

आर्य समाज के १५० वें वार्षिक प्रतिवेदन

ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2018



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# 1 OVERVIEW

VAST Bhutan was conceived in 1998 as a place for people to explore and share their interest in art and experiences. In 2014 VAST Bhutan officially received Civil Society Organization status under the Civil Society Authority. In recognition for VAST's service for the benefit of others and efforts developing contemporary art in Bhutan, His Majesty the King of Bhutan granted the National Order of Merit (Gold) in 2016.

VAST creates an opportunity for Bhutanese to harness their artistic energies and latent talents in art. Since it began, VAST has continued to organize art activities like weekend classes, open studios, exhibitions, festivals, workshops, and camps. These programs provide a platform for young people and artists and help prepare them to further develop their capacities.

VAST also creates a space for people to explore what it means to live well. Through various voluntary projects, VAST members cultivate empathy, responsibility, and a connection to Bhutanese cultural traditions.

VAST operates purely on the support of its individual members, patrons, and well-wishers. In particular, VAST has been fortunate to receive all time blessings and generous kidu in the form of VAST art center's space from His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck the King of Bhutan.

VAST Bhutan was founded by Asha Kama, Phurba Thinley Sherpa, Jigme Lotey, Pema Dorji and Rajesh Gurung.

BHUTANART Gallery is created by VAST Bhutan as a gateway to art and artists in Bhutan. This space is a hub for people to express, appreciate and share ideas in a creative environment.

It will have at least one event a month along with regular exhibitions from artists of all walks of life. The space will host events like art jams, film screenings, book and poetry readings, performing arts and art talks. Between events, the gallery will be an open space for all artists and the community to come together.

BHUTANART Gallery's space is sponsored by Bhutan Hotel's Private Ltd.

VAST Bhutan pursues these goals by:

- Providing art classes to the interested youth.
- Organizing art camps for youth to appreciate art and learn values.
- Initiating programmes related to community services to learn the art-of-giving.
- Facilitating the participation of young artist in national and international art exchange programmes, festivals, and exhibitions.
- Providing a place for youths with personal problems to use art as a therapy and help them develop life skills to face the challenges.

VAST Bhutan grew in its reach and influence in the Country and in 2014 became a Civil Society Organization.

# 2 VISION, MISSION and VALUES

**VISION**

*A creative Bhutanese society, nurtured for and by art, that enriches lives.*

**MISSION**

- To explore and promote contemporary art.
- To promote social values, social responsibility and life skills through art.
- To further artistic expression and appreciation.

**VALUES**

- Socially Responsible
- Excellence
- Creativity
- Empowerment
- Sustainability

## 3 KEY ACHIEVEMENT

As art ignites young minds and fuels creativity, VAST Bhutan has been keen to promote art among the youth through its various art camps and classes, offered largely for a nominal fee. VAST also offers these classes free of charge only to a small number children. Many from the most underprivileged section of Thimphu are, however, left behind. These children do not have access to any Art education, as it is not integrated into our formal education.

VAST aspires to include at least 50 underprivileged youth every year in its art program, beginning with financially challenged students from schools in Thimphu. This first program will have yearlong art classes that will end with an exhibition of artworks, and a week of art and learning exchange camp where participants will visit and interact with 25 rural students from a school of one of the poorest Dzongkhags in the country.

The afore mentioned aspiration has been able to come true thanks to the European Union Fund we were able to secure for the programs planned for two years.

VAST Bhutan carried out the Young Hearts Art classes for 50 students from 5 different local schools in Thimphu every Sunday and organized Youth Interaction through Art, winter art camp with 50 students from two central schools in Dagana.

VAST Bhutan believes that a wholesome education nurtures an individual to be a better and wiser human being, which is why the BhutanArt Gallery, a branch of VAST Bhutan, hosts the BhutanArt Club every Friday. BhutanArt Club is possibly one of the very few informal get-togethers in Bhutan where one gets to engage in intellectual, creative and emotional conversations, where artists from different forms of art background and different walks of lives come together and share ideas and experiences. A space like this validates and values a person's knowledge since VAST Bhutan's vision is creating a Bhutanese society, nurtured for and by art that enriches lives.

