

1.0 IMAGINING NEW WORLDS FROM THE OLD: Responding to an Archive of 19th-20th century textile blocks

COURSE FACULTY **Mala Sinha**



BODHI – Studio of Mala and Pradeep Sinha

Education:

SLPEP, Textile Design, National Institute of Design

Experience:

Bodhi, a studio by Mala Singha and Pradeep Singha, was established in 1983 and has created block and screen printed fabrics, saris, apparel and home accessories for retail and export. Bodhi also innovated sustainable textile manufacturing methods through rain water harvesting, waste water treatment and recycling as well as harnessing solar energy.

CO-FACULTY

Suchitra Balasubrahmanyam



School of Design, Ambedkar University Delhi

Education:

SLPEP, Visual Communication (Exhibition Design), National Institute of Design
PhD, CEPT University

Experience:

Community-based communication design practice, design research with focus on design history, pedagogy and theory.

Keywords

Textile blocks, tradition-modern, pop culture, narrative-building, wooden printing blocks, montage, pastiche, animation

Overview

The workshop opens up to participants a selection from Bodhi's archival collection of over 5000 hand carved wooden printing blocks, used to print textiles between the late 19th century and the 20th century in Bombay, in a family-owned enterprise, which closed down in 1985. Participants would respond to the diverse block designs – traditional, nationalistic, political, modernist and Bollywood-inspired – to create new surfaces, interfaces and products. In the process, unexpected new meanings can be created for these images that speak to the present from multiple vantage points.

Course Code: **OE2001** | Seats: **14**
CAMPUS: Ahmedabad

Objective

To explore the past to respond to the present -To explore concepts of hybridity (mixture), mimesis (imitation), alterity (difference) – the key themes of the present through their appearance in the designs of the blocks -To explore modes of collage, montage, pastiche and animation with combination of digital modes

Methodology

Illustrated lectures, readings on multi-media artists -Playing with the textile blocks -Narrative building and storytelling - Hands-on exercises on collage, montage, juxtaposition -Field trips to local archives, museums, markets and malls - Exploring NID's archive and library -Discussions and presentations -Prototyping

Deliverables

Diverse outcomes like combinations of animated shorts, graphic artefacts, games and toys, sound and light experiences as well as textile artefacts. Documentation and display/exhibition.