



*presents*

*in collaboration with*



# Arts of Indian Tribes

*(Gond, Bhil, Warli, Madhubani etc.)*

*from 1<sup>st</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2020*

## *Featuring Artists*

Anita Balu Mhase

Anita Shyam

Geeta Bhairya

Jyoti Uikey

Rajesh Mor

Ram Bai Tekam

Renu Devi

Rita Shyam

Suresh Kumar

Yashpal Baranda





Kiran Soni Gupta  
IAS  
Director General, JKK

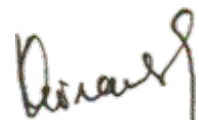
### Message

Jawahar Kala Kendra Jaipur is delighted to bring the exhibition - *Arts of Indian Tribes* from 1<sup>st</sup> June till 15th June 2020 to celebrate the art and aesthetics of tribes of India. Jawahar Kala Kendra is bringing this virtual exhibition in collaboration with *Craft and Community Development Foundation* New Delhi. The exhibition includes a wide array of tribal arts including Gond, Bhil, Warli and Madhubani.

This virtual exhibition is being brought to you in exceptional times the humanity is facing. I am sure this exhibition while paying a rich tribute to tribal community will spread joy, happiness, inspiration and positivity.

We at JKK believe that this endeavor will offer a very special experience to the artists, connoisseurs and online viewers to learn and enjoy the multi-disciplinary facets of the art, culture and heritage legacy of Indian Tribes.

I congratulate all the participating artists and my special thanks to Mr. Sandeep Bhandari from *Craft and Community Development Foundation New Delhi* for collaborating with us for this virtual exhibition. I am sure such collaborations working towards propagation of tribal arts will add to richness and diversity of Indian culture. I also hope this show will inspire many more to take to share art and culture through online platforms.



Kiran Soni Gupta, IAS



Craft and Community Development Foundation (CCDF) is a registered not for profit social entity set up with the aim to support and fund projects that enhance livelihood for communities focused on the art and crafts sector. The Foundation takes up projects for upskilling artisans by introducing new concepts and design, keeping intact the authenticity of their art and help connecting them to new markets.





***Manjur - the peacock***

***Medium - Acrylic on canvas***

***Artist - Suresh Kumar***

***Style - Gond***

***Size - 36x48 in.***

The painting narrates the tale of Manjur - the peacock who is invited by king Madhu to perform a dance that delights rain gods and brings a plenteous harvest for the kingdom.



***Birds***

***Medium - Acrylic on canvas***

***Artist - Rita Shyam***

***Style - Gond***

***Size - 36x48 In***

This Painting narrates a contemporary theme of birds in an embedded expression. The intrinsic details and repetitive patterns come alive in the gondi style. Birds symbolize freedom which is also believed as eternal life, the link between heaven and earth.



### ***Jellyfish***

***Medium - Acrylic on canvas***

***Artist - Anita Shyam***

***Style - Gond***

***Size - 36x48 In***

This painting depicts a Jellyfish in gondi style. Jellyfish has long tentacles and other short ones. These tentacles contain venom, which is used to kill their prey. Even after they die, their tentacles stay poisonous.

### ***Belavat Kanya***

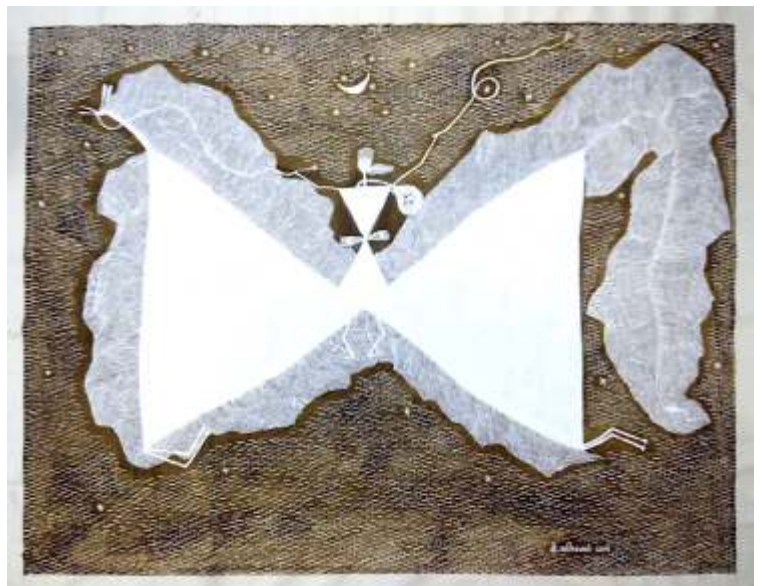
***Medium - Acrylic and cow dung on cloth***

