**Culinary Arts Programming at Serendipity Arts Festival 2025**

Food has always been at the heart of Serendipity Arts Festival not only as cuisine, but as culture, memory, ecology, and resistance. Over the past ten years, the Culinary Arts programme has grown into one of the festival’s most evocative disciplines, transforming ingredients and traditions into immersive experiences that make us pause, taste, and reflect. As Serendipity Arts Festival enters its landmark tenth year, from **December 12 to 21, 2025** in **Panaji, Goa**; this year’s culinary programming looks to the future while remaining deeply rooted in memory, land, and community — peppered through festival venues like **Casa San Antonio, The Old GMC Complex, Art Park, Directorate of Accounts, Kala Academy**, and beyond. Kala Academy opens into distinct spaces—**The Foundry, The Quad, and Dinanath Mangeshkar Kala Mandir**—while The Old GMC Complex unfolds through **The Theatre, Access Village, the Old GMC Building, the Food Lab, and the Talks Corner**.

One of the most powerful projects comes from **Chef Thomas Zacharias and The Locavore**, presenting ***What Does Loss Taste Like?*** Set in the year 2100, this multi-sensory installation at the Accounts building, imagines a future where familiar ingredients and flavours slowly disappear from our tables and memories at the hands of climate collapse, cultural amnesia, and technological takeover. This exploration of loss and memory continues with a series of works curated by **Edible Issues** at the Old GMC Building. In ***Smell, Memory and Food Systems***, the invisible yet potent sense of smell, placing it in the realm of food systems, is treated as an act of remembrance and resistance, connecting us to ecosystems that have been erased or are in a state of flux.

The elements of salt, soil, and memory are also brought alive through other projects. The Gallery at Kala Academy brings forth **Prahlad Sukhtankar’s *Salt*** exploring the cultural and political history of salt along with a glimpse into the lives of people who craft them. Transcending a simplified, linear perception of salt, this sensory immersive exhibit draws attention to its complex and all encompassing spirit. Simultaneously at the Idea Park, **Odette Mascarenhas** curates ***The Culinary Odyssey of Goa***, an installation of five pods dedicated to Goan communities, punctuated with conversations between chefs and daily community thalis, celebrating the pluralism of Goa’s foodways— its ingredients, traditions, and ever evolving food culture. **Manu Chandra** at the iconic Casa San Antonio takes a more intimate path with ***Goa is a Bebinca***, a culinary showdown, turning the Goan tavern into a battleground for two generations.

Our **Food Lab Workshops** will feature trailblazing panels on ecology, tastings, lecture demonstrations, and interactive activities — all designed to deepen our understanding of food, our daily interactions with it, and its central role in our lives.

Across these projects, the Culinary Arts at SAF 2025 invites us to experience food as more than nourishment—it is story, struggle, identity, and imagination. From archives of scent to community feasts, from elemental salt to the sweetness of bebinca, this edition reminds us that what we taste is separate from how we live.

As **Mr. Sunil Kant Munjal**, Founder and Patron of Serendipity Arts, reflects:

“The culinary arts, much like visual or performing practices, are about heritage, community, and innovation. This year’s projects have been imagined from the depth of India’s regional food traditions; they also embrace contemporary expressions that reimagine how we gather, share, and remember through food. By creating a platform where chefs, researchers, and practitioners can engage with audiences, the Festival affirms the role of cuisine as an intimate and universal art form.”

Echoing this sentiment, **Smriti Rajgarhia**, Director of Serendipity Arts, further noted:

“Food has always been central to our communities, but at Serendipity we have come to see it as a powerful cultural language - one that speaks of memory, of ecology, and of belonging. In this milestone year, the Culinary Arts remind us that the act of eating together is both a reflection of our past and an invitation to imagine more sustainable and inclusive futures.”

