

## Serendipity Arts Festival 2024: Culinary Arts Highlights

This year's edition will witness an array of culinary arts events curated by **Edible Issues**. Edible Issues is a collective that focuses on fostering thought and conversations on the Indian food system.

### List of Culinary Events:

- **Who Feeds Our City?:**

This workshop, conducted by Priya Mani and curated by Edible Issues, invites participants to explore the art of designing and plating food, creating visual narratives with a focus on Goa's food systems.

- **SEEDS as living data:**

"Seeds" is an exhibition by LinYe Yuan which focuses on the concept of seeds as a form of living data. It emphasises the importance of seeds in understanding and preserving biological and cultural diversity, sustainability, and food systems. The exhibition will be followed by conversations and workshops around the exhibition.

- **Aachar Exchange // BYOP (Bring Your Own Pickle):**

A volunteer-run, community-driven initiative aimed at celebrating cultural diversity through the sharing of aachar (pickles). Participants are invited to bring their homemade or favourite store-bought pickles to taste, share, and exchange. This project emphasises the exchange of culinary traditions, microbes, and ideas related to pickling practices.

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- **Beyond the Basics: Everyday Ingredients, Extraordinary Ideas:**

This activity by Afshan Mariam explores the often-overlooked potential of everyday food ingredients and kitchen tools/elements that surround us. This interactive space encourages participants to think creatively about familiar foods, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation for their versatility and sustainability.

- **Scrap-safe: Leftover Materials:**

This activity by Khushboo Gandhi includes hands-on sessions focused on reusing common ingredients innovatively.

- **Migration and the Living Lab / Khanapados:**

This workshop by Sreejata Roy takes a deep dive into culinary exchange through food and memories within communities.

- **Gobi Manchurian & the City: Vikram Doctor – What Goa Eats:**

Discussion on what Goa eats and the culinary trends shaping its food narrative.

- **Board Games / Card Games:**

A volunteer run drop-in activity that will run through the day. It will include games like Map the Wild: A board game on wild edibles and medicinal plants of India Feeding 9 Billion and Vegetable Card Game - 2019.

- **Materials Lab:**

Workshop by Khushboo Gandhi / Go Do Good), Shaping food materials into everyday elements.

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- **Garbage-Garum:**

Workshop by Kobo Fermentery / Payal Shah, creating flavour from food scraps.

- **Re-designing Waste:**

Workshop by Eleni Michel, exploring the idea of waste through fermentation and preservation.

- **Climate Recipes:**

A performance by Srinivas Mangipudi exploring how to write your own "climate recipe".

- **Come eat with me:**

Come Eat With Me is an interdisciplinary theatre performance that delves into the complex relationship between caste and food through shared stories and a communal meal. Centred around Dalit cuisine, it begins with personal stories and oral histories from Sri Vamsi Matta's household, and the community.

These are intertwined with literature and academic discussions on caste and food, addressing themes of oppression, solidarity, grief, joy, and the resilience of the human spirit against systemic injustices.

Audience members are invited to eat together and share their own experiences related to caste and food, transforming a practice laden with caste hierarchies into an opportunity for community building. Over time, the performance has integrated into the larger anti-caste and Ambedkarite movement, expanding its scope to include stories from mythology to contemporary realities.

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- **TEXT MATTERS: THE FOOD EDITION:**

A space showcasing writing, publications and archives related to food, food cultures and histories through magazines, books, zines and archives.

- **The Visual Encyclopaedia of Indian Foods by Priya Mani:**

The Visual Encyclopaedia of Indian Foods (VEIF) Experience is an avant-garde project that transcends traditional art forms by blending visual art, culinary heritage, and interactive technology. This installation is a testament to the evolving landscape of Indian cuisine, reflecting its dynamic nature, and historical and current global influences. By immersing viewers in a multi-sensory environment, the VEIF Experience challenges conventional perceptions of the quotidian act of cooking, food in its complex systems and art, inviting audiences to explore the profound connections between culture, identity, and gastronomy.

- **Culture of Cultures:**

This curation delves into how cultural signals shape and inform our food futures, influencing decisions on the field and in the kitchen. Curated exhibits merge visual art, culinary heritage, and interactive technology, creating multi-sensory environments that challenge conventional perceptions of food systems. Workshops explore how migration, community, and societal shifts mold food cultures, while climate-focused sessions highlight biodiversity, climate commodities, and the environmental impacts on food.

This curation also examines waste as culture, reimagining edible waste into valuable materials. Future-oriented workshops emphasize innovative preservation techniques and sensory experiences. Together, these layers reveal the connections between culture, identity, and gastronomy, inviting

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participants to engage deeply with the dynamic interplay of tradition and innovation in our food futures.

- **Mock Wild Picnic:**

The MOCK WILD Picnic Series uses artificial intelligence to prototype hybrid landscapes and cuisines by grafting together complementary—but differently optimized—farming typologies.

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