

# SHAMPA SHAH

Artist, Writer, Curator

## Contact

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## Academics/ Training

Learnt Ceramics under Daroz, P.R. at Bharat Bhavan, Bhopal 1987-90

Masters in Botany, with specialization in Forest Ecology, 1989

Diploma in Museology, Bhopal University, 1992

Masters in Sociology with specialization in Cultural Anthropology, Bhopal University 2001

## Select Exhibitions

*Breaking Ground* - Indian Ceramics Triennale, Jawahar Kala Kendra, Jaipur, 2018

*Porcelain* - A show presented by Delhi Blue Trust, India Habitat Centre 2018

*7<sup>th</sup> Bharat Bhavan Biennial of Contemporary Indian Arts* – Bharat Bhavan, Bhopal, 2017

*Luminous* - A show curated by Anjani Khanna and Vineet Kacker, Gallerie Nvya, N. Delhi 2016

*Digging Time* - A show curated by Vineet Kacker, Gallery Art Positive, New Delhi, 2015

*Touching Earth - Soaring Skies*- curated by Rekha Bajpe Agarwal, Vivanta Taj, New Delhi, 2015

*Flower Power* - A show presented by Gallery Sanskriti on kettle form, Kolkata, 2015

*Contemporary Ceramics of the World* at Naori Eco Art Festival, South Korea, 2014

*Indian Ceramic Art Museum at Fule International Ceramic Art Museum (FLICAM)* - Fuping, China with museums of 38 countries, 2013

*One Thousand and One Cups* - A show presenting works of 100 ceramists from across the world and which travelled to India, China, Korea, France and Switzerland between 2009-2010, Curated by Claude Passet, Geneva.

*4<sup>th</sup> ASNA Clay Triennial* - Karachi, Pakistan curated by Nilofer Farrukh, 2013

*Kolkata-A Tale of My City* - a ceramic sculpture show at Gallery Sanskriti, Kolkata, 2013

*Mrittika* - a National Exhibition of Clay Works, Bharat Bhavan, Bhopal, 2013

*Fired Up* - A Ceramic Show at Kalakriti Art Gallery, Hyderabad, 2013

*Tiles forever* - A show at Visual Art Gallery, 17 to 22 February 2012

*Artist 4* - A show at Mahua Art Gallery, Bangalore, 2011

*Artist4* - A show at Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi, 2011

*Transformations* - A solo show at Bharat Bhawan, Bhopal, 2009

*Skins of Water* - Curated group show, Gallery Hermitage, Mumbai, 2003

*All India Terracotta and Ceramic Exhibition* - Bharat Bhavan, Bhopal 2003  
*Colours of the Earth - An Exhibition of Contemporary British and Indian ceramics* - Lalit Kala Academy, New Delhi, 2001  
*5<sup>th</sup> Cairo International Biennial of Ceramics* - Egypt, 2000  
*Animals of the Earth* - group show, Triveni, New Delhi, 2000  
*Tea Party* - A group show, National Art Gallery, Mumbai, 2000  
*Shadows* - A solo show, Nazar Art Gallery, Vadodara, 1997  
*Shadows* - A solo show Alliance de Francaise Gallery, Bhopal, 1997  
*Form Flora* - A solo show, Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai, 1998  
*Earthling Manna* - A show of Contemporary Ceramics, Images Gallery, Bangalore, 1997  
*New Waves in Ceramic Design* - International Ceramic Festival, Mino, Japan, 1996  
*Ceramics from Bharat Bhavan* - Vadhera, New Delhi, 1996  
*Functional Ceramics* - Center for Arts, New Delhi, 1996  
*Contemporary Indian Pottery* - a show curated by Jyotsna Bhatt, Cymroza, Mumbai, 1994  
*Pottery* - group show, L.T.G., New Delhi, 1992  
*All India Studio Potters' Exhibition* - A.I.F.A.C.S, New Delhi, 1992  
*Contemporary Indian Pottery* - Taj Art Gallery, New Delhi, 1992  
*Fourth Bharat Bhavan Biennial of Contemporary Art* – Bharat Bhavan, Bhopal 1992  
*Three Ceramic Artists* - Hutheesing Visual Arts Center, CEPT, Ahmedabad 1991  
*Ten Contemporary ceramists of India* - A show curated by Jyotsna Bhatt, Singapore, 1989  
*All India Studio Potters' Exhibition* - Cymroza Art Gallery Mumbai, 1990  
*A Ceramic show* - Pundole Art Gallery, Mumbai, 1989

