

Art @IITB

Raja Mohanty

IIT Bombay's vision is "To be a leading global technology university that provides a transformative educational experience to create leaders and innovators and generates new knowledge for society and industry." The arts help in enriching aesthetic imagination and help in nurturing how we look upon ourselves and the environments we live in. A visible presence of works on the IIT Bombay campus, that fuse technical and artistic creativity, could help integrating education. This project envisaged a road-map for Arts education at IIT Bombay that

includes the creation of traditional and contemporary works of art on the campus; residencies, seminars and talks by visiting artists and mentorship for encouraging students to develop an aesthetic sensibility.



National Salt Satyagraha Memorial, Dandi

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This memorial to the 80 marchers who accompanied Gandhi for upholding "Right against Might" was conceptualized by Prof. Kirti Trivedi. An interesting "side-effect" of this memorial is the beginning of an engagement with handloom weaving. In 2019, Shivani Nayak, one of the graduating students from IDC School of Design, wove her own convocation scarf. The weaving initiative encourages more students to do the same.



Learning from Nature and from the Indigenous Collaborative project with Bidyut Roy and Sandeep Manchekar

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A residency space for visiting faculty was created at Wighavali using local materials, such as bamboo, mud, fired bricks, traditional terracotta tiles and dried pipal leaves. This space is envisaged as an extension of classroom walls to spaces outside cities that enables students to come in contact with alternate realities and learn from indigenous ways of doing things and from nature.



Understanding visual art traditions

Collaborative projects with practitioners of indigenous art traditions

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The traditions studied included patachitra art from Orissa; Gond art from Madhya Pradesh; Madhubani from Bihar; Pichhwai from Rajasthan. Collaborative projects took the shape of books for children and “grown-up” children! Ghanshyam Sharma from Nathdwara, Radhashyam Raut from

Bhubaneswar, Durgabai and Mansingh Vyam from Bhopal, Sharwan Paswan from Mithila were artists with whom the collaborative projects were done. “The Circle of Fate” published by Tara Books, Chennai, was shortlisted for the Anderson prize, 2009. “the Enigma of Karma” was a sequel to this. “Machaan Masti”, “On Inheritance”,

“Cycle Ka Sapna” are some of the other learning material for children were created as the collaboration continued as a part of the Damroo Project, funded by the Navajbai Ratan Tata Trust.

