

SUTRA

Presents

Colours of Nature

RATIONALE

India's natural dye tradition has spanned several thousand years. When most of the world largely dressed in drab colours, India's dye masters had perfected the art of using colourfast dyes to create rainbow colours by the use of mordants (substances that fix dyes onto cloth). Their dyeing traditions were handed down the generations, with no written records. What a tragedy that, in the 20th century, the collective knowledge of centuries of natural dye practitioners in India was largely wiped out with the advent of synthetic dyes. Just as many synthetic foodstuffs are poisoning our bodies, so the production of synthetic dyes is often toxic to the environment, whereas most natural dyes do not pollute land or water. It is therefore vital that Indian natural dye traditions are revived and passed on, with the help of specialists, from both India and abroad.

The Thomas Wardle documents in Kolkata consist of more than three and a half thousand samples of cloth and threads dyed with India's indigenous dyes. Bound into 15 hard-back volumes, they are the world's major extant documentation of India's former dyeing expertise. Although these volumes have been digitized, it is of utmost importance that proper conservation is done to preserve these priceless documents.

.....

OPENING 15th February 2014

- Release of special issue on natural dyes by The MARG Foundation, *Colours of Nature: Dyes from the Indian Subcontinent*, at Satyajit Ray Auditorium, ICCR. **By Invitation.**
- Inauguration of SUTRA's natural dye event, *Colours of Nature* at Satyajit Ray Auditorium, ICCR. Colours of Nature focuses on the revival, use and continuity of natural dyes.

Exhibitions & Grand Bazaar – Open to the public

Talks, demonstrations & activities for registered delegates

.....

TALK SESSIONS 16th–17th February 2014

Talk sessions by experts on natural dyes

Speakers:

ANUPAM SAH: Art conservation practitioner, strategist & educator

B VENUGOPAL: Director, Indian Museum, Kolkata; specialist in historical aspects of India's plant heritage

BESSIE CECIL: Scholar (Chay root) & curator

BINA RAO: Designer & scholar

BRENDA KING: Authority on Sir Thomas Wardle

DOMINIQUE CARDON: Scholar, natural dyes worldwide

HIMADRI S DEBNATH: Joint Director, Botanical Survey of India, Kolkata

JASLEEN DHAMIJA: Authority on textiles

JENNY BALFOUR-PAUL: Scholar (Indigo) & guest editor of *Marg* special issue on natural dyes

K PERUMAL: Scientist (Chay root)

LYNDA HILLYER: Former head of textile conservation, Victoria and Albert Museum, London

MONISHA AHMED: Associate Editor, *Marg Magazine*; authority on Ladakh textiles

MONOLEENA BANERJEE: Natural dye practitioner, researcher, textile professional

RASHMI BHARTI: Natural dye artist; co-founder of 'Avani', Kumaon Hills, Himalayas

RUBY GHUZZANI: Craft researcher & natural dye expert

SITTHICHAI SMANCHAT: Research Scholar - Thai traditional textiles & natural dyes

SUDHA DHINGRA: Scholar (Morinda citrifolia)

V SAKTHIVEL: Research scholar & teacher

VICTORIA VIJAYAKUMAR: Expert on natural dyes

VIKRAM JOSHI: Block-printing and natural dye expert

Moderators:

MONISHA AHMED: Associate Editor, *Marg Magazine*; authority on Ladakh textiles

SUPRIYA ROY: Scholar on Rabindranath Tagore; author

DEEPA SINGHI: Principal, J D Birla College, natural dye practitioner

.....

EXHIBITIONS 15th–24th February 2014

- Exhibition of rare late 18th to 19th century artefacts from the collection of the Botanical Survey of India, Kolkata
- Exhibition of paintings with natural dyes on cloth by the eminent Bengali artist, Ajit Kumar Das
- *Colours of Nature* IN FASHION

.....

ACTIVITIES 15th–18th February 2014

Practical dyeing & khadi weaving demonstrations; interactive educational forums; film screenings; visits to the Botanical Gardens & the BSI Museum to see models of a 19th century indigo factory, lac manufacture works and many other fascinating exhibits related to dyeing and to textile fibres and processes.

.....

THE GRAND BAZAAR 15th–18th February 2014

The Grand Bazaar, a buyer & seller gathering for fine Indian textiles & handcrafted textile products

Vendors: TUSHAR KUMAR LUXURY CASHMERE, PRACHEEN, BYLOOM, MURA COLLECTIVE, MAKU TEXTILES, KASHMIRLOOM, YOGITA WEAVES, CREATIVE BEE, NATURALLY ANURADHA, DASTKAR ANDHRA, MARG FOUNDATION, AJIT KUMAR DAS, NEELGAR, RAJASTHAN FABRICS & ARTS, DIVYA SHETH, ARISHI...THE THREAD STORY, SUFIYAN KHATRI, SUJATA WEAVES & PRINTS, ROLI BOOKS, KMA EXPORTS, UPASANA DESIGN STUDIO, COASTAL DESIGNER, WHITEWATER DESIGNS, AVANI, SUTRA SHOP

.....

ABOUT SUTRA

SUTRA is a non-profit society established in Kolkata in 2002, whose objective is to raise awareness of our textile heritage through seminars, exhibitions, workshops, demonstrations, publications and other means, to pave the way for further research, documentation, conservation and development of our textile traditions in order to impact the grassroots level.

.....

CONTACT

Sangeeta Dudhuria, Secretary: +91.9830042234

Swati Nandi, Project Director: +91.9830105159

SUTRA Flat 2B, 7/1 Queens Park, Kolkata 700019

sutraindia10@gmail.com