

Serendipity Arts Festival 2024: Accessibility Highlights

Salil Chaturvedi's curated projects at the festival explore the powerful intersection of accessibility, art, and disability through inclusive experiences that challenge conventional narratives.

Salil Chaturvedi is an Indian writer, poet, and disability rights advocate. He is well known for his poetry, short stories, and personal essays that reflect on nature, disability, and the human experience. Chaturvedi is also recognized for his work in raising awareness about the challenges faced by people with disabilities.

List of Accessibility Events:

- **Bird Watching for the Blind**

In collaboration with Goa Bird Conservation, this unique initiative offers birdwatching sessions for the visually impaired, both outdoors and indoors. Participants will not only hear the sounds of birds but also engage with specimens through touch, allowing them to experience birdwatching in a completely different way.

This exhibition brings together artwork by artists with disabilities from around the country to adorn the walls.

- **Mural**

This multi-sensorial mural, curated with Shivangi Agarwal, explores the complex intersection of disability, time, rest, and queer realities. It invites viewers to reflect on these themes, challenging linear views of these lived experiences. By incorporating multimedia elements, the mural aims to create a space for deeper engagement and reflection.

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- **Blind Date with Friends**

Spread over three days, this project pairs neurodiverse (vision-impaired) and neurotypical individuals to experience a curated set of programs together, promoting a shared understanding of art and disability.

- **Panel Discussion: Art and Disability**

Led by Salil Chaturvedi, this panel features speakers Shivani Dhillon, Siddhant Shah, and Shivangi Agarwal, focusing on how art interacts with disability, offering fresh perspectives on inclusion and representation.

- **Jazz Trio**

Featuring visually impaired pianist Nitesh, this jazz performance showcases the creativity and talent of differently-abled artists, furthering the festival's commitment to accessibility.

- **Series of Sessions by Shivani Dhillon:** Shivani Dhillon an ex-BBC journalist, therapeutic storyteller and founder of Samvid-Stories & Beyond and Down Syndrome Support Group India, has been working extensively with kids for the last many years. She specialises in working with people with intellectual disabilities, helping them understand concepts, addressing behaviour challenges, discovering and learning emotions. Shivani also works towards reviving the traditional Indian art forms through stories. Her workshops include folktales which are weaved in the process of teaching the tribal artforms of India.

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List of workshops at SAF:

- Storytelling Sessions
- Warli Art Workshop
- Finding and Creating after walk in the woods
- Hum-Drum Music workshop with Drum Circle

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