

## The 'Communities of Choice', an India-UK exhibit at the Kochi Biennale 2022 opens on 13 Dec

- o *Featured exhibit for the ongoing India/UK Together, Season of Culture, British Council's landmark programme to mark India's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary*
- o *Collaboration between Chennai Photo Biennale Foundation, India and Ffotogallery, Wales*
- o *Showcase by emerging multidisciplinary artists examining identity and inclusion using lens-based artworks*

**13 December 2022:** CPB Foundation, India, in collaboration with Ffotogallery, Wales, with the support of British Council are thrilled to announce the exhibition titled *Communities of Choice*, as part of the ongoing India/UK Together, a Season of Culture – a landmark programme that uses art to address, and create awareness for shared global challenges, including inclusion.

The exhibition that will be opening at the Kochi-Muziris Biennale 2022 aims to use the expressions of emerging artists from India and Wales to create and develop bodies of work that express their views and opinions about belonging and inclusions. The showcases would explore themes like gender, disability, politics, constructs of race/caste, identity and sustainable communities.

The India-Wales connection was established in 2018 with the stupendous support of the British Council via the Imagining the Nation State Grant that grew into a fantastic partnership that invited artists to rethink our notions of community, collective responsibility and care and express their creativity through lens-based artwork. The showcase brings together the works of Imagining the Nation State Grant from phase 1 of this collaboration and the Communities of Choice from phase 2 of the India-Wales collaborative programme.

The exhibition would include works by Dipanwita Saha (India), Gareth Wyn Owen (Wales), Huw Alden Davies (Wales), Kashish Kochhar (India), Paribartana Mohanty (India), Palani Kumar (India), Rishi Kochhar (India), Sebastian Bustamante (Wales), Susan Matthews and Tessa Holly (Wales) and Tarun Bhartiya (India)

“Communities of Choice is one of those eye-catching exhibitions that celebrates the unique artistic expressions of two diverse and equally beautiful cultures, India and the United Kingdom, and it's a must see for the audience. We are thrilled that this creative exhibit is a part of the India/UK Together, a Season of Culture, which celebrates our two countries' friendship and is poised to shape some of the most important issues of today's world, particularly equality and inclusion. It is wonderful how the CPB Foundation (India) and Ffotogallery Wales (UK) have joined forces to explore lens-based art as a shared language across India/UK borders, empowering emerging artists while also providing them with the unique experience of creating a global network.” - **Janaka Pushpanathan, Director South India, British Council,**

“CPB Foundation's partnership with Ffotogallery, and this India-Wales connection was made possible by the support of the British Council in 2019. This partnership has grown into a beautiful exchange of artistic projects over this period that has established the organisations and the artists into a community of our own. The theme and the artist projects are reflections and positions on identity, community and belonging in the current socio-political contexts across the two countries and we are thrilled to have this opportunity to show the works of 10 Indian and Welsh artists on the theme 'Communities of Choice', an invited showcase at the Kochi Biennale this year.” - **Shuchi Kapoor, Co-Founder & Director, CPB Foundation, India**

“Ffotogallery is delighted to be continuing its partnership with CPB Foundation in the Communities of Choice project. We hope that the connections and networks we build through this programme will continue and further develop into sustainable cultural exchange and collaboration between creatives in Wales and India in the future.” - **Siân Addicot, Director, Ffotogallery Wales**



The exhibition is part of the invitations program of the Kochi Muziris Biennale 2022 and will remain open until 10 April 2023.

For more information on the artists and exhibition visit [website](#)

Click [here](#) to access the artist's work images and their bios.

Click [here](#) to get a glimpse of our preview and inauguration.

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**About India/UK Together, a Season of Culture**

India/UK Together, a Season of Culture, is a year-long celebration of the long-standing relationship between India and the UK. Marking India's 75th anniversary, it will see a vast programme of creative collaboration, education and cultural exchange take place online, and in cities across both countries. Working with a number of partners and institutions in the field of Arts, Education and English, the British Council is developing a programme of cultural activity which will bring together people in both countries, raise awareness around key real-world issues, and strengthen and celebrate the UK and India's educational and cultural ties. For more information on India/UK Together, a Season of Culture, please visit [www.britishcouncil.in](http://www.britishcouncil.in)

**About CPB Foundation, India**

[The CPB Foundation](#) was formed in 2018 in response to the growing need for educational and collaboration opportunities in the field of visual, specifically photography and lens-based art. [CPB Prism](#) (student education wing), [CPB Learning Lab](#) (photobook library, artist talks, workshops, analogue practices), [CPBx](#) (residencies, grants, collaborative projects), and the [Chennai Photo Biennale](#) (international photography festival) are the wings catering to diverse arts loving audiences.

**About Ffotogallery, Wales**

Since its formation in 1978, Ffotogallery has been at the forefront of new developments in photography and lens-based media in Wales and beyond, encouraging public understanding of and deeper engagement with photography and its value to society.



### **About the British Council**

The British Council is the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. We support peace and prosperity by building connections, understanding and trust between people in the UK and countries worldwide. We do this through our work in arts and culture, education, and the English language. We work with people in over 200 countries and territories and are on the ground in more than 100 countries. In 2021–22 we reached 650 million people. [www.britishcouncil.org](http://www.britishcouncil.org)