Asha Kama Wangdi, our founder received the "North Star Award" from the Youth during the international youth day at the National Youth Award ceremony for positively engaging so many young people in the Nation through art and social services.

VAST Bhutan is also very proud of its engagement with the community through projects like Rice Bank Project, engagement with correction centres, patients etc.

## 4 ASPIRATIONS

While celebrating the past successes, VAST Bhutan is cognizant of the rising expectations of the society to diversify its programmes and initiate creative ways of expanding the base of society that appreciates art.

The rising expectations of the society is an opportunity for VAST Bhutan to leverage on its success and experience to:

- Enhance the reach and appreciation of contemporary art in Bhutan, and in doing so, contribute to developing a reflective and introspective society;
- Use art to enhance creative and innovative abilities of the bhutanese society. Thereby, creating a foundation for a knowledge-based society;
- Use art as a medium to promote social values and social responsibilities; and
- Explore art as a vocation.

In short, VAST Bhutan aspires to continue to take art to a higher level and provide exceptional learning experience for budding artists. It hopes to expand the society that is appreciative of art, and make art as a powerful tool in enriching lives.

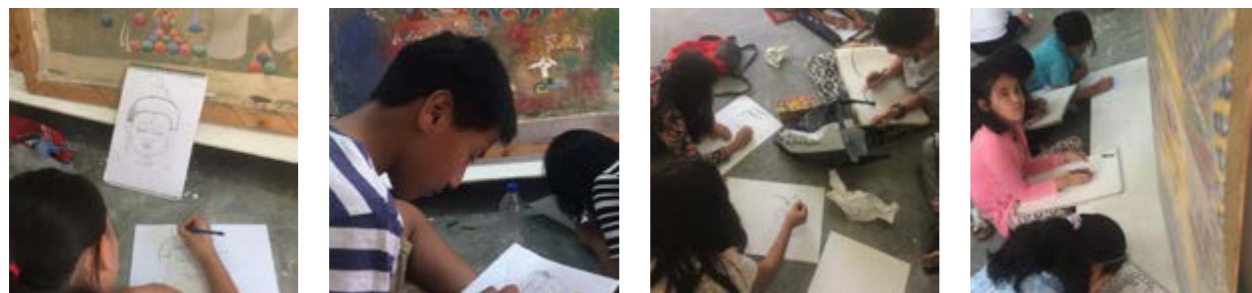
# 5 ART EDUCATION

## YOUNG HEARTS ART CLASSES

110 students

The Young Hearts Art Classes for children ages 6-12 started from the 21st of April and ended on the 30th November. Young mentors from VAST Bhutan who graduated from art colleges in India, Bnagladesh and Pakistan volunteered to spread the joy of learning art to the younger generations.

The classes took place every Saturday from 11 am till 1 pm which consisted of 55 students. This year, since VAST Bhutan was fortunate enough to ge funding to support children who were talented and interested in art from 5 different local schools, we were able to organize Sunday art classes for another 55 children, supported by the European Fund and Helvetas.



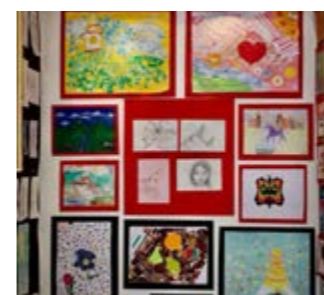
# 5 ART EDUCATION

## WINTER ART CLASSES

39 students

The winter art classes for children ages 6-12 was held from 12th December, 2017 till the 12th January 2018. 39 students from various schools were enrolled .

VAST Bhutan's young adult volunteers, who graduated from different art colleges were active mentors for the month long art classes.



# 5 ART EDUCATION

## BRAVE HEARTS ART CLASSES

# 25 students

The Brave Hearts Art Classes for adults 13 years and above started on the 21st of April and went on till 31st January, 2019. We had 25 students attending classes. In February, 2019, the Brave Hearts students had an exhibition of their year long learnings. Mr. Jampel Cheda, one of the founders of VAST Bhutan mentored the students of Brave Hearts.

The classes took place every Saturday from 2 pm to 4 pm.



# 5 ART EDUCATION

## DIY Flower Press Workshop

It was such a joy to see, teenagers and the adults enjoying the Do It Yourself (DIY) pressed flowers & plants workshop brought to you by Somay Culture Co. Ltd., Taiwan.