***Artist - Anita Balu Mhase***

***Style - Warli***

***Size - 48x36 In***

This folklore illustrates the story of a princess called Bael Kanya, which means a fruit girl. The girl falls in love with passing by prince. One night in the forest girl goes to fetch water for the parched prince, but instead gets trapped inside a bael fruit. The prince unable to realize her absence, gets helped by a bird to find the missing girl. The bird carries the prince on her back and then he uses his sword to split open the fruit and thus releases his princess to fly back her home.



**Holi Rituals**  
**Medium - Acrylic on canvas**  
**Artist - Geeta Bhairya**  
**Style - Bhil**  
**Size - 36x36 In**

This folklore narrates the rituals of bhil tribe during the festival of Holi. In this painting, the bhils are celebrating Holi in a local fair in which the head of the tribe offers prayers to the galbassa which is used to offer sacrifices to the many gods and mud idols for good health and wellbeing of the community.



**Tarpa Dance**  
**Medium - Acrylic and cow dung on cloth**  
**Artist - Rajesh Mor**  
**Style - Warli**  
**Size - 48x36 In**

This painting depicts a narrative of Tarpa Dance. The musician plays on a wind instrument, which is known as the tarpa. This dance is generally performed during their festival of harvest. It is a joyous occasion for them and they celebrate the event by performing their favorite dance from tarpa where dancers holding one another around their waists move around the musician. The event takes place during the month of September when the seeds start sprouting in the rice fields and it continues up to the auspicious festival of Diwali in the month of October to November. The circle formation of these dancers is said to resemble the cycle of life.





***The elephant tree***

***Medium - Acrylic on canvas***

***Artist - Jyoti Uikey***

***Style - Gond***

***Size - 36x48 in.***

God creates trees to help provide fruits for animals. But they were too tall for animals like deer on the ground to reach. So, he created birds like peacock branching out of the elephant's trunk giving them wings to fly and reach the fruit and help the other animals on the ground to feed.



***Deep-Sea Creatures***

***Medium - Acrylic on canvas***

***Artist - Rita Shyam***

***Style - Gond***

***Size - 36x48 in.***

This artwork portrays the abstraction of the mystery of the deep sea. It captures a non-figurative visual using delicate patterns of circles, dots, and lines painting new forms of existence.



### ***Kali***

***Medium - Acrylic on canvas***

***Artist - Suresh Kumar***

***Style - Gond***

***Size - 36x48 in.***

This painting depicts Kali, a Hindu goddess who is an incarnation of Parvati, wife of the Lord Shiva. She is a destroyer of evil forces and the most powerful form of Shakti, a divine protector and the one who bestows moksha. She embodies shakti - feminine energy, creativity, and fertility. She is portrayed standing or dancing on her consort, Lord Shiva, who lies calm and prostrate beneath her. Goddess Kali is worshipped by Hindus throughout India.

### ***Flood and famine***

***Medium - Acrylic and cow dung on cloth***

***Artist - Anita Balu Mhase***

***Style - Warli***

***Size - 38x46 in.***

This painting depicts the story of floods in maharashtra which have periodically led to major famines, Indian agriculture is heavily dependent on climate. Due to floods crops rotted in the ground, harvests failed and livestock drowned and starved. The painting depicts the difficulties of life which is brought by natural calamities.



