

## Dictionary of Nonsense, Kolkata

The Dictionary of Nonsense is project that is going to occupy the Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan Kolkata, as an exhibition within which a series of events are going to take shape. Each letter of the word **Nonsense** has been further expanded with eight selected words. Between the **24<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup> March 2020** these eight words will be explored through a series of activities mentioned below:

### 24<sup>th</sup> March, Tuesday

6:30pm

**Elephantastic** will be dramatised by **Siddhant Sunder**, a theatre performer. He will be exploring his "self" and identity within the larger scheme of things. The evening will be filled with singing, sharing of personal stories and reflecting on our times with spurts of humour.

### 25<sup>th</sup> March, Wednesday

6:30pm

**Nosology** will be investigated by presenting a fictitious disease of violence and intolerance. This will be further expanded over a discussion with **Abdul Matin**, whose research interest broadly includes political sociology with reference to religion, caste and social justice in West Bengal, Democracy and inequality in Modern India.

### 26<sup>th</sup> March, Thursday

6:30pm

**Optophobia** will be challenged with a screening of **In Fact**, a film by **Debalina Majumder**. The film offers us glimpses of lives that are lived on their own terms and in such living mark their resistance against stifling social norms that threaten to homogenise diversity into a logic of One. The screening will be followed by a discussion about the film with the filmmaker.

### 27<sup>th</sup> March, Friday

11am

**Semantics** will be explored through a workshop with art students investigating the process of image building, the use of language and meaning making. This workshop will be facilitated by artists **Ajit Kumar, K. Deepika, Krishnapriya C.P, Narendran. Palani Kumar M and Priyadharshini K.**

6:30pm

**Sonification** will be interpreted by sonifying data on environmental crisis and interacting with **Arjan Basu Roy**, an environmentalist. The evening will be a time for a discussion on environmental issues and our collective concerns and the possible future.

### 28<sup>th</sup> March, Saturday

11am

**Nemeisism** will be healed through a mitai making workshop facilitated by **Sintu Bagui, Nitu Giri, Surajit Kar, Bhaskar Biwas. And Pratap Gosh.** Members of **Kolkata Anandam for Equality and Justice**, a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer,

Kothi and Hijra (LGBTQKH) organisation that fights for social and political changes. Conversations and learning to make sweets will be the focus of the workshop.

**6:30pm**

**Eleutheromania** will be celebrated with **Uran Cafe Mela** a celebratory gathering for LGBTQKH community members and allies to come together around food, performance and dance. Everyone is welcome and free to dress as they wish to be seen, use chosen names and be open about their sexuality in an affirming, non-judgmental and inclusive environment. Uran Cafe Mela is an assertion of the ultimate freedom of self-expression, self-determination and self-empowerment.

The evening will be hosted by **Kolkata Anandam for Equality and Justice**, many of the members originate from the redlight districts of West Bengal or engage in sex-work as a form of labor and economic survival. Launda dance, traditional Hijra dance forms, theatre popular dance and comedy will be performed for the community and others. A delicious spread of Kolkata's street foods and sweets made by the community members will also be served.

**30<sup>th</sup> March, Monday**

**6:30pm**

**Nescience** will be illuminated by a discussion with **Shuddhabrata Sengupta, Abhijit Gupta and Abhra Bose** on nonsensical departures in language, literature, poetry and everyday life.

**ALL ARE WELCOME**