

## **Art Workshop “The Essential Tagore: Wanderer behold, these trees are prayers!” (19-22 October 2016)**

### **Concept Note**

The Sacredness of nature and of the entire creation is an essential Indian paradigm which Rabindranath Tagore wholeheartedly supported. In his poems and prose, the poet found a variety of ways to express sacredness. The tree has a special place within the metaphoric cosmos that Tagore developed. In the Upanishads the tree was a symbol of Life. The roots were in the air, receiving nourishment from the transcendent sphere. Rabindranath Tagore added to this many layers of sacredness of the tree as can best be witnessed in his famous poem *briksha bandna/A Hymn to Trees*.

Around the tree as a symbol of the creative life-force, Tagore unfolded an eco-spirituality which embraced all living beings; insentient things as well he experienced as part of the spiritual vibrancy of the cosmos. Modern ecological concerns and our need to protect the environment could get a powerful new vision by placing the sacredness of nature, especially the sacredness of the tree as the epitome of nature, at the root of our ecological awareness. Artist may express such awareness in a variety of innovative ways.

An Art Workshop on ‘The Essential Tagore: Wanderer behold, these trees are prayers!’ was organised at IAS during 19-22 October 2016. Professor Him Chatterjee, Dean, Department of 59 Fine Arts, Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla was the Convener of the workshop. The welcome address was given by Professor Vijaya Shankar Varma, National Fellow, IAS. Professor Him Chatterjee, Convener of the workshop gave introductory remarks. Dr. Martin Kämpchen, Tagore Fellow, IAS delivered the inaugural speech.

### **PARTICIPANTS**

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- Dr. Martin Kämpchen, Tagore Fellow, IAS
- Shri Sanyasi Lohar, Purbapalli, Santiniketan, West Bengal
- Shri Hemant Dwivedi, Department of Visual Arts, M.L. Sukhadia University, Udaipur
- Shri Rajat Nandi, Indian Collage of Arts & Draftmanship, Kolkata
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