The DIY workshop is now offered to groups who visits VAST and wants to try their hands on a day long workshop.



# 5 ART EDUCATION

## YOUTH INTERACTION THROUGH ART

### 4 artists

The 18th edition of the Asian Art Biennale is began on 1st September 2018, and continued till 30th September, 2018 at the National Art Gallery of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Dhaka. The month-long exhibition displayed two and three dimensional artworks including painting, prints, photography, sculpture, installation, performance and new media art. There were seminars on the 2 & 3 September, 2018 with the subject 1. Art and Contemporary Narratives; 2. Art Pedagogy and Promotion. VAST Bhutan members have been participating since 2010 representing Bhutan and art in Bhutan. This year Mr. Pema Tshering, Ms. Yshi Choden, Mr. Wang Rana Gurung and Mrs. Paasang Dema, members of VAST represented the Nation with their artworks.



# 5 ART EDUCATION

## ART THERAPY "TO HEAL THE SOUL"

One of the values of what art can be prescribed for- **"To Heal The Soul"** Sketches by Wang Rana Gurung, who facilitated the Art Therapy classes at the Rehabilitation center, BNCA, Serbithang along with other members of VAST Bhutan, Passang Dema, Karma Wangchuk, Asha Kama and Bhagi Raj Gurung. Since, VAST Bhutan believes art can nurture and repair lost souls, the organisation donated the art materials to conduct these classes consisting of 18 students from the rehabilitation.



# 5 ART EDUCATION



## YOUTH INTERACTION THROUGH ART WINTER ART CAMP

This activity has been carried out from the 20th till the 29th of December 2018. Two schools from Dagana were selected with the help of the DEO; Dagana after our admin officer visited and had meetings with various schools in Dagana in September earlier this year. After scouting, two schools were selected, Dagana Central School (High School) and Samey Primary School. There were 17 students from Dagana Central School, 15 students from Samey Primary School and 18 students from our Young Hearts weekend art class, VAST Bhutan.

10 art mentors and 22 young adult volunteers from VAST Bhutan also attended the camp. The 22 volunteers were all active members of VAST Bhutan, who are proactive in all our social community projects and are eager learners and contributors towards building a creative society. These 22 volunteers were all funded by VAST Bhutan during this camp.

We, at VAST believe that young adults who are involved in such ventures have so much to offer and learn from each other and elders, eventually shaping them to be civil citizens in this world.



# 5 ART EDUCATION

## LIVE SKETCH ERWIN LIAN

In collaboration with Drukasia, Erwin conducts Sketch Bhutan every year. Similar to last year, participants from Australia and Singapore joined him on an all-inclusive sketching tour to Bhutan. Within 7 days, they learned about sketching and painting on-site while touring Bhutan. Erwin along with his students conducts live sketch class with VAST Bhutan's members.





## 5 ART EDUCATION

### ART JAM

Art brings people together.

We had the most wonderful time, cooking and hosting the art jam for our dear artists friends from Bangladesh on the 10th of April. It was a great learning experience for our young artists to interact with renowned artists.

24 students from the University of Alternative Development, Dhakha lead by Prof. Shahjahan Ahmed Bikash, Chairman of the Faculty of Fine Arts, were here in Bhutan from 8 till 11 April. We had the opportunity to share ideas and learn different ideas and techniques in creating artworks.



## 6 PHILANTHROPIC ART

### ART OF GIVING

We at VAST believe that the way one lives can be a work of art. Through a variety of philanthropic activities, VAST fosters a sense of community, and seeks to improve the world around us however we can. Rather than seeing art as primarily an individualistic pursuit, we believe in the importance of community, a value rooted in Bhutanese culture. Beyond art, VAST brings its members together to collectively improve our society through volunteer work. Current projects include The Art of Giving, Make a Wish, and Rice Bank. Each of the projects seeks to build bridges between rural and urban Bhutan and to tangibly improve lives. To raise fund to smoothly operate these projects, VAST Bhutan organizes "Art of Giving" night annually where all artists and supporters donate artworks or artefacts where we hold a silent auction and fund raise for our philanthropic art projects.

This year the Art of Giving Night was held on 27th January to fundraise for our Rice Bank Project. We are forever grateful to all our well wishers, donors and buyers.



