

HOMELANDS

Home, Identity, Migration, Displacement

The British Council and Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) are hosting a series of talks and performance as a part of a major art exhibition 'Homelands' from the British Council's permanent collection curated by Latika Gupta.

30th January 2013 (Wednesday)

1. 1800 hrs – 'Homeland' – A talk by Andrew Lycett at Auditorium; C.V. Mess IGNCA

Andrew will refer to the concept of Home as perceived by Kipling, Doyle and Fleming and their own dwellings.

2. 1840 hrs - 'The Whistle' – A Solo Performance by Martin Figura at Auditorium; C.V. Mess IGNCA

A one-man play about the tragic story of his parents based on his book by the same name. When Martin Figura was nine years old, his father killed his mother. Whistle is a 60 minute multi-media depiction of a post-war British childhood using poetry, family photographs and striking visuals, based on his award-winning poetry collection. Figura explores themes of identity, forgiveness, loss, adoption and family with insight and gentle humour, to tell a unique coming-of-age story, which is both profound and uplifting.

3. 1940 hrs - Q&A with Andrew and Martin at Auditorium; C.V. Mess IGNCA

Andrew Lycett is a biographer and has written on the lives of Ian Fleming, Rudyard Kipling, Arthur Conan Doyle, Dylan Thomas and Qaddafi.

Martin Figura is a poet as well as a portrait and social documentary photographer. He is chair of Café Writers in Norwich and a founder member of Norwich Poetry Club, a monthly live lit event in the city.

4th February 2013 (Monday)

4. 1800 hrs – 'Exile and Creative writing' – A talk by Sukrita Paul Kumar at Lecture Room; 11, Mansingh Road IGNCA

"The existential angst of being away from one's homeland gets most poignantly expressed in perhaps creative writing, especially when 'exile' is not out of one's own choice. There is a large body of literature that captures the varied dimensions of the experience of forced migrations. 'Imaginary homelands' are woven through fantasies and frustrations in words that open up worlds otherwise concealed somewhere deep in human consciousness. This talk will present narratives that reveal different forms of exile of individuals in search of home. "

6th February 2013 (Wednesday)

5. 1800 hrs – ‘Home in the 21st Century’ – Ahdaf Souief in a Conversation with Shashi Tharoor at Auditorium; C.V. Mess IGNC

Ahdaf would reflect on her dual identity of being a citizen of UK and Egypt and her relationship with uprisings back home in Cairo. Dr Tharoor would reflect on his status of a world citizen and issues of immigration and displacement during his role as a peace keeper.

Ahdaf Soueif is a writer and political and cultural commentator. She is the author of the bestselling *The Map of Love* which was shortlisted for the Booker Prize for Fiction in 1999; she writes regularly for the Guardian in London and has a weekly column for al-Shorouk in Cairo. Her latest book Cairo: My City, Our Revolution published in 2012 was a personal account of the Egyptian Revolution

Dr. Shashi Tharoor is an author, United Nations peace-keeper, refugee worker, human rights activist, former Minister of State for External Affairs and currently the Minister of State for Human Resources Development.

12th February 2013 (Tuesday)

6. 1800 hrs – ‘Colonialism and the Nomadic Communities in India’ – A talk by G.N. Devy at Lecture Room; 11, Mansingh Road IGNC

The process of a mind boggling social exclusion arising out of the colonial failure to understand the social imagination of migratory and nomadic groups has not been sufficiently commented upon so far. Our knowledge of the trauma caused to the communities thus secluded, now identified as Denotified Nomadic Communities, is still shrouded in either the ignorance stemming from our class-caste positions or alternately in anger arising out of the activist skepticism of composed histories. This lecture will attempt to place the record straight and propose a possible historiography for the colonial frameworks of legal-social classifications.

14th February 2013 (Thursday)

7. 1800 hrs – ‘Changing Urbanscapes and Emerging Ritual Spheres’ – Panel discussion by Sanjay Nirupam and Kirti Azad at Auditorium; C.V. Mess IGNC

The panel discussion focuses on issues of displacement and migration from Bihar and Eastern U.P. to cities like Mumbai and Delhi. Role of rituals such as Chhath Puja through which migrants construct and articulate their identities will be discussed in detail. Both Shri Sanjay Nirupam and Shri Kirti Azad have been responsible for making this ritual a mass festival celebrating and asserting a collective identity of the migrants in the two cities of Mumbai and Delhi respectively.

8. 1840 hrs – Performance of Oral Epic ‘Gatha Shobha Nayak Banjara’ at Auditorium; C.V. Mess IGNCA

The Panel Discussion is followed by a performance of ‘*Gatha Shobha Nayak Banjara*’, an oral Bhojpuri epic based on the life and adventures of Bhojpuri traders during their seasonal migration from Mithila to Nepal in the medieval period for trade. Shobha is the trader - hero of the epic. The singing of the epic is almost extinct now.

About the exhibition: *Homelands* grapples with the relationship between self and place in a world of transitory identities and contested geographies. Culled from the art collection of the British Council, the exhibition includes more than 80 works by 28 leading modern and contemporary artists, *Homelands* excavates the idea of a ‘homeland’ to reveal a rich plurality of meanings and ideas of belonging, alienation, history and memory.

The exhibition will be hosted at IGNCA, New Delhi from 22nd January to 14th February 2013. The timings of the exhibition are 11.00 am to 7.00 pm (closed on Mondays and national holidays).

Serial Number 1, 2, 3, 5, 7 and 8 are in Auditorium, C.V. Mess IGNCA , Entry at Gate Number 2 from Rajendra Prasad Road or Gate Number 1 from Janpath.

Serial Number 4, & 6 are in Lecture Room, 11 Mansingh Road opposite Raksha Bhavan near India Gate/ Andhra Pradesh Bhavan.