



V A S T B h u t a n

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FOREWORD



Asha Kama and I are very happy to report to you on yet another successful creative and productive year for VAST.

VAST continues to nurture the creative talents of our youth. Our talented members today showcase their works not only in Bhutan but abroad.

While we carry our work with vigor and determination, we also remain grateful to our patrons, members and supporters for their time and resources.

The VAST family considers itself very 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.

More recently, the support of a rent-free space in the core of Thimphu city from Bhutan Hotels Private Ltd (BHPL), the holding company of Le Meridien Thimphu, has led to the birth of BHUTANART Gallery.

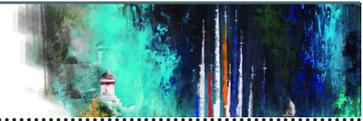
Conceived as a hub for people to discover, express, appreciate and share ideas in a creative environment, BHUTANART Gallery has become a gateway to art and artists in Bhutan.

The VAST family greatly values and cherishes the support that we receive from our patrons, members and supporters. It is this support that invigorates us to work with greater determination to provide a platform for Bhutanese youth and art enthusiasts to nurture and develop their full artistic potential.

Azha Kama and I take this opportunity to thank all our supporters for their unstinted support. In gratitude, we wish you and your family a very happy and productive 2018.

Tashi Delek

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.

VISION, MISSION and VALUES

VISION

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

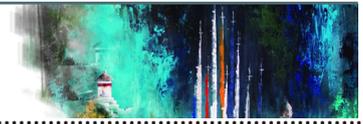
MISSION

- 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

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



VAST Bhutan has been serving actively in promoting the contemporary art in the country. It has inspired many young people not only in developing their artistic talents but also inculcating the spirit of volunteerism.

It has been offering art education through art camps, art classes and workshops primarily to the young people with some mix of programmes that caters to adults. The results of these endeavors are various artistic shows that are staged to display their artistic skills and abilities to communicate national issues through artworks - such as importance of environment conservation, raising awareness on drugs, socio-economic impact of development projects. Some of the artists have even ventured on their own and established independent art studios.

Its service has extended to local, national and international artists by way of organizing art exhibitions, art festivals and exchange programmes. Additionally, opportunities have been provided for aspiring Bhutanese artists to learn from international experience and exhibit their art on international platform. It has resulted in mutual exchange of ideas and experiences in promoting contemporary art.

VAST Bhutan has been supporting the community's love of art and has offered services in generating artworks to individuals and organizations through commissioned works.

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

Through these initiatives, VAST Bhutan has been able to reinforce values of giving to the community among its aspiring artists and members.

ASPIRATIONS

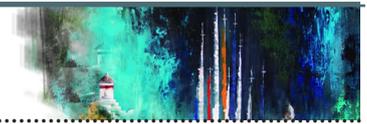
While celebrating the past successes, VAST Bhutan is cognizant of the rising expectations of the society to diversify its programmes and initiate creative ways of expanding the base of society that appreciates art.

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.

ART EDUCATION



YOUNG HEARTS ART CLASSES

78 students

The Young Hearts Art Classes for children ages 6-12 started on the 1st of April to 30th November. Young mentors from VAST Bhutan who graduated from art colleges in India volunteered to spread the joy of learning art to the younger generations.

The classes took place every Saturday in two batches, 1pm to 3pm and 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm.

We engaged a number of 78 children during the weekend art classes.



ART EDUCATION

BRAVE HEARTS ART CLASSES

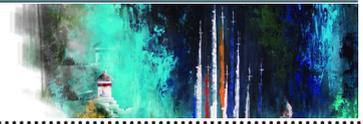
32 students

The Brave Hearts Art Classes for adults 13 years and above started on the 1st of April and went on till 31st January, 2018. We had 32 students attending classes. In February, 2018, 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 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm.



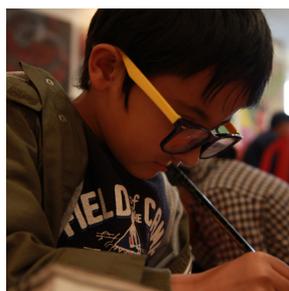
ART EDUCATION



WINTER ART CLASSES

73 students

Winter Art Classes for your children started. We had 73 young students from ages 6-12 attending creative art classes from 12th – Feb 3rd during their winter break, keeping them occupied with fun filled activities and lessons, nurturing them towards a creative society.