## **Awards**

Best Potter of the year award-All India Fine Arts and Crafts Society, 1989, 1992, 1994  
Roopankar Bharat Bhavan Scholarship for Ceramics, 1988-89  
Junior National Research Fellowship, Ministry of Human Resources development, 1996-97  
Certificate of Merit, National Exhibition of Art, South Central Zone Nagpur, 1998  
Highly recommended Award for Sculpture- 7<sup>th</sup> Bharat Bhavan Biennial of Contemporary Indian Arts, Bharat Bhavan, Bhopal 2017

## **Select Artists' Camps**

International Ceramics Camp organized by Artichol, Maihar, 2017  
National Artist Camp organized by Lalit Kala Academy, New Delhi at Bhopal, 2015  
A 10 days International ceramic camp at Naori Eco Art Festival, South Korea, 2014  
One month Residency at Fule International Ceramic Art Museum, Fuping, China, 2013  
A workshop with Jeff Shapiro on Anagama Firing, Golden Bridge Pottery, Puducherry, 2012

National ceramic camp organized by Swaraj Sansthan, Bhopal 2011

National Ceramic Camp at Uttarayan foundation for arts, Ahmedabad 2009 4

National ceramic camp at Bharat Bhawan, Bhopal 2008

A workshop with Jane Hamlyn, New Delhi, 2001

National Ceramic Camp, Kundra, Kerala Lalit Kala Academy Kerala 1998

International Artists' Camp, Lalit Kala Academy, New Delhi 1997

All India Studio Potters' Workshop, Delhi Blue Pottery, Andretta 1994

Workshop with Traditional Terracotta Potters from Bastar, Bharat Bhavan 1990

National Camp of Ceramics, Bharat Bhavan Bhopal 1989

### **Coordination of Camps**

Conceived and co ordinate PADAV - a 15 days National Camp of contemporary modern and traditional clay artist culminating in a Seminar and an Exhibition, 1992

Coordinated workshops with artists from Muria, Gond, Pardhan Gond, Baiga, Rajwar, Warli, Bhil, Kol, Garasia, Rabari, Gadulia Lohar and Rathwa Tribal communities for an year to creat work for Eternal Voyage – an international seminar/ Exhibition on Tribal Art and Culture

Coordinated an International workshop on Traditional Indian Arts organized by Vasudha at Pachmarhi, 1996

Coordinated several in situ and in campus workshops with traditional artists-potters, painters, iron smelters and bell metal casters, wood carvers, stone carvers from various folk and tribal communities from all over India while working as Curatorial staff for Indira Gandhi National Museum Of Man , Bhopal (1992-2013) Conducted focused workshops on Myths and Beliefs, on Women artists, on Sacred geography etc.

### **Curation**

Conceived and curated **Mythological Trail**- a permanent, open air exhibition on Tribal Myths, Ritual and Belief Systems of India, an only exhibition of its kind in the country at Indira Gandhi National Museum of Man, Bhopal.(1998-2013)

Curated '**Anugunj**'- a travelling exhibition on tribal and folk myths of India for Museum of Man, Bhopal (2005). The exhibition has travelled across India to more than 25 places including- National Museum and Indira Gandhi Centre foe Arts, New Delhi, Salarjung Museum, Hyderabad, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya, Mumbai, etc.