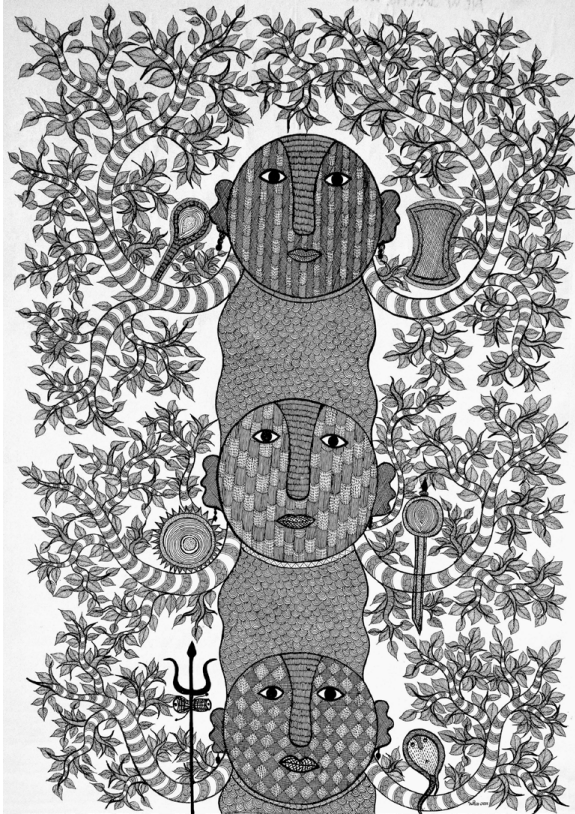
***Fish and Crab***  
***Medium - Acrylic on canvas***  
***Artist - Anita Shyam***  
***Style - Gond***  
***Size - 48x36 in.***

This painting narrates the symbiosis between the fish and crab. Being different species inhabited in the same space explains the idea of living in harmony with nature. There is a unique equilibrium and balance of animate and inanimate forms in nature. Nature and its elements with its immense biodiversity of life, teach us a synchronous harmonious approach to life.



***Whatever happens, is the mercy of God***  
***Medium - Acrylic and geru on cloth***  
***Artist - Rajesh Mor***  
***Style - Warli***  
***Size - 48x36 in.***

This folklore depicts a narrative of a king who was very kind and ruled his people well. One day while cutting an apple he accidentally cut his finger. The king cried aloud and his minister who was a devotee of God came running and tied cloth to the king's finger and told him not to worry as whatever happens, is the mercy of God. The king got angry and threw him in jail. One day while hunting alone in the forest, king landed in an enemy's tribal kingdom where he was tied to sacrifice to the goddess kali. He then later was inspected by priest and found unfit for sacrifice as he already had cut his finger and was set free.



***Peepal Tree***

***Medium - Acrylic on canvas***

***Artist - Anita Shyam***

***Style - Gond***

***Soze - 36x48 in.***

This folklore depicts Peepal tree which is believed to house the Trimurti i.e Brahma, Vishnu, Mahesh in a tree form. The Gods are said to hold their councils in this tree, which is associated with spiritual significance.



***Ann Dai***

***Medium - Acrylic on canvas***

***Artist - Suresh Kumar***

***Style - Gond***

***Size - 36x48 In***

This folklore depicts Ann Dai who is a Goddess of agriculture. The goddess of cereals provides grain for food and blesses the farmers of the village. She has four heads and two hands in which she carries crop seeds of nutrient-rich kodo, kutki, and rice which is cultivated in Dindori in Madhya Pradesh.

***Deer and bird***  
***Medium - Acrylic on canvas***  
***Artist - Jyoti Uikey***  
***Style - Gond***  
***Size - 36x48 in.***

This painting illustrates two different worlds. It features the side view of a deer with its head turned towards the bird sitting on its back. The bird facing back away from the deer and its head is turned gazing the universe. Both of them are in their worlds thinking things in the same way and that one could become the other.