ART EDUCATION

YOUTH INTERACTION THROUGH ART

42 students

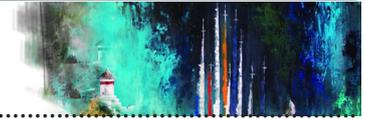
Visual Interaction Art Training Camp was held in Tashi Yangtse with the theme “Youth Interaction Through Art” . From 20th December to 28th December with the financial support from Department of Information and Media (DoIM) under the Ministry of Informations and communication. The purpose of conducting this Winter Youth Art Camp is to engage our youth in socially productive works during their vacation. A total of 42 children participated.

VAST Bhutan’s Team: Camp Director: Jimmey Dorjee (Founder of Vast Yangtse)

Art Mentors: Pema Gyeltshen & Monjit Nepal (Artists/volunteers, VAST Bhutan)



ART EDUCATION



ART TALKS MONIRUL ISLAM

The Bhutanese artists were obliged to have had the opportunity to sit in for a presentation and talk by eminent artist, Monirul Islam. He works on diverse media, including print, etching, watercolour, acrylic and oil both at home and abroad. The artist has been living in Spain for several decades.

The artist's nostalgic childhood days had a great influence on his being an artist. While he was at the College of Art and Crafts (now Faculty of Fine Art of Dhaka University) in 1961, he would complete 4/5 watercolours in a day. Hundreds of watercolours are kept preserved in his drawers till date.



ART EDUCATION

ART TALKS

JON KOLKIN

“Practical strategies for creating a compelling body of work”

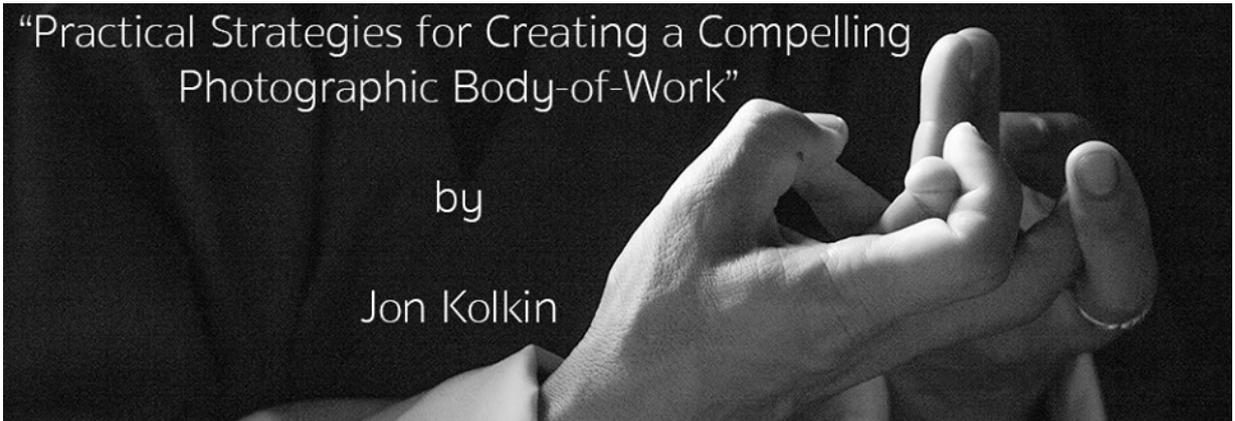
Mr. Jon Kolkin was kind enough to spare his time to give a talk on his expertise on photography to all interested photographers, videographers and artists at VAST bhutan gallery on 24th May. The talk was on the topic “Practical Strategies for Creating a Compelling Photographic Body-of-Work” It was indeed an opportunity to gain knowledge on techniques and technologies in this digital age.



“Practical Strategies for Creating a Compelling
Photographic Body-of-Work”

by

Jon Kolkin



ART EDUCATION



WORKSHOP TALITHA BALAN "Taming Colours"

A workshop on colours titled "Taming colours" was conducted by Mrs. Talitha Balan from Australia for a period of two weeks at the VAST Bhutan studio. 10 students from Choki traditional art school and 10 students from VAST Bhutan attended this brilliant workshop.



ART EDUCATION

LIVE SKETCH ERWIN LIAN "KEEPING IT REAL"

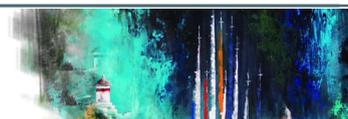
Erwin from Singapore along with his 10 student artists came together with one of our founders and active mentors, Mr. Jampel Cheda and VAST student artists to experience a LiveSketch Experience workshop in VAST Bhutan gallery.



