

Invisible Dance India

Individual Project Descriptions

1. Abhijeet's project is built around social dance experiments through cyphers across different pockets of Ahmedabad and its demographic. The idea is to work with a dancer and a DJ, and experiment with a certain series of music and choreographies, to observe how the context and its people engage with it.
2. Lapdiang Syiem will develop a concept of how memory exists, performs, dances at four different sites that are associated with four different folktales of Meghalaya; Ka Noh ka Likai (a waterfall), ka ĩew Luri Lura (a granite rock), ka Pahsyntiew (a cave), U Sier Lapalang (crossing the border from the plains of present day Bangladesh to the Khasi hills). The project focuses on reimagining of these stories in the natural world and the possibility of capturing the invisible presence or the essence of memory in these existing sites.
3. Rituparna's project aims to make the casteism, which goes by the name of 'classical' in the Bharatanatyam tradition, apparent, through her interpretation of one such composition.
4. Shweta Bhattad intends to work with the collective "Gram Art Project" to collaborate with the women, farm animals and tools to rehearse and make some moves and stretches which talk about the synergy between the process of farming and the farmer.

Artistic Director / Project Coordinator

Mandeep Raikhy is a dance practitioner based in New Delhi. He trained at Trinity Laban and worked with Shobana Jeyasingh Dance Company, London, for several years. Mandeep has created and toured extensively for many of his dance works, notably Inhabited Geometry (2010), a male ant has straight antennae (2013) and Queen Size (2016). He is currently assistant professor in the MA Performance Practice (Dance) Department at Ambedkar University, Delhi.

Participants

1. ABHIJEET MUDGERIKAR and team

Abhijeet/Moodzi is a performing artist based in Ahmedabad, India. Abhijeet has been affiliated and working at Misbehaving Beautifully, which is a community space in Ahmedabad, focused on cultivating a healthier lifestyle for music and movement in the

city, as well as providing an inclusive space for people to practice and nurture their art. Other than working towards this venture since 2016, Abhijeet is also part of Paranoid Dance Crew, based in Ahmedabad, which practices western street/club dance styles and engages in India through competitions, workshops, and performances. As a queer artist, teacher and facilitator, Abhijeet loves to engage in movement that evokes self-expression, and wishes to share that with people around. As a dancer, Abhijeet practices styles such as Vogue, Waacking, Contemporary, Jazz and more. Other than their background in movement, Abhijeet has graduated as an architect, and has work experience in content creation, graphic design, video editing, content writing, modelling, and various interests such as sketching, visual arts, and engaging with friends/artists/new individuals to enhance experiences!

Srilakshmi is a performing artist based in Ahmedabad, India. Srilakshmi is the founder of Misbehaving Beautifully, which is a community space in Ahmedabad, focused on cultivating a healthier lifestyle for music and movement in the city, as well as providing an inclusive space for people to practice and nurture their art. Other than working towards this venture since 2015, Srilakshmi has also founded Paranoid Dance Crew, based in Ahmedabad, that practices western street/club dance styles and engages in India through competitions, workshops, and performances. She is also part of another street dance crew called Kundu House Project, which has members spread across the country, and has had an impactful positive presence for the street dance community in India. As a dancer, Srilakshmi practices styles such as Hip Hop, Waacking, House, and more. Other than their background in movement, Srilakshmi has graduated as an engineer, and has work experience in filmmaking, choreography, conceptualization, content creation, modelling.

2. LAPDIANG ARTIMAI SYIEM and team

Lapdiang Artimai Syiem: Lapdiang A. Syiem is a theatre artist based in Shillong. She received her training from the National School of Drama, New Delhi and the Commedia School, Copenhagen where she specialized in physical theatre. She has been writing, devising and performing scripts inspired by Khasi folklore and oral narratives, reinterpreting and adapting them into a contemporary context. As a performer, her work is inspired by poetry and using her body in physical expression. Her productions investigate notions of identity, gender, transcultural relationships that reflect upon her position as a contemporary artist in Meghalaya. She has also delivered invited lectures, theatre workshops within the country and abroad along with performing.

