

Course Name: The world of Bamboo Musical Instruments

Artisan Name: Edgar Banasan

Campus: Bengaluru



शिल्प संगम



About Craft

The craft of making bamboo musical instruments in Kalinga, a northern mountainous region of the Philippines, is a centuries-old tradition deeply woven into the community's rituals and daily life. Each village used to have 10 to 15 distinct types of instruments, all made from locally sourced bamboo, carefully shaped and tuned using techniques passed down through generations. Known for their deep, resonant tones, these instruments embody the Kalinga people's strong connection to nature and culture. However, this heritage faces the threat of extinction due to changing lifestyles and globalization. Today, only a few artisans, including Edgar Banasan, retain the skill to create these instruments. To experience their unique sounds, check out Edgar's album "Fogga" on Spotify.

Course Objectives

- Through hands-on engagement, the students will learn the properties, possibilities and limitations of the way how musical instruments are created using bamboo as the primary material
- Through reflective dialogues and conversations, participants will explore the multifaceted possibilities and challenges of such a complex craft, understand the nuances of music making and cultural significance
- Through collaborative projects with the artisans and fellow students, they will be able to create one or more well finished and detailed musical instrument showcasing and celebrating the uniqueness and possibilities of bamboo and any associated materials if required.
- The students can explore outcomes that celebrate diversity in thought and contemporary themes in a traditional setting.

About Artisan



Edgar is a master bamboo craftsman and musician from the Kalinga Indigenous community in the Philippines, recognized as one of the few remaining experts in bamboo musical instruments. He has released three albums to introduce bamboo music and has led workshops across the Philippines and internationally. A 2016 Training Fellow at Kanazawa College of Art in Japan, he also creates bamboo jewelry, furniture, and installations. He co-founded EDAYA, a social enterprise bridging tradition and innovation through art, and serves as president of the Tuba Arts Guild, promoting community engagement and cultural preservation through the arts.

Edgar's crafts encompass not only instruments but also jewelry, furniture, installation, and self-build homes. His 1000 bamboo chime installation at Camp John Hay Forest Bathing Trail, in collaboration with the Department of Tourism, Philippines, was largely appreciated by citizens and tourists, for example.

Course Methodology

- Demonstration by Master Craftsperson
- Learning the basics of the craft,
- explorations of traditional forms
- Developing contemporary themes for contemporary narratives and new possibilities
- Making prototypes
- Finishing and displaying new outcomes to encourage

Maximum Number of Participants - 12 to 18