Portrait
drawing
at
VAST Bhutan
17 June
with
Erwin & Rajesh



PHILANTHROPIC ART



4TH RICE BANK

30 volunteers

The Rice Bank project initiative is one of the platforms towards positive youth development. It gives our young members, artists and volunteers to exercise their responsibilities as good citizens in the wake of being a greater Bhutanese family who believes that “no one deserves to go hungry.”

We can truly succeed when each and every family in Bhutan has enough rice to eat, and a chance to contribute to society.

With the guidance and blessings of village elders, Tsogpas and gup of Kabji Gewog, Punakha Dzongkhag, VAST-Bhutan, along with the sponsors and volunteers worked very hard to start yet another Rice Bank.

Volunteers from VAST Bhutan, headed towards Rangrikha, Punakha for the 4th cycle of the Rice Bank Project from 4th to 14th July, where 22 students from National Geographic Student Expeditions and 4 coordinators, joined our VAST Boys and Girls at Rangrikha, Punakha for the Rice plantation.



PHILANTHROPIC ART



20 volunteers

VOLUNTEERISM TARAYANA FAIR

Tarayana Foundation has touched the lives of the poorest of the poor in Bhutan. VAST Bhutan's 20 members volunteered in raising fund for Tarayana's amazing works by facepainting during their annual fair. This year Tarayana also had a photography exhibition on their works through out Bhutan in the VAST Bhutan gallery titled "Celebrating Partnerships " from 28th April till the 30th June.



PHILANTHROPIC ART

VOLUNTEERISM THALING GOENPA

30 volunteers

VAST Bhutan volunteers painted the Lhakhang in Thaling Goenpa in Punakha. VAST strives and strongly believes in keeping the spirit of volunteerism alive. Gearing hard but with so much passion towards a creative society.



ART SERVICES



EXHIBITIONS

VOICE OF THE THUNDER DRAGON

Voice of the Thunder Dragon - is the first group exhibition of Bhutanese Contemporary Artists in U.S.A, curated by Maxwell S. Joseph, it presents four visual artists who are pioneering artists in Bhutan. Artists Azha Kama, Pema Tshering aka Tintin, Phurba Namgay and Gyempo Wangchuk's diverse practices offer unique insights into the Himalayan Kingdom's careful engagement with westernization. The exhibition was held till 31st March.



ART SERVICES

EXHIBITION WARRIORS

Two souls , two minds merge to create solo art pieces. “ Warriors “ was a successful solo exhibition by the TWINZ, Tashi and Ugyen held from May 4th - 14th .



