

The Mentorship

Nitin Arun Kulkarni

Mentor | Design Educator | Visual Arts Researcher

Nitin Arun Kulkarni is a design educator and researcher with over 30 years of experience across institutions like NIFT Mumbai and Avantika University. His teaching spans design thinking, visual studies, and art education. He has led major curriculum reforms and published on contemplative pedagogy, visual cognition, and culturally rooted design. A practicing artist and cultural critic, he has written extensively for publications like Loksatta and Maharashtra Times.



Nikhil J M Purohit

Mentor | Art Educator | Cultural Entrepreneur

Nikhil J. M. Purohit is an art historian, writer, and educator with a focus on art documentation, curation, and cultural translation. He has co-curated and authored key projects, including da(r)shak (Bihar Museum, 2023), a monograph and retrospective on Sanjay Kumar, and contributed to landmark publications such as Chitragoshti (Sharjah Art Foundation, 2022).

Director of Faandee | Arts Archival, his academic background spans fine arts, Indology, and museology. He has taught at institutions including NIFT Mumbai, MIT SOFA, and Sir J.J. School of Art, mentoring students in aesthetics, art history, and research. His work blends archival rigour with accessible pedagogy.



Dr. Manjiri Thakoor

Mentor | Curator | Art Historian

Dr. Manjiri Thakoor is an art historian and former Deputy Curator at the National Gallery of Modern Art, Mumbai. With a PhD in Buddhist cave sculpture (Kanheri Caves), her research spans narrative art, Indian manuscripts, and temple architecture. A postdoctoral fellow at Oxford and visiting fellow at Carleton University, she has worked with leading institutions like the British Library, V&A, and Prince of Wales Museum. Founder of V'aarsa, the Craft Initiative of India, Dr. Thakoor teaches at Sir J. J. School of Art and has consulted on major heritage and tourism projects for state governments and international museums.



Dr. Nitin Hadap

Mentor | Artist | Academic

Dr. Nitin Hadap is Associate Professor and Head of Fashion Design at Symbiosis Institute of Design, Pune. With a Ph.D. in Archaeology focusing on Indian composite motifs, he bridges art history, design, and fashion. Dr. Hadap's research explores Indian costume history, visual culture, and craft documentation. He has received numerous fellowships, including from the Royal Historical Society and National Film Archive of India. An experienced educator and mentor, he has guided over 30 postgraduate dissertations and currently supervises Ph.D. students. Dr. Hadap actively curates exhibitions and contributes to academic and public discourse on Indian art and design traditions.



Krittika Kumari

Art Advisor | Researcher | Consultant

Krittika Kumari, an art historian, researcher, and advisor, has completed her postgraduate studies in the History of Art at the Courtauld Institute of Art, London, specialising in Mughal miniature paintings. She has previously worked at DAG, New Delhi, as part of the Exhibitions and Publications team, where her role involved writing for the gallery's multitude of publications. She has also worked with Dr Alka Pande as the Project Coordinator for the first Bihar Museum Biennale 2021 at the Bihar Museum, Patna. More recently, Krittika worked with the Museum of Art & Photography, Bengaluru, and the MAP Academy team, where she managed the digital museum as well as contributed widely to the first digital Encyclopaedia of Indian Art. In 2017, she was invited by Dr Kavita Singh to deliver a lecture on Art and Architecture during the reign of Emperor Aurangzeb to the Master of Arts students at Jawaharlal Nehru University, School of Arts and Aesthetics, New Delhi. Her research interests lie in the Indian miniature painting tradition as well as Indian modern art. Currently, Krittika takes on freelance art writing projects and advises private collectors in building their collections.

