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MOHILE PARIKH CENTER
NATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

VISUAL ARTS
THE CONTEMPORARY
CHILDREN & CULTURE
CAMPUS

18TH FRIDAY | DECEMBER | 2009
BHOPAL: A SILENT PICTURE

In association with **FINE ART COMPANY**

Panelists: **Samar Singh Jodha, Satinath Sarangi, Rachna Dhingra and Sanjay Verma**
Discussion: **Bitu Sahgal**
Panel Discussion: **6:30 pm | Little Theatre, NCPA**

The Bhopal Gas Tragedy is frequently cited as the world's worst industrial and environmental disaster. It is 25 years since its occurrence in 1984 and the toxic chemicals abandoned in the Union Carbide plant continue to pollute the ground water in the region implicating serious health hazards for its victims and residents of Bhopal.

Samar Singh Jodha (Social Activist/Photographer/Filmmaker) has done extensive research work on this tragedy including photography. His first commission was in 2004 with the BBC on 20 years of Bhopal. Since the last five years, this personal project captures various aspects of the impact of this calamity on the local communities and their immediate environment. This series of images are shot at the Union Carbide plant and speak about the emptiness and the eerie silence that permeates this space. Some of the areas are comparable to the feeling of walking through the Auschwitz cells.

Satinath Sarangi (Social Activist) arrived in Bhopal two days after the gas leak 29 years ago, and stayed on. He is the managing trustee of the Sambhavana Clinic, which provides survivors free medical care and undertakes community health work. The clinic is the only organisation currently researching the long-term effects of the Bhopal gas exposure. He is a founder of the survivors' support organisation Bhopal Group for Information and Action and interacts closely with survivors' associations.

Rachna Dhingra (Social Activist) is working in Bhopal with survivors of the Bhopal gas leak. She graduated with a business degree in 2000 and came back to stay in Bhopal in January 2003. Since then, she has immersed herself in getting the balance of compensation to survivors, initiating efforts for clean drinking water, generating employment, and mobilizing local and global communities. She is also associated with the Bhopal Group of Information and Action.

Sanjay Verma (Environmentalist) is an animal right's protector and a survivor of the Bhopal Gas Tragedy. Since August 2004, Sanjay has been translating for journalists, photographers and filmmakers visiting Bhopal that have brought various stories of the disaster in the public domain. He is actively involved in various aspects of the Bhopal campaign.

Bitu Sahgal is the editor of Sanctuary Asia, India's premier wildlife and ecology magazine. He is also at the forefront of the battle to protect India from the worst impacts of climate change. He is currently involved in several national campaigns to save the tiger, protect coastal areas and to prevent toxics from affecting the environment. He has authored numerous book on wildlife and writes for both English and Language newspapers and magazines in India.

This program will coincide with an exhibition by Samar Singh Jodha at Gallery Beyond, Mumbai. The exhibition is hosted by The Fine Art Company. Do join us for tea at 6:00pm.



Admission free and open to all.

Shaila Parikh | Prashant Parikh
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