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**KOCHI  
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# SPACE FOR ENCOUNTERS

**Meetings,  
Happenings and  
Inputs  
in Art Mediation**

A collateral event of the Kochi-Muziris Biennale 2016

Workshop: 16 - 26 January 2017

Keynote Lectures: 27 January 2017

The Pavilion, Cabral Yard, Kochi

## Space for Encounters - Meetings, Happenings and Inputs in Art Mediation

A collateral event of the Kochi-Muziris Biennale, Space for Encounters - Meetings, Happenings and Inputs in Art Mediation at the Kochi-Muziris Biennale is a closed workshop and lecture on art mediation organised by the University of Applied Sciences and Arts in Lucerne at the invitation of swissnex India and Pro Helvetia – Swiss Arts Council, in collaboration with the Foundation of Contemporary Art of India (FICA) and Kochi Biennale Foundation.

Art mediation is a growing field of activity in an increasingly flourishing arts environment. The reasons for this intensified engagement is not only justified by the increasing number of exhibitions and initiatives, but much more by the desire to make the art world more accessible and for it to actively address and invite a wider range of different audiences. Along with the Biennales there have been several initiatives that aim to include groups that are unfamiliar with contemporary art. The formats invented therefore try to break with the traditional idea of art mediation with experts involved in the dissemination process. Diverse, and equally valuable approaches, encourage non-specialists to guide people through these exhibitions, using their words when explaining the art works or to reconceptualise guided tours as discussions among peers or to use performances for playful access.

The University of Applied Sciences and Arts in Lucerne does extensive research in this field and offers a Master of Arts in Art Teaching and is hence especially engaged in developing new models of art mediation which focus on the inclusion of non-experts.

### Workshop

16 - 26 January 2017, from 10.00 - 12.00 noon and 14.00 - 16.00 pm  
Kochi Biennale Foundation (1/1903, Kunnumpuram, Fort Kochi PO, Kerala 682001)

### Keynote Lectures

27 January 2017  
The Pavilion, Cabral Yard, Kochi at 16:00 pm

### Workshop: 16 - 26 January 2017

The workshop in Kochi will be led by **Lena Eriksson**, artist and lecturer, Lucerne / Basel.

**Venue:** Kochi Biennale Foundation (1/1903, Kunnumpuram, Fort Kochi PO, Kerala 682001)

**Schedule:** 16 - 19 January and 23 - 26 January 2017, 10.00-12.00 and 14.00-16.00 pm

The workshop offers insights into current models of art mediation, initiates practical engagement with possible mediation strategies developed for the context of the Kochi-Muziris Biennale, and will attempt the realisation of a tool box. With these tools the workshop participants will be able to continue to work and experiment till the end of the Biennale. Furthermore, the tool box is envisaged as a basic set of tools that can be extended and adjusted to other exhibition contexts.

The planned workshop is divided into three parts. During the workshop the tools will be tried and tested at various sites of the Biennale. On the other hand work will continue in the Atelier, which will also be accessible outside the regular hours of the workshop, developing the tools and further sharing the experiences made in using them. The aim of this first part is to develop criteria that fit the specific context of the Kochi Biennale.

Based on these insights the second part will be devoted to the development of these site specific measures. Work will also be done on the realisation of an instruction manual, easy to use, so the workshop participants will be able to go on working with these tools till the end of the Biennale and in their own contexts afterwards.

### Keynote Lectures:

**27 January 2017 The Pavilion, Cabral Yard; 16:00 pm**

The key-note speakers are arts educator and didact, **Dr Susanne Kudorfer**, and art historian, **Dr Annapurna Garimella**.

### Susanne Kudorfer

**From documenta 12 (2012) to Manifesta 11 (2016), recent debates and practices in art education**

Dr Kudorfer has worked in the field of art mediation and gallery education for about twenty years and will talk about changes and developments, current aims and projects. What does learning through artworks, artists, museums, galleries or biennales look like? And why do we want to engage audiences in personal encounters with the arts?

### Annapurna Garimella

**The Classroom, the Gallery and the Public**

Over the last twenty-five years, cultural studies, new art history and visual culture have been the organising methodologies that the academy in India has engaged to rethink contemporary social and political issues and art. Simultaneously, there has been an expansion in the number of galleries, museum programs, art fairs, biennials, and project spaces. How these domains of knowledge-making connect with each other is deeply impactful on this nascent culture industry and its participants. The talk will address the history of connections, the network of institutional actors and how ideas of an audience or a public shape this art world.

### Project Coordinators:

**Dr. Rachel Mader**, Head of Competence Center Art, Design and Public Spheres, Lucerne/Bern

**Vidya Shivadas**, Director, Foundation for Indian Contemporary Art, Delhi

**Alekha Ranjitsinh**, Education and Community Coordinator, Kochi Biennale Foundation, Kochi

Assisting Student Group: Johanna Gschwend / Luzern, Reto Lienhard / Zürich, Elia Malevez / Luzern, Stefan Tschumi / Zürich, Nicolas Witschi / Ruswil

The project is initiated by Hochschule Luzern - Design & Kunst, swissnex India, Bangalore, Kochi Biennale Foundation, Foundation for Indian Contemporary Art and Pro Helvetia – Swiss Arts Council.

Photo credit: The Pavilion, Cabral Yard, Kochi by Chandrika Grover Ralleigh.