# 6 PHILANTHROPIC ART

## VOLUNTEERISM TARAYANA FAIR

# 20 volunteers

VAST Bhutan's 20 members volunteered in raising fund for Tarayana's amazing works by facepainting during their annual fair.



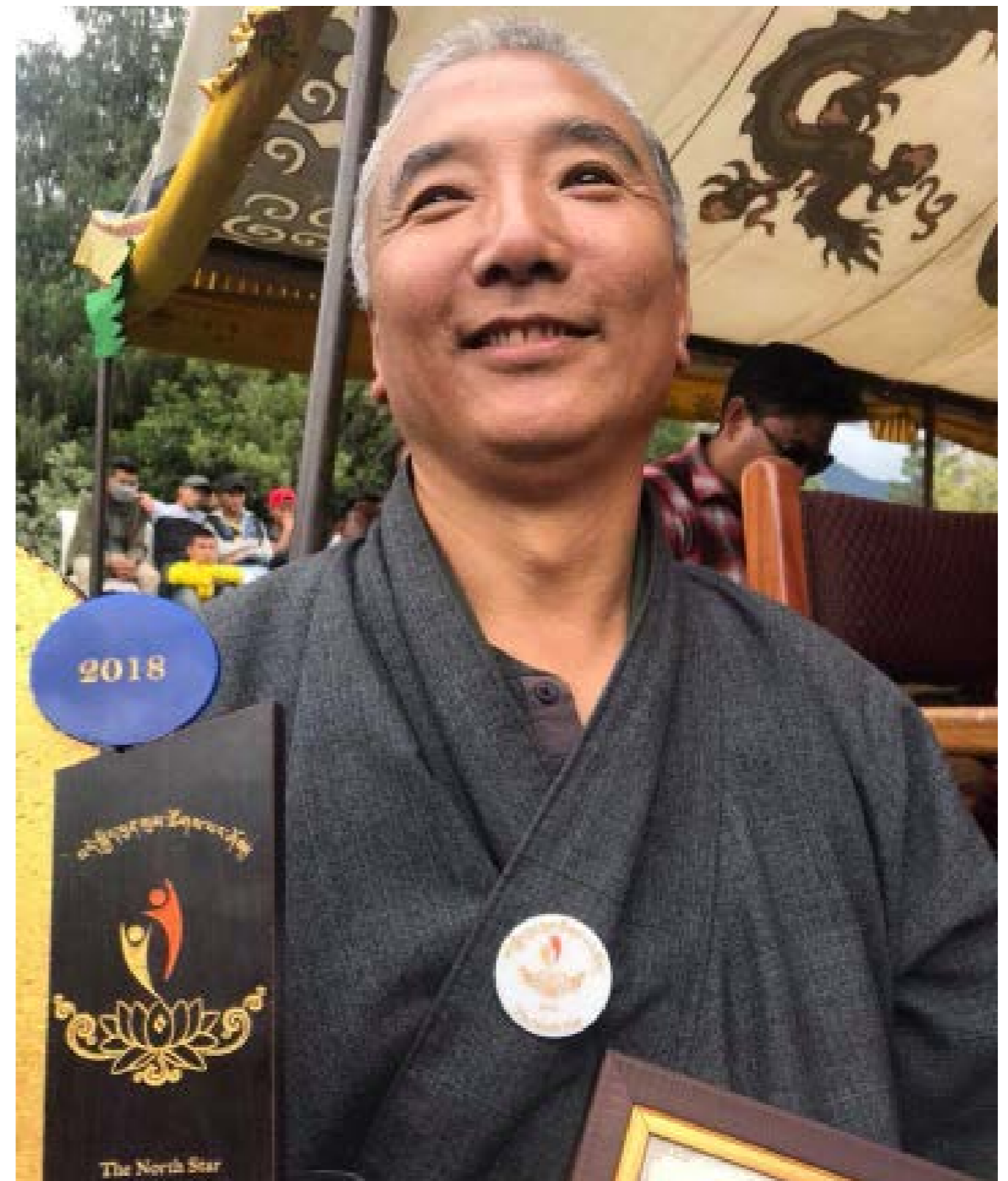
# 6 PHILANTHROPIC ART

## THE NORTH STAR

Asha Kama, our founder received the North Star Award from the Youth during the international youth day at the National Youth Award ceremony.