***Fox and Crocodile***  
***Medium - Acrylic and cow dung on cloth***  
***Artist - Anita Balu Mhase***  
***Style - Warli***  
***Size - 48x36 in.***

The greedy crocodile attempts to trap and kill the fox. The cunning fox gets away with the conspiracies but gets bitten off by a scorpion and dies. The painting depicts the uncertainties of life and expresses the profound truth of this universe.



***Flying Bird***

***Medium - Acrylic on canvas***

***Artist - Geeta Bhairya***

***Style - Bhil***

***Size - 48x36 In***

This artwork illustrates an abstraction of a flying bird who is ascending in freedom with a fluid style. The bold and vivid colors symbolize confidence that is leading towards a new life. It questions viewers to look beyond the portrayed and feel the movement captured within.



***Mother***

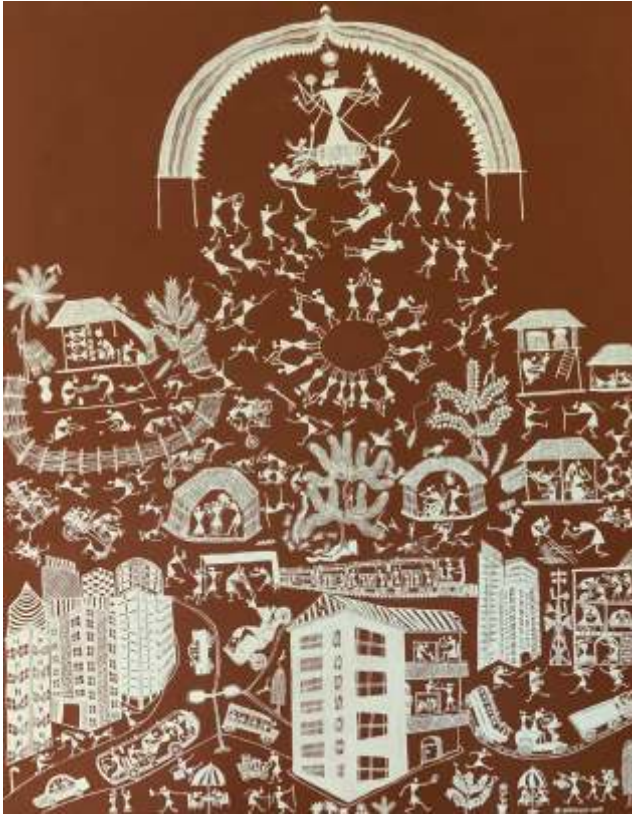
***Medium - Acrylic on canvas***

***Artist - Suresh Kumar***

***Style - Gond***

***Size - 48x36 in.***

This painting depicts the story of the bird who crafts a nest and lays her eggs. The mother bird incubates her eggs for 15 days of struggle and in the process, she is filled with strength and gratitude for her motherhood. She prays to the jungle, wind, water, and sky to protect her children when they grow. When they hatch, she dances with rejoice thanking nature.



***Durga***

***Medium - Acrylic and geru on cloth***

***Artist - Anita Balu Mhase***

***Style - Warli***

***Size - 36x48 In***

This painting illustrates the philosophy of the Durga. Her persona represents the power of the female principle, stree shakti and her position today in the living world which we are a part of. Today, most of the women in India are victims of domestic violence and abuse. This story depicts the contradiction between the deification of the Devi, on the one part, and the respect for women in society on the other.



***Circle of life***

***Medium - Acrylic on canvas***

***Artist - Rita Shyam***

***Style - Gond***

***Size - 36x48 In***

This painting illustrates the life cycle of the Adivasi community called Gonds. The tribal tribals with nature and their life. Gods Thakur Dev and Khairo Mata encompass the natural and cultural environments, depicting birds and animals inside them which showcases the ritual importance of

***Ardhanarishvara***  
***Medium - Acrylic on canvas***  
***Artist - Suresh Kumar***  
***Style - Gond***  
***Size - 36x48 in.***

Ardhanarishvara is a composite androgynous form of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati. It is depicted as half male and half female, split down in the middle which describes the transfer of spiritual energies between two divine sources of universe. The Union of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati in such a form expresses the inner masculine and feminine energy within one soul, defining a perpetual state of ecstasy.



