



## **Children understand more... !**

A workshop for illustrators, graphic artists and authors on creating new and different books for children

### **CALL FOR APPLICATIONS**

The Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan and Zubaan are organizing a workshop for illustrators/graphic artists and writers of books for children in December 2016 (from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup>). The workshop will be conducted by a well-known writer from India and two illustrators from Germany and will be held near Kolkata.

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

Single parenthood, patchwork families, the relationship to one's body, disabilities, sex education, sexuality, same-sex love, trans- and intersexuality, death, (religious) fanaticism, environmental issues – these are all realities we live with every day of our lives. And yet, there seems to be an unspoken pact among adults, no matter what class, region, country or religion they belong to, that children must be protected from these 'difficult' realities. Children prove themselves to be more resilient than adults give them credit for, and remain curious about everything. Whom does it serve, then, to shield them from these realities? Is it time to begin thinking of how we can address such issues in sensitive, accessible, responsible ways?

This workshop aims to make just such a start by bringing together illustrators, artists, writers and resource persons over a period of a week, to create stories, discuss and distill them with peers, and to begin the process of publishing a body of work that engages with difference, with the 'othered', and with the many difficulties of reality.

The Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan, together with its partner Zubaan, New Delhi, would like to show, in a literature project with children's books authors and illustrators, how children's questions in these areas can be answered comprehensibly and engagedly in an Indian context.

#### **PROJECT PROGRESSION:**

Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan, in cooperation with the publishing house Zubaan in New Delhi and the Society for Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI), will organize a 10-day workshop in/near Kolkata with 10–16 Indian children's book authors and illustrators in December 2016. The workshop will offer the opportunity to develop stories, and to discuss ideas and questions of how to create narratives for graphic stories/novels.

Three experts – a renowned children's book author from India and illustrators from Germany – will conduct the workshop. Extensive discussions, hands-on exercises and detailed feedback will offer participants the possibility to work in a collaborative way and to expand

and deepen their knowledge about art, aesthetics, design and networking. Participants and workshop leaders will be located on-site.

The workshop will start with an introduction to the (social) situation of children in India and child psychology, as well as the position of children's books in India. In the following days the authors and illustrators will decide which topics they would like to tackle and start developing the stories in illustrator/writer teams, in close collaboration with each other. The Indian and German workshop conductors will guide the discussions during this process and offer professional advice.

The project partners will present selected works produced during the workshop to publishing houses in India which might be interested to publish them. Selections will be made by a panel consisting of representatives from Zubaan, SCBWI and Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan, in consultation with the workshop leaders, on the basis of work submitted.

Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan will provide accommodation, three meals/day and a travel subsidy.

**WORKSHOP DATES:**

The workshop will take place from **5<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> December 2016** (inclusive).

**WHO CAN APPLY:**

Only artists in their final year of study, or who have graduated, or are accomplished authors/illustrators can apply. Ideally, a mix of all three groups would create an inspiring atmosphere for all participants. Participants are required to spend the full 10 days at the workshop and to live on-site, arriving the day before the workshop begins and departing the day after it ends. Accommodation can be on a twin-sharing basis. The workshop will be conducted in English.

**HOW TO APPLY:**

Up to 16 participants (5-8 authors, 5-8 illustrators) will be selected via this call for applications. Submissions should include a curated selection of their works and potential story ideas. All applications must be sent to [applications@kolkata.goethe.org](mailto:applications@kolkata.goethe.org), containing:

- a brief CV;
- representative samples of your work (as .pdf or .jpg attachments);
- suggestions for relevant topics; and
- a brief idea for a story on one of these relevant topics presented in text or illustration, which you would like to work on during your stay

**DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: 20 SEPTEMBER 2016**

**We look forward to hearing from you.**

**Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan**

**Zubaan Books**