"Be What You Want to Be"

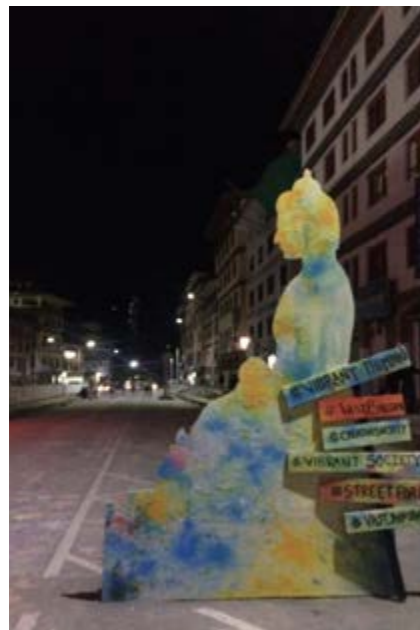
We would also like to take this opportunity to applaud the hard work put in by the Youth Caring Community and Nazhoen Lamtoen for initiating & coordinating the National Youth Award.



# 6 PHILANTHROPIC ART

## THIMPHU STREET FESTIVAL

Thimphu street festival, where families and friends came together to celebrate a colorful weekend together. VAST Bhutan members organized a Norzin Lam street painting program and live painting during the Thimphu Tshechu (19th, 20th and 21st of September). The festival was brought together by the Thimphu Thromde to bring together all creative people in the city.



# 6 PHILANTHROPIC ART

## BhutanArt Club for Nurturing a Creative Society

Every Friday at 5pm, curious people walk into the BhutanArt Gallery for inspiration.

Bhutan Art Gallery, a branch of VAST Bhutan, functions as an exhibition space with occasional live paintings. However, the most admired event would be the BhutanArt Club hosted every Friday by Ms. Karzin Choden, the Gallery Manager.

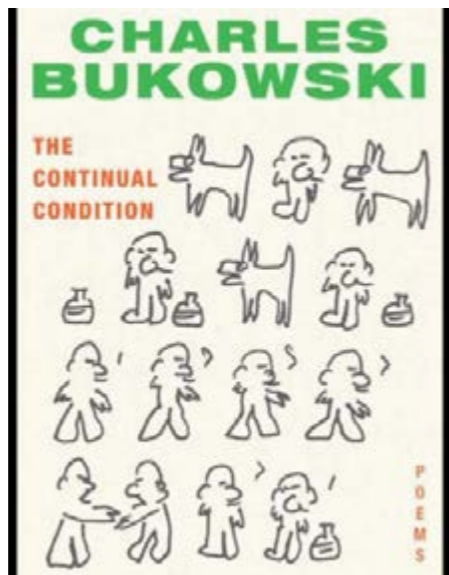
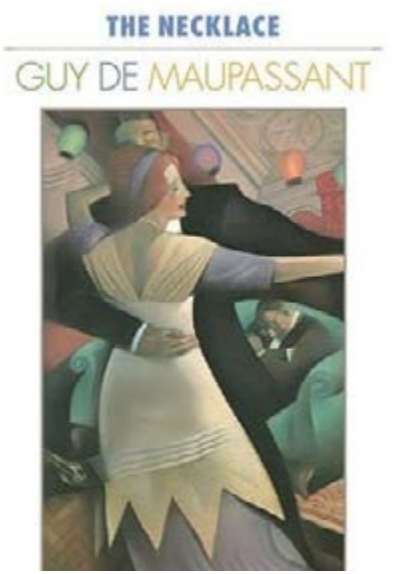
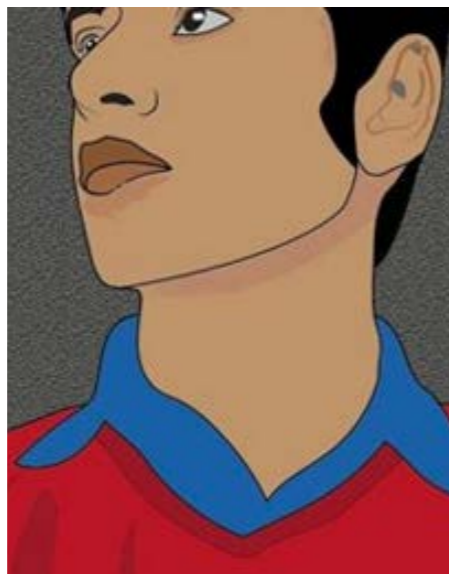
It originally began under the advisory of Azha Kama (Founder of VAST) and Mrs. Chimi Zangmo (Executive Director of VAST) that the space be used for creative buzz. Karzin being a bibliographer continued her college experience and started a Reading Club. The name soon changed to BhutanArt club. She invited guest speakers of different creative fields to share their knowledge and on other times; renowned literature and films were discussed. With little budget- since VAST itself is a Civil Society Organization- and sometimes sponsored by regular club members, tea and snacks is served. What started as a small reading club now has had 29 guest speakers (4 international guests, our local writers, filmmakers, painters, dancers, musicians, models, poets, designers, bloggers, inspirational stories by the people who conquered their demons) and have done 40+ reading, short films, crafting and poetry sessions.

