



OE24A14

Caring Communities: It Takes a Village to Tell a Story

ABOUT



Varun Kurtkoti

www.linkedin.com/in/varunasura

Varun is an interdisciplinary community artist, researcher, and facilitator based in Bangalore and Dharwad, specializing in filmmaking, animation, theatre, pedagogy design, and community arts. He focuses on capacity building and community development for precarious workers and young adults across Karnataka, collaborating with grassroots organizations and educational institutions. His animated film, *Appa And His Invisible Mundu* (2020), has been screened at various Asia-Pacific film festivals. His latest community film, *Kathi Kathi Kaarana* (2022), was commissioned by the Wellcome Trust, UK. Varun has received fellowships from EngageMedia-Tech Tales, National Geographic Society, and P.S.B.T.-Doordarshan.

Drishti is a cultural storyteller, traversing the fields of academia, museum experience design, and arts pedagogy. Her design and curation for museums translate research into effective and relevant storytelling with a focus on decolonising cultural rhetoric. Her methodology is informed by her study in various other fields – including anthropology, gender, media and critical and political theory. She is currently associate faculty of Exhibition Design at NID, Ahmedabad.



Drishti Desai

drishdesai.myportfolio.com/work

OVERVIEW

In an age of intense personal and social disconnection, real-world communities enable us to share, express, hold each other's emotions and trauma, and build solidarity and humanity based on kinship. Drawing from community narratives such as local theatre, oral culture, cinema, folk music, spoken-word, indigenous festivals, and public murals, the workshop will recenter storytelling outside of the self. By introducing micro-contexts of marginalised communities, the workshop will investigate how community narrative practices can empower lost voices and foster ecological and community well-being.

METHODOLOGY

The workshop will introduce projects co-designed by the facilitators, such as Belaku Studios (Karnataka), and Mindscapes' evening film school (India & UK), and also explore contemporary projects designed by and for communities such as Budhan theatre (Gujarat), Karrabing collective (Australia), and Freeda theatre (India). Students will learn and experiment with decolonial media theory and praxis-based methodologies to engage with marginalised and vulnerable communities in their immediate surroundings. They will cocreate and codesign narratives with these communities through a medium of their choice: film, illustration, creative writing, exhibition, etc.

KEYWORDS

Community Building, Narrative Practices, Play Pedagogies.

LOCATION

Ahmedabad

MAXIMUM PARTICIPANTS

15