

**Animating Voices:
A Place for Collaborative
Storytelling**

Conversations with Chai

NINA SABNANI

26th JULY 2019

Tea: 6 PM

Lecture: 6.30 PM

Gallery,
Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan
Mumbai
K. Dubash Marg, Kala Ghoda
Mumbai 400 001



Nina Sabnani will share with us collaborative work she has created with several artists, both individual and community based. Her work attempts to blur the boundaries between so called vernacular and contemporary art, between art and craft, between ethnography and filmmaking, questioning the hierarchies between these various forms of expression. She works, instead, with the dynamics of memory and geography – in which narratives and identities are situated – exploring how they are linked to time and movement. Using an ethnographic approach to animation filmmaking, she tries to create a space for the expression of multiple realities, representing memories and oral histories. The films become a way for her collaborators-participants to claim their identity, and sometimes, their lost territories.

In this session, Nina will discuss with us some thoughts and experiences that have emerged from this practice of collaborative filmmaking. Her talk will be accompanied by screenings of some of her films.



Nina Sabnani, an artist and storyteller, uses film, illustration and writing to narrate her stories. Her doctoral research on Rajasthan's Kaavad storytelling tradition was published by Niyogi Books as Kaavad Storytelling tradition of Rajasthan: a portable pilgrimage. Nina's research interests include exploring the dynamics between words and images in animated films and book illustrations. Her approach to film making is collaborative, ethnographic and participatory. Her animated films have received several awards including the Rajatkamal National award in 2016. She received the lifetime achievement award for Illustration at the Tata Lit Live Festival in Mumbai, 2018. Nina is currently Professor at IDC, IIT Bombay.

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2019**

Conversations with Chai is a series of lectures initiated by the Tyeb Mehta Foundation. They promote innovative ideas and perspectives and initiate dialogue and exchange within and between various disciplines to enhance understanding of artistic traditions and contemporary art practices.