in the pursuit of other creative expressions of art. Very few are able to sustain the lead-time required for their talent and effort to pay off, in terms of recognition or monetary returns. Post-graduate students get a paltry sum as stipend and, of an average class size of 150, less than 10% are able to stay committed to the Fine Arts. Cultural fellowships are few and far between and institutionalized access to mentors, none.

The Programme

Kala Sakshi provides assistance by way of financial aid and mentoring to young Indian art students on the threshold of the promising yet uncertain world of art. It provides them with new platforms to showcase their art, freedom to pursue experimental works and opportunities to meet leading artists, curators and critics. For many, this is a first interaction with the art community in the country, a window to a broader world view and a stepping stone to the promise it holds.



Accolades for Some Kala Sakshi Scholars:

Lalit Kala Research grant, the HRD Cultural Scholarship, the Inlaks Fine Arts Award, AIFACS award and Residency programmes.

- Avinash Motgare from Nagpur, student of J.J. College of Art, Mumbai
- Bharti Verma from Delhi, College of Art, Delhi
- Chandrashekhar Waghmare from Nagpur, student of Varodara.
- Chetna Verma from Delhi, College of Art Delhi
- Kaushik Saha from Kolkata, student of Varodara
- Mukesh Kumar Singh from Bihar, student of College of Art, Delhi
- Soghra Khurasani from Hyderabad, student of Varodara
- Trieborlang Mawlong from the North-East, student of Shantiniketan

Scholarships

Since 2009, Kala Sakshi has awarded scholarships to 42 talented students pursuing under/post graduate studies in art. Five candidates are awarded Rs 30,000 every year as financial aid. Applications are invited from students at art institutions across the country. The short-listed candidates appear for a personal interview with a three-member jury and the selected candidates are felicitated in an award ceremony in the first week of December.

Jury Members: Some eminent artists and art critics who have been on the board of the jury over the last Nine years include:

Anjali Ela Menon (painter)	Prof. Ghazanfar Zaidi (Dean Jamia Millia Islamia)
Prof. Archana Shastri (ex principal Govt College of Art, Chandigarh)	K.S. Radhakrishnan (sculptor)
Ashok Alexander (ex ceo Melinda Gates Foundation)	Manu Parekh (Painter)
Bhawna Kakkar (curator)	M. Enaz (sculptor)
Biman Das (Ex-Principal Govt College of Art, Kolkata)	Prof O.P. Sharma (erstwhile principal of the College of Art, New Delhi)
Gogi Sarojpal (painter)	Roobina Karode, leading curator
Gopi Gajwani (painter)	Seema Bawa (art critic)
	Shobha Broota (painter)
	Ved Nayar (sculptor)



The scholarship is fast gaining ground, becoming an aspirational award amongst the student community for the support it offers: the number of applications received has increased from 35 in year 1 to 200 in year 9. Today, the scholarship is getting recognized by the art world: our scholars have been offered prestigious government scholarships, opportunities for higher studies and art galleries and residency programs have shown interest in their work.

Mentoring Workshops

The awardees and short-listed candidates of the current year as well as awardees of earlier years are invited to these workshops. This is a unique opportunity for the students to interact, one-on-one or in small groups, with eminent figures in the field of arts in India. It is, typically, a four-day residential workshop, held at Sanskriti Kendra Anandgram, New Delhi. Participants create works of art under the mentorship of Kavita Nayar, the founder-artist and her colleagues in the art world from among other artists, curators and critics.

Eminent mentors:

Artists G.R. Iranna, Pooja Iranna, Krishen Ahuja, Gigi Scaria, Gopi Gajwani, Nandkatiyal, Amitava Bhowmick, Vasudha Thozhur, Atul Bhalla, P.R. Daroz; film maker Gautam Chintamani, photographers O.P. Sharma, Justin Rabindra, Kshitij Sheetak; art critics Keshav Malik and Suneet Chopra; art curators Johny M.L. and Ranjita Chaney.



Exhibitions

These are a platform for the students to show case their work to potential buyers/galleries and art lovers. To date Kala Sakshi has held two exhibitions, to present the works of awardees as well as some of the short listed candidates, at the India Habitat Centre and the Dhoomimal Art Gallery in New Delhi. The award ceremony is held either at the Exhibition venue on the first day, or on the final day of the Mentoring Workshops.