***Wedding feast***  
***Medium - Acrylic on canvas***  
***Artist - Dr. Yashpal Baranda***  
***Style - Bhil***  
***Size - 48x36 in.***

The artwork portrays a wedding feast of a bhil tribe. The groom and the bride's family and guests are happily gathered together for a feast after the ceremonies and rituals. The artwork represents tradition of drawing mor (peacock), trident (trishul) and bow & arrow (teer-kaman) and tribal gods on the walls of their houses and temples.



***Flying Elephant***

***Medium - Acrylic on canvas***

***Artist - Suresh Kumar***

***Style - Gond***

***Size - 48x36 In***

An elephant, on the order of Lord Shiva, is exuberant to become Ganesha's head. The elephant is crossing the river, jungle and mountains while the light from the sun, moon and stars is shining in the sky. Going towards Mount Kailash to obey the order of god, the elephant wonders why his imaginary wings are not fast enough.

***Tiger and Baigas***

***Medium - Acrylic on canvas***

***Artist - Jyoti Uikey***

***Style - Gond***

***Size - 48x36 In***

This folklore narrates the relationship of the baiga adivasi's and tigers. Baigas have lived with tigers since their existence and they worship them as their ancestors. The Baigas know how to ward off tigers through mantras and worshipping in the forest. The tribe has a peaceful relationship with nature and they are the guardians of the forest.



***Dancing Deers***  
***Medium - Acrylic on canvas***  
***Artist - Geeta Bhairya***  
***Style - Bhil***  
***Size - 36x48 In***

This painting illustrates the story of Two Deers in the signature style of small and big dots. It depicts two symmetrically placed deers, facing against each other and gazing at one another. The white background filled up with dots adds up to the intensity of the subjects on the canvas.



***Peacock***  
***Medium - Acrylic on canvas***  
***Artist - Anita Shyam***  
***Style - Gond***  
***Size - 36x48 In***

This painting depicts a peacock which is a symbol of love and harmony in the nature. In Varsha Ritu (rainy season) nature sings its melody and welcomes new life by adopting a new look. This season brings rains and gives life to the world painting joy and excitement which brings peacock to dance in the rhythm of nature.



***Vinayaka***

***Medium - Acrylic on canvas***

***Artist - Ram Bai Tekam***

***Style - Gond***

***Size - 36x48 in.***

Ganesha also known as Vinayaka, is widely revered as the remover of obstacles, the patron of arts and sciences, and the god of intellect and wisdom. This painting accumulates widely spread intricate dots and patterns into the elephant head, signifying the world beyond, the metaphysical reality.

***Story of Dots***  
***Medium - Acrylic on canvas***  
***Artist - Geeta Bhairya***  
***Style - Bhil***  
***Size - 36x48 in.***

This Painting illustrates the Story of Dots in bhil style. These dots that fill up the less than perfect shapes, tell us a story about life as it happens. This story has gradually evolved and manifested on the canvas in vibrant colors and in an inimitable, distinctive style and form.



***Tree of life***  
***Medium - Acrylic and geru on cloth***  
***Artist - Rajesh Mor***  
***Style - Warli***  
***Size - 36x36 in.***

This folklore illustrates a Tree of Life. Trees are central to the lives of warli tribe. This painting depicts the simple lifestyle of the Warli tribes in Maharashtra where everything revolves around the harvesting of rice, celebration, wedding, ritual, births & death which is connected to the tree of life.