BhutanArt Club is possibly one of the very few informal get-togethers in Bhutan where one gets to engage in intellectual, creative and emotional conversations. Karzin says there's a lot of brain drain happening in our society today and huge rate of mental illness being reported. She believes people must come out of their shell and be heard. A space like this is able to validate and value a person's knowledge since VAST Bhutan's vision is creating a Bhutanese society, nurtured for and by art that enriches lives.



# 6 PHILANTHROPIC ART

## FRIDAY BHUTANART CLUB

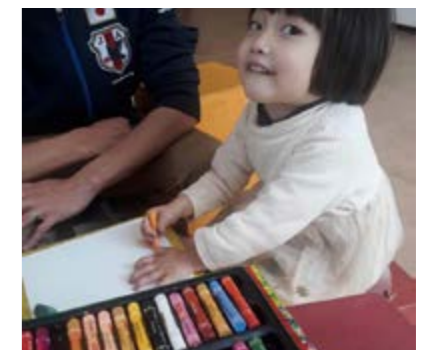


# 7 ART SERVICES

## PIGS CAN FLY

Drukair in collaboration with VAST Bhutan organized an art competition for children ages 6 - 12. There were 240 entries within 14th to 24th May. The top 20 were awarded cash prizes and the chance to have their artworks printed in the 2019 DrukAir calendar. Our immense gratitude to Drukair for recognizing the need to encourage creativity and supporting our vision to nurture a creative society.

Always such a great feeling to see so many children showing interest in art and a greater feeling to see supportive parents and teachers.



# 7 ART SERVICES

## 50 YEARS of INDIA-BHUTAN FRIENDSHIP

ICCR & VAST Bhutan celebrated the 111th National Day of Bhutan- "50 years of India & Bhutan friendship"

The exhibition by 34 contemporary Bhutanese artists was inaugurated by His Excellency Jaideep Sarkar, Ambassador, India.

The exhibition was open for public viewing at the Nehru Wangchuk Cultural Center, Thimphu.

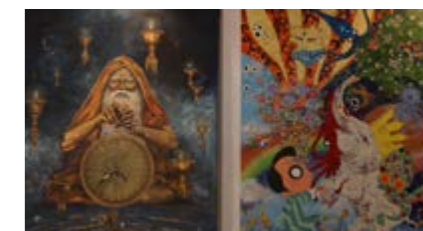
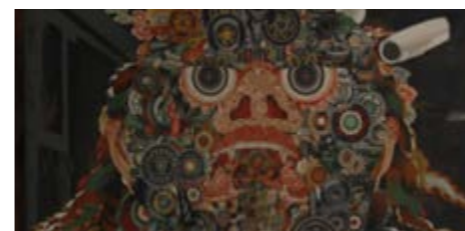


# 7 ART SERVICES

## EXHIBITION POWER

# 89 participants

A Contemporary Art Competition, organized by VAST Bhutan and Sponsored by Royal Textile Academy. 89 participants painted their creative perspectives on "Power". Mr. Gyempo Wangchuk, Mrs. Choney Pelzang and Mr. Pema Wangyel were humble winners of the competition. The modern art competition is VAST Bhutan's continued effort to provide platform for artists to showcase their thought process on canvas. The end product, the paintings itself is not the end. We at VAST Bhutan truly believe that organising such event will help nurture artistic minds and play our role in nurturing a creative society.