Beyond the Core: Special Projects, Foundation Initiatives and Institutional Collaborations

Culinary Arts this year extends beyond taste and smell into questions of history, ecology, and community through a mix of **Special Projects** and **Foundation Initiatives**. Works like ***Rediscovering Lost Fish Recipes*** by **Biswajit Das and Chandan Borgohain,** and ***Culinary Cosmopolitanism through Porotta Shops of Rural and Coastal Tamil Nadu*** by **Sumaiya Mustafa**, developed through the **Food Matters Grant** at the Old GMC Building, highlight disappearing ecologies and oral traditions around rivers and cuisine. Alongside Culinary arts, the festival also has an ensemble of other disciplines such as Visual Arts, Craft, Theatre, Dance, and Music. These initiatives sit alongside the festival’s **Institutional Collaborations**, including exchanges with partners such as Pro Helvetia, Arts Centre Melbourne, The Substation, The Polish Institute and British Council, Institut français India, which expand cultures, geographies, and artistic disciplines.

**Registrations Are Now Open**

Registrations for Serendipity Arts Festival 2025 are now live! Visit the official festival website to secure your Art Pass, book your tickets, and stay updated on workshops, performances, exhibitions, and more. More programmes will be announced soon so keep checking back for updates.

**Link:** https://www.serendipityartsfestival.com/register

From the kitchen to the archive, from soil to salt, Culinary Arts at Serendipity have always been about more than taste - they are about connection, memory, and imagination. As we celebrate ten years of the festival, this edition is bigger and better than ever, expanding the table to include more voices, more traditions, and more futures of food. **Join us in Panaji, Goa, from 12–21 December 2025, to celebrate the 10th edition of Serendipity Arts Festival.**

**About Serendipity Arts Festival**

Serendipity Arts Festival transforms 300,000 square feet of iconic buildings and alternative spaces into South Asia's premier multi-disciplinary cultural platform. Spanning visual, performing, and culinary arts alongside film, live arts, and literature, the Festival challenges status quo relationships—between art and viewer, city and citizen, proscenium and audience. Working within these dialectics, we foster conversations that strengthen cultural ecosystems and create human channels spreading impact across regions and generations. Having proven that cultural placemaking can transform cities, the Festival operates as a nomadic structure designed to adapt to any city and any stage. This cultural experiment supports artistic practice while demonstrating how culture cultivates empathetic leadership, teaches kindness, and builds the foundation for a safe, healthy, and progressive society.

**Serendipity Arts**

Serendipity Arts is a not-for-profit collaborative platform based in Delhi, fostering empathy, curiosity and cross-cultural dialogue by supporting emerging artists across South Asia. The Foundation’s aim is to nurture artistic practice, promote research, and provide sustainability and education in the field of the arts. Over the past decade, Serendipity Arts has encouraged cultural heritage projects alongside contemporary art practices with extensive residencies, grants, collaborative projects, art writing initiatives and a multi-disciplinary arts festival.

**Awards & Recognition**

Serendipity Arts and its leadership have garnered significant recognition for their contributions to culture and accessibility. Mr. Sunil Kant Munjal, Founder-Patron of Serendipity Arts, was conferred the Chevalier de l'Ordre national du Mérite by the French Government, in acknowledgment of his enduring commitment to arts and culture. As the visionary behind Serendipity Arts, he continues to build bridges between heritage and innovation, connecting India with the world. The Serendipity Arts Festival has received multiple accolades, including the Cultural Impact Award at the Business Goa Lifestyle Awards 2025 for its role in shaping Goa's evolving cultural and creative landscape. The festival was also honored as Best Cultural Festival at the 8th Annual LCD Berlin Awards, reaffirming its position as a leader in cultural placemaking globally. Additionally, Serendipity Arts received the Svayam Accessibility Award 2025 in the Accessible Tourism & Culture category, recognizing its sustained efforts to create a truly inclusive, barrier-free cultural space.

**The tenth edition of Serendipity Arts Festival is set to take place in Panjim, Goa, from 12th-21st December, 2025.**