



Photography by Baiba Yurkevich

The Artists of KYTA 2017

KYTA 2017 will showcase art installations and performances across spots in Kalga village, near Kasol, Himachal Pradesh from September 8th to October 15th, 2017.

Kalga rests at the foothills of the Himalayas. In the year 2014, *Kalga* went from being one of the smaller, lesser-known villages, to becoming the muse for an experimental travel company that decided to turn it into a global destination for travel, living, culture, art and expression. That was the birth of *Karma Yatri Travel & Art* - an experimental residency program and growing global creative community, put together by Hashim Qayoom and Shazeb Arif S., who have stayed true to their ambition and completely transformed the village in the past three years. So far, more than thirty artists from over twelve countries and twenty four distinct disciplines have spent their summer completely immersing themselves in the beauty of the village, as they collectively built on *KYTA's* legacy from previous years. A legacy that is ready to live on for years to come, by the residents of *Kalga*. The artists collaborate with each other to produce new artworks, performances and structures along with developing new creative facilities. Curator and co-founder, Shazeb comments on the artist selection process for *KYTA 2017*.

'Though the selection process still remains similar; trying to find different minds, skills and styles and what this mix would be like in the artist group composition, the workflow and results are very

different now. This year being a trilateral edition, the curatorial aspect has been about trying new mixtures and cultural flavours. For example, for the first time ever, we'll have fine artists as part of the primary group.'



KYTA has been creating an atmosphere of creative culture fuelled by the participation of a wide array of artists and the local community alike

2017 is also the penultimate year of *KYTA's* five-year program to set Kalga on the track to becoming a global art and culture destination. They have made some staggering changes that has helped the village shape its own true identity, distinct from the (in)famous ones of its neighbouring villages in the Parvati valley. 'We are on track for our five-year-plan with two more artistic facilities being built this year and three more by 2018,' adds Shazeb who aims on completing a total of six creative facilities to be permanently added to the village for years to come.

'This year we will be transforming one of the rooms into a synth and audio studio with an inward speaker built outdoors, where anyone can just walk in and listen to our archives. We are still working on the handover plan to the good folks of Kalga.'

This year marks the fourth edition of *KYTA's* residency program and will showcase the work of its 17 artists-in-residence who've made their way from South Korea, Switzerland and India, as part of its first official trilateral edition titled, *70 Years of Swiss-Indian Friendship: Connecting Minds - Inspiring the Future*. Here are 5 artists that have continually excelled in their practise and will be bringing their highly distinguished artforms to the village this September.



"8" by Rashi Jain, Photography by Sachin S. Pillai

Rashi Jain, India

Ceramics Artist

Rashi has championed several projects in the field of ceramics, pottery and sculpture and teaches the same through her 2003 initiative, *Studio Karva*. Her involvement with *KYTA* dates back to its commencement year, and has been creating functional installations in and around the village ever since. She talks about what she's been working on for the program's fourth edition.

'Over three years at *KYTA*, my work has journeyed from land-art, installation to community projects. This year will culminate as a communal meal in clay vessels and objects made together with locals and resident artists which will be fired in the wood kiln and pizza oven I built last edition. With every visit, I hope to bring value and share the true essence of my arts practise.'

More about *KYTA* 2017 and its resident artists here
(<http://sheiksphear.wixsite.com/kyta/kyta2017>)

Text Shristi Singh

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