

## Archana Prasad

### Golden Jubilee

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Aruna Sunderlal

Arundhati Nag

Balan Nambiar

Clare Arni

Jayachandran Palazhy

Madhu Nataraj

Surekha

Suresh Jayaram

Vijay Padaki

Our Staff

Our New Building

Praktikum 

Café Max



### A few words about yourself...

I'm a visual artist with a keen interest in poetry and video art. Am a founding member of CitySignals - a docu-performance art project. More recently I have taken on the role of an art activist by co-founding Jaaaga and Samuha.

### Your first contact with the Goethe-Institut...

MMB has been a part of life since my childhood in Bangalore. It used to be located on Lavelle Road then, and on weekends my parents would go over to the Bangalore Club and I would walk down to the MMB to see what was going on in there. There would always be something interesting - an art exhibition, really cool looking flyers, or just great cake to be had. My first association with MMB as an adult, was with the Bangalore City Project (BCP) meeting two years ago. Evelin and Maureen from the Goethe were there along with a small group of artists and architecture folks. It was an open forum to discuss ways through which culture could be use to bridge the gap between the city and its residents.



### Your first impressions...

At my first BCP meeting at MMB two years back, I remember thinking - wow, its really nice to be able to meet and talk with interesting, intelligent folks about the state of art and culture in Bangalore! I couldn't remember the last time that I was part of something like this where there was a real sense of community building and creative thinking.

### The most important aspect of your association with the Goethe-Institut...

- > The fact that the work we were doing together was something that would really benefit the art community in India.
- > That the things I did with them would be seen by a broad and interested public and would promote a real sense of positive action and reaction.
- > That I really liked and respected the people I worked with, for their passion, stoic dedication, efficiency and wit.

### The most memorable incident...

For me it's not a single incident, but a series of great conversations and evenings over wine or beer. And how over time the things that we spoke about actually became real projects and experiences.



### What makes the Goethe-Institut special...

The sense of great quality, efficiency and camaraderie that the people generate at MMB is lovely. But most importantly I perceive the Goethe Institut as deeply entrenched in the current happenings in the art and culture of the cities and countries they exist in. Their knowledge and engagement with the art-culture scene here in India is amazing and commendable. It's really heartening that a cultural institute does not merely have a single-point agenda to showcase their own country's art, culture and history, but also fosters and ferrets out connections and collaborations between the two countries. Supporting, encouraging and even mentoring the art and the artists here is something the Institut takes seriously, and sets MMB apart

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from any other cultural embassy that I have seen here in India.

**Your thoughts on international cultural cooperation...** I always think of artists as the avant-garde in calling public attention to cultural, political and social conditions of the places they inhabit. Given that, and given the alarming and precarious state of the world today, be it in the area of politics, economics or environment, artists play a significant and unique role in being able to imaginatively influence the thoughts and behaviour of their fellow-countrymen. They lead the way towards pro-action and at least positive understanding or thinking. Cultural collaborations across borders are inherently influential in facilitating and bridging knowledge and understanding of each group in a way that is far more effective and internalised than any other. Cultural organisations like the Goethe Institut have the ability to do so by providing a neutral platform to facilitate these collaborations.



**Your expectations for the next 50 years of Goethe in India...**

I see the Goethe-Institut have another 50 years of solid, collaborative, community-driven cultural engagements with India. Helping lead the way to the mutual understanding of the two countries as well as safer, more-conscious and responsible

lifestyles.

**The essence of the Goethe-Institut/Max Mueller Bhavan Bangalore in three words...**

Engaged. Visionary. Collaborative.

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