Curated **Bhumika**- an Exhibition on the invisible role of women in the cultural heritage of India (2008) and also prepared a travelling component of the same.

Curated **Dhigna** - an exhibition of paintings by the Pardhan Gond artists of Mandla, Madhya Pradesh (2009)

Curated **Tantuja** – an exhibition on women and textile (2009)  
Curated **Shilpayan**- a workshop, seminar and an exhibition on the Traditional Pottery Traditions in India 2009  
Curated **Shakhunakhar** – an exhibition of the folk paintings of Kumaon, Uttarakhand (2010)  
Curated **Singaar**– an exhibition on the traditional crafts of Bikaner, Rajasthan (2010)  
**Consultant Curator and Folklorist** for ‘The Madhya Pradesh Tribal Museum’, Bhopal (2012-13)

## **Publications**

### **Editing and Text Credits in:**

*The Tribal Crafts of Madhya Pradesh*, Mapin Publications Pvt. Ltd, Ahmedabad, 1996  
*A Monograph on Sona Bai Rajwar*, Craft Council of India, 2002  
*Anugunj*- a catalogue of Mythological Trail, IGRMS, Bhopal 2004  
Catalogue of *Aadivart*- a museum of tribal and folk art of Madhya Pradesh, Khajuraho, 2004  
Catalogue of the exhibition *Srijan* on the women tribal painters, Bharat Bhavan, Bhopal, 2008  
Catalogue of *Ang Raag* an exhibition on the tattoo painting of Madhya Pradesh, Adivasi Lok Kala Parishad, Bhopal, 2009  
Text for the series of Portfolios ‘Srishti’ on Tribal Painters of M.P  
On Ten Tribal Painters  
On Bhuri Bai  
On Ram Singh Urveti  
Text for the catalogue of the Roopankar Museum of Modern Art’s collection of Terracotta and Ceramics of India, 2012  
Text for the catalogue of *Mrittika*’ - a National Exhibition of contemporary ceramics, Bharat Bhavan, 2013

### **Essays published in:**

Neelmani-The master potter from Manipur in *The Other Masters*- Five contemporary folk and tribal artists of India, edited by Jyotindra Jain, Crafts Museum, N. Delhi, 1998  
*Tribal Identity in India: Extinction or Adaptation*, edited by K. K. Chakravarty, IGRMS, 1995  
In search of cultural identity in *Lok Ka Alok*, Marudhara Shodh Kendra, Bikaner 2001  
Dialogue with Habib Tanvir in *Lok*- an anthology on Tribal and folk world views, Udaipur 2002  
The Craftsman as Mythicist in *Traditional Knowledge Systems and Archaeology*, Edited by Dr D.P. Agarwal and Manikant Shah, Aryan Books International, New Delhi, 2004 6

Between the Potter and the Elephant : A Discourse on the Contemporariness of Tradition in *Kala Bharti*- an anthology of articles in two volumes on Indian Arts and Artist, Lalit Kala Academy, New Delhi, 2010

Belapat, Toksingh Agaria and the bird Bhengraj : a journey to the centre of ancient iron smithy in *The Making of a Museum*, edited by Dr Ravindra Jain, Aakar Books, New Delhi, 2013

## **Other**

Have been involved in the film project, engaging in close dialogues with traditional potters Sara Ibrahim of Kutchh and Master Craftswoman Neelmani Devi of Manipur working around the ideas of taboo in tradition. It is now a film widely seen and acclaimed called *Beyond the Wheel*

Translated the novel *The Story teller* by Peruvian author Mario Vargas Llosa (Nobel Prize winner of 2011) into Hindi published as *Kissago* by Rajkamal Prakashan, N. Delhi

The novel is a dialogue on the right of the Tribal's to live in their own way vis-à-vis the idea of development in the context of the Machiguenga tribe of the Amazon basin.