

Avid Learning @ Serendipity Arts Festival 2017 in Goa

For Immediate Release

The Serendipity Arts Festival returns to Goa for its second year and **Avid Learning** is proud to partner with this exciting new platform to present two discussions in and around **Panaji** starting **December 15th - 22nd 2017**.

Held under the aegis of the Serendipity Arts Trust, the second edition of this multidisciplinary arts festival will offer a cultural experience that brings together the visual, performing and culinary arts. AVID works with festival platforms across the arts and literature, including Times LitFest, Jaipur Literature Festival, and The Kala Ghoda Arts Festival. The Serendipity Arts Festival 2017 will be the latest addition to our illustrious list of festival collaborations, having already have presented their Mumbai Curtain Raiser earlier this year in association with The Royal Opera House, Mumbai.

In Goa, the Festival will span eight exhilarating days featuring 71 projects by 14 curators across disciplines. This festival is a long-term cultural project that hopes to affect positive change in the arts in India on a large scale. This year is all about scale and pushing boundaries – SAF 17 will be experimenting with site, form and display.

As a second layer of programming, there will be a series of **Special Projects** curated by individuals or institutions. These projects, based on the directives of the Festival, form another level of programming for more specialised engagement. These special projects, will either be in the form of collaterals or collaborations with foundations, institutes, colleges, or individuals. AVID will be one of them this year and we are proud to present two lectures by two eminent thought leaders from the visual arts.

The descriptions of the lectures are as below:

AVID presents **Fantasy and Architecture, a Lecture demonstration** by *Architect and Poet Mustansir Dalvi* at **The Marriott Hotel on Saturday, 16th Dec 2017 at 11:00am – 12:00pm**. Mustansir will address the fascinating topic of whimsical architecture and fantasy, weaving in an element of poetry. Part historical overview and part poetic reflection, this lecture

demonstration will touch upon the works of Antoni Gaudi and fantasy Art Nouveau architecture, Art Deco influences, and fantasy architectural elements inserted playfully into the Indian milieu. As a poet, Mustansir will touch upon how he reflects and constructs, iteratively, drawing on his experience and training as an architect. Explore the inclusion of fantastical elements in built structures by examining a broad range of architectural production that pushed the boundaries of tradition. And probe larger questions like the role of visionary architecture as a tool for inspiring change and optimism and encouraging critical thinking in young architects.

As part of Serendipity's debuting series titled *Talking Culture*, AVID presents *Veteran photographer, David de Souza* at **The Adil Shah Palace on Wednesday, 20th Dec 2017 at 2.30pm – 4.30pm.**

This is a series of lectures conducted by eminent artist-practitioners in and related to the field of arts and culture in India. Focusing on a specific project, or evolution of their practice, the lecture will be a deeper insight on their contribution and connection to their discipline within the rich tapestry of Indian culture. The talks will span the performing and visual arts, photography/film and the culinary arts.

David will speak about his diverse photographic practice, and his passions and preoccupations in the field using a set of curated visuals. An 'Indian aesthetic' is a great part of his ever-evolving oeuvre and he has made series of photographs exploring Indian Mythology, Mallakhambh, Bombay street itinerants and streetscapes. Having taught photography at St. Xavier's College in Mumbai for a number of years, he will also address the need for an overhaul in how Photography is taught today and why he feels there is a need for 'de-schooling' or 'unlearning'.

In keeping with our credo **#Learningneverstops** we invite you to join us in Goa and **#chanceupon** the latest creative endeavours by these thought leaders, artists and entrepreneurs.

Where: Mustansir Dalvi Lecture: The Marriott Hotel, Panaji, Goa

David de Souza Lecture: The Adil Shah Palace, Panaji, Goa

When: Mustansir Dalvi Lecture: Saturday, 16th Dec 2017 | 11:00am – 12:00pm

David de Souza Lecture: Wednesday, 20th Dec 2017 | 2.30pm - 4.30pm

RSVP for free: www.serendipityartsfestival.com; prior registration required

Press Email / Call: Dhvani Vyas on dhvani.avid@gmail.com / +91 9769877928



**SERENDIPITY
ARTS
FESTIVAL
GOA 2017**



**AVID
LEARNING**
an EDGAR initiative

AVID LEARNING PRESENTS

**Fantasy & Architecture
With Mustansir Dalvi**

Architect and Poet
Mustansir Dalvi will address the fascinating topic of whimsical architecture and fantasy, weaving in an element of poetry. Explore the inclusion of fantastical elements in built structures by examining a broad range of architectural production that pushed the boundaries of tradition.

**The Marriott Hotel
Panaji, Goa
16th December 2017
Saturday
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM**



**Talking Culture
with David de Souza**

Veteran photographer,
David de Souza will speak about his diverse photographic practice, and his passions and preoccupations in the field using a set of curated visuals.

**The Adil Shah Palace
Panaji, Goa
20th December 2017
Wednesday,
2.30 PM - 4.30 PM**



Register at www.serendipityartsfestival.com

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About the Speakers:

Mustansir Dalvi was born in Bombay. He teaches architecture in Mumbai. He has lectured, read and published several papers and books on architectural pedagogy and architectural history. Through columns in *The Hindu*, scroll.in and *The Wire* (and formerly *Time Out Mumbai* and *FirstPost*) he casts a critical eye on Mumbai in its current post-planning avatar. He is an editor, an anglophone poet and translator. His poems (and translations) are anthologized, amongst others in *These My Words: The Penguin Book of Indian Poetry*, *The Bigbridge Online Anthology of Contemporary Indian Poetry* and *Eating God: A Book of Bhakti Poetry*. His translation of Muhammad Iqbal's *Shikwa* and *Jawaab-e-Shikwa* from the Urdu (Penguin Classics) has been described as "insolent and heretical". His translations of Hemant Divate's poems from the Marathi are published as *Struggles with imagined gods*. *Brouhahas of Cocks* is his first book of poems in English.

David de Souza has been a commercial photographer for the past 15 years. He has produced 8 monographs and 4 commissioned books. He was also the field director of 'Picture Mumbai': Landmarks of a new generation a Getty Conservation Institute Initiative.

About Partners:

The Serendipity Arts Festival is a multi-disciplinary arts event set over period of eight days in December in the vibrant settings of Panaji, Goa. Curated by a panel of eminent artists and institutional figures, this festival is a long-term cultural project that hopes to affect positive change in the arts in India on a large scale. This year is all about scale and pushing boundaries – SAF 17 will be experimenting with site, form and display. Along with a line-up of scintillating programming spanning music, dance, theatre, visual arts, and culinary arts, this year's edition is an unmissable spectacle of epic proportions.

Avid Learning, a public programming platform and cultural arm of the Essar Group, has conducted over 750 programs and connected with more than 85,000 individuals since its

inception in 2009. Driven by the belief that Learning Never Stops, AVID's multiple formats like Workshops, Panel Discussions, Gallery Walkthroughs, and Festival Platforms create a dynamic and interactive atmosphere that stimulates intellectual and creative growth across the fields of Culture & Heritage, Literature, Art and Innovation.

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