Juban Lamar: A psychologist and folklorist who has a profound interest in research, photography and theatre. She is passionately drawn towards narratives, movement of light and shadow, human emotion and expression. As an artist and self-taught photographer, she uses observation to examine, document, capture and contextualise the ordinary. While she dabbles with the many aspects of ground and backstage work in theatre production, like a moth she's always heavily drawn to the lighting - and her work in theatre is mostly reflective of this, i.e. light, shadow, the performer and their expression.

Devadeep Gupta: Devadeep Gupta is a visual artist and filmmaker based out of Guwahati, Assam. His practice lies in the mutuality of lens-based media, installations, and collaborative performances knit together through concurrent conceptual narratives. Devadeep graduated with a Master's degree in Public Arts and New Artistic Strategies from Bauhaus University, Germany. Since his earliest engagements in academic and professional spaces as a Visual Practitioner, he has been drawn towards work that engages communities through values of transparency, inclusivity and accessibility towards visual arts. Apart from his personal art-making, he directs his efforts towards creating an avenue in the North-East India through [Northeast Lightbox](#) (NELB, a collective co-founded by him and Hrishikesh Chowdhury, a social worker from Assam), that can facilitate more accessibility towards visual art, while generating new audience as well as cultivating an inclusive space of dialogue and exchange for art-makers and practitioners.

Apkrymenskhem Tangsong: He has a diploma in Khasi traditional music and Tonic solfa from the KJP Assembly Institute of Music, Shillong where he works as a music instructor. He has a Bachelor's degree in Music from St. Anthony's College, Shillong. He is self-taught in playing *ka Maryngod* and many other traditional instruments. He is also a composer and a songwriter and his music has been used in theatre performances and documentary films in India and abroad.

3. RITUPARNA PAL

I am a Bharatanatyam dancer, savarna, she/her, queer. My body(ies) love traversing time and space the bharatanatyam way and have been in tussle with the body politics, subtle yet piercing discriminations, classist and casteist gate-keeping of opportunities, mythologies in the name of history practiced and propagated in the classrooms. My time in Kalakshetra brought me in closer contact with brahminic patriarchal policing of our bodies. Nrithya Pillai's dance and politics, along with Soneji's books, made me aware of the way the dance has been appropriated from the hereditary dancers and they were erased off the annals of the nation's history. This realization brought me closer to my dance, I could finally dance my politics. Since then it has been a journey of

introspection- of my privileges and marginalities, of the treacherous imprints of brahminic police in my dance, of finding the ways my body can move in the Bahujan art-space of Bharatanatyam.

4. SHWETA BHATTAD and team

Shweta Bhattad is a visual artist and performer. She is a trained sculptor, having completed her BFA in Nagpur, and MVA in MS University of Baroda. She has worked across mediums in the past, with a strong focus on issues of agriculture, ecology, conscious living, women's safety, education and the female body. She is also a founder member of the Gram Art Project Collective, which is a group of farmers, artists, women, makers. These are people of different ideas and identities but connected together by living and working in and around a village they all are concerned about. This village is in Paradsinga, situated in Sausar Tehsil of Chhindwara district of Madhya Pradesh.

Aditi Bhattad is a visual artist & performer. She is also a member of the Gram Art Project collective. She lives and works in Paradsinga village. She has been part of national & international performance festivals. Her past performances revolve around how a woman body is seen & perceived in public. Aditi is involved in the process of designing clothes out of the indigenous cotton we sow in our farm. She has set up different processing studios and manual machineries for Gram Art, making sure that it makes the work of women easier and most of the things can be done manually not causing much stress while working.

Pushpa Sable is a female entrepreneur living in Paradsinga. She has done mainstream farming till a couple of years back but decided to not pursue it later. She now maintains a kitchen garden in the village and is a self-taught screen printer, photographer & entrepreneur who runs her own commercial setup in the village that provides screen printing & photography services. Her journey till now is truly remarkable in the context of social structure and culture of the region which demands her to be a housewife in an average rural Indian household. She is constantly questioning the traditional roles & duties assigned to her for being a married woman with a husband & two kids. Her journey is one that of exploring the self along with conscious living as part of an average Indian village.