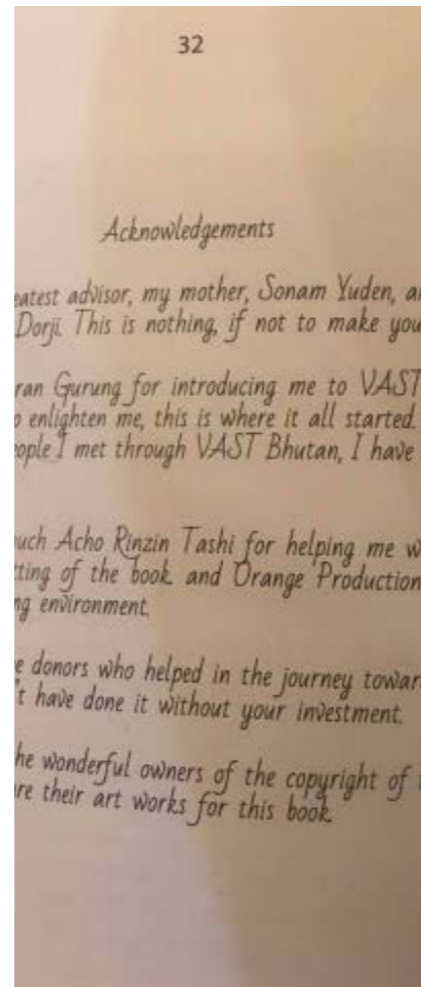
# 7 ART SERVICES

## IMPRESSIONS Poet paints Words

Ms. Kezang Dechen Choden for her successful launch of the "Impressions" - poet paints words at VAST Bhutan on 26th August.

Young people like Ms. Kezang, reinforces us at VAST to keep nurturing and supporting talent and creativity.

We are always grateful to the Parents who "Let Them Be , What They Want To Be"



# 7 ART SERVICES

## EXHIBITION COLOURS OF LOVE

To promote and explore the world of contemporary art in the country and to celebrate the friendship between Bhutan and Singapore, more than 30 paintings were exhibited in Thimphu on May 5.

Themed 'colours of love', the exhibition showcased works of 16 Singaporean artists from Aspiration Fine Arts, and nine artists from Voluntary Artist's Studio, Thimphu Bhutan (VAST).

HRH Princess Dechen Yangzom Wangchuck inaugurated the exhibition that VAST in collaboration with Drukpa Singapore organised.

The art works were open to public throughout May at the Bhutan art gallery



# 7 ART SERVICES

## BHUTAN WEEK - DELHI

The Bhutanweek in India concluded on 30th September, at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi.

The VAST team there in Delhi represented the Contemporary Bhutanese Artists so well and engaged the children in the art competition “Yehdosti” .

We would also like to congratulate all artists whose art works were selected for the “Enduring Friendship” Art Exhibition.

We would like to thank the National Coordinating team of the Bhutan Week in India ( Royal Bhutanese Embassy , New Delhi & Department of Culture) for giving VAST Bhutan the opportunity to showcase contemporary art and also demonstrate how art can engage people.



# 7 ART SERVICES

## EXHIBITION PHOTOGRAPHY

Co-organized Taiwan Wedding Photography Exhibition displaying photos ranging from 1950's to 2018.



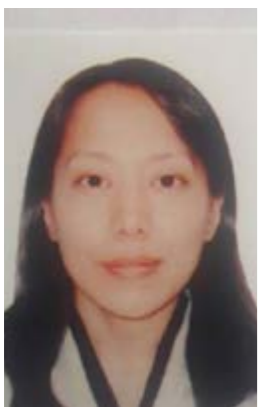
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Jampel Cheda  
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Karma Wangchuk  
 Artist/Filmmaker  
 VAST Bhutan



Sukbir Bishwa  
 Artist  
 Art Yantra



Karma Doma Tshering  
 Principal  
 ELC



Passang Dema  
 IT Officer  
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Kuenga Zam  
 Deputy Cheif ICT Officer  
 RCSC



Tshering Yangchen  
 Meraki by Yangchen