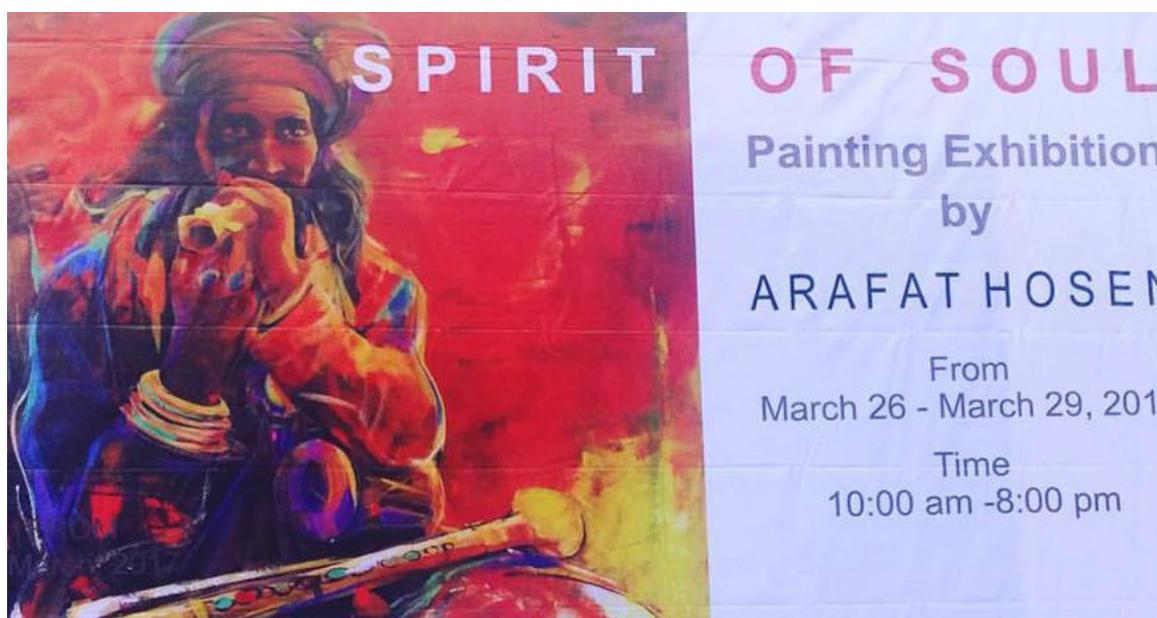
ART SERVICES



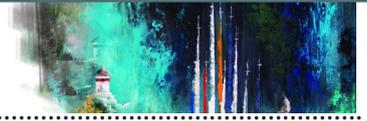
EXHIBITIONS

Spirit of Soul "BAUL"

Bangladesh ambassador, Mr. Jishnu Roy Choudhary graced the opening of Spirit of Soul by Arafat Hosen, his subject, BAUL (mystic musician) and its spiritual appeal. This was Mr. Arafat's first visit to Bhutan and spent a week interacting with young Bhutanese artists.



ART SERVICES



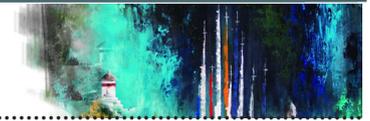
12 artists

EXHIBITION TRIBUTE TO MOTHERLAND

“Tribute to Motherland” a group exhibition by artists of Bhutan in celebration of the 110th National Day. A collaboration between Nehru Wangchuck Cultural Center and VAST Bhutan. The exhibition was held at the Siddhartha gallery at NWCC, Thimphu.



ART SERVICES



EXHIBITIONS

FATHER OF THE NATION

Bangladesh Embassy Bhutan in collaboration with VAST Bhutan celebrated the birth anniversary of the “Father of the Nation” Sheikh Mujibur Rehman by holding an art competition for children under 18 and below on the 12th of March. An exhibition of the competition was also organized. The prize awarding ceremony was held on the 17th of March, the occasion was graced by the Minister of Home and Culture, Lyonpo Dawa Gyeltshen and other dignitaries.



ART SERVICES

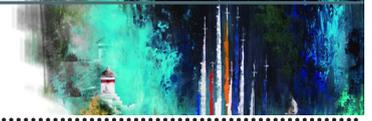
EXHIBITIONS PATTERNS OF HAPPINESS

87 participants

Mr. Tshewang Darjay was the Winner of the People's Choice Award, (With 280 stickers) from the "Patterns of Happiness", a Contemporary Art Competition, organized by VAST Bhutan and Sponsored by Royal Textile Academy. Among the 87 participants, Mrs. Passang Dema, Ms. Kunzang Wangmo and Mr. Gyempo Wangchuk were humble winners of the competition. They were all awarded cash prizes and certificates on the 31st of October.



ART SERVICES



EXHIBITIONS HER EXPRESSION IV

92 participants

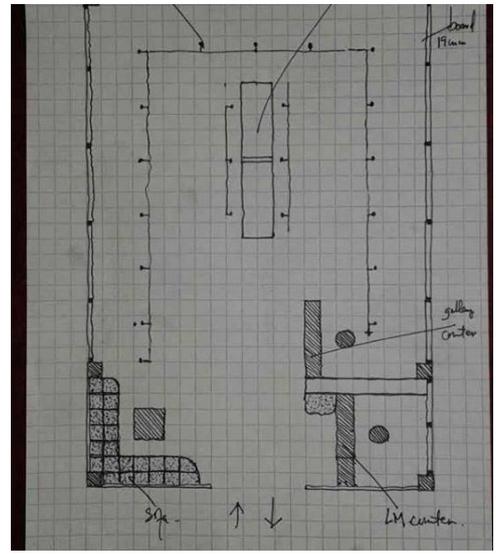
Her Expression IV, an annual event of VAST Bhutan since 2014 was inaugurated in the Bhutan Art Gallery and VAST Bhutan centre. 92 female artists participated in this exhibition from Bhutan. The youngest female artists were 4.5 and 5 years old. 4 female traditional clay sculptors also exhibited their works for the first time during the exhibition. The exhibition was held from 29th October - 25th November at the VAST Bhutan centre and the BhutanArt Gallery.



OTHER EVENTS

BHUTAN ART GALLERY OPENING JULY 3rd

VAST BhutanArt Gallery officially opened after the volunteers of VAST Bhutan worked tirelessly for days. We pay our immense gratitude to Bhutan Hotel Ltd. for providing us the space at the Le Meridien complex, Thimphu.



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