***Vishnu on Garuda***  
***Medium - Acrylic on canvas***  
***Artist - Anita Shyam***  
***Style - Gond***  
***Size - 36x48***

This painting illustrates Lord Vishnu on his mount Garuda. In Hindu mythology, Lord Vishnu is depicted as the Preserver of the universe and is one of the Trimurti along with Lord Shiva and Brahma. Garuda, the king of birds serve him as is his vahana. The Vedas mentions Garuda, referring him as Syena, the eagle who brought nectar from heaven to earth. It is believed that Garuda's wings chant the vedas while flying.



*Renu Devi, Madhubani Kala, Bihar*



*Renu Devi, Madhubani Kala, Bihar*



*Renu Devi, Madhubani Kala, Bihar*



## Artists



***Anita Balu Mhase –Warli Artist,  
Dahanu (Maharashtra)***

Warli artist Anita Balu Mhase from the village of Dahanu in Maharashtra has a tribal background with revolutionary thinking and ideas. She is a graphic designer by profession and a storyteller by default. She narrates humor in the most tribal art form, reflecting every bit of her personality. Anita narrates topics over society and women empowerment. Her artworks reflect power, progress, and passion for storytelling, in a bold & humorous style. She is a revolutionary tribal artist with powerful thoughts to bring a positive change.

***Suresh Kumar – Gond Artist,  
Dindori (Madhya Pradesh)***

Gond artist Suresh Kumar belongs from the village of Dindori in Madhya Pradesh, He has assisted and worked with Master Gond Artist Jangarh Singh Shyam in Bhopal during his early days. He has a remarkable distinctive style of making patterns in his paintings which is very unique in his artworks. His artworks are based on mythological and tribal stories that are vibrant and alive with colors and composition.



## Artists



### ***Ram Bai Tekam – Gond Artist, Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh)***

Gond artist Ram Bai Tekam belongs from the village of Patangarh in Madhya Pradesh. She was inspired by her husband Narmada Prasad Tekam's paintings to take up drawing. She began with working on paper and gradually moved on to canvas. Her artworks display deep observations of nature and life. She draws inspiration from her memories of the daily hood and illustrates them in her paintings. Rambai has travelled with her husband to many parts of the country, exhibiting her work and holding painting workshops.

### ***Anita Shyam – Gond Artist, Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh)***

Gond artist Anita Shyam from a village near Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh has a zeal to impact society with her stories and culture. She aims to represent the folklores which are long forgotten, to let the new generation acknowledge them. Her way of storytelling is tribal, and she has great enthusiasm for representing them on the canvas. All indigenous stories and characters can be found in her artworks.



## Artists

### ***Rajesh Mor – Warli Artist, Dahanu (Maharashtra)***

Warli artist Rajesh Mor from the village of Dahanu in Maharashtra, is a skillful talent in the tribal industry, with the courage of experimentation, makes his art stand out. With his experience and skillset, he creates artworks of philosophical and traditional background, with new composition and color theories. His artworks reflect the society and self from tribal to modern life.



### ***Geeta Bhairya – Bhil Artist, Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh)***

Bhil artist Geeta Bhairya belongs to a very conservative tribe from a village of Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh, she holds herself with poise and pride, while her artworks are bold and bespoke. Her thought process represents the modern Indian woman. She is a tribal, who takes pride in her community, but holds her belief boldly against stereotypes. Her artworks are a delightful journey of a progressive and independent woman.

## Artists



***Rita Shyam – Gond Artist,  
Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh)***

Gond artist Rita Shyam belongs from Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh. She took up painting as her profession in 2009 along with farming in her village. Rita brings birds, animals and trees to life on her canvas. She uses traditional patterns and techniques with vivid colors to illustrate her imagination narrating her stories. Her artworks are progressive with her vision representing the tribal culture in a new form.

***Jyoti Uikey - Gond Artist,  
Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh)***

Gond artist Jyoti Uikey belongs from the village of Patangarh in Madhya Pradesh. She is a self-taught artist, who discovered her talent knowing the basic skills of her craft by watching other artists. Her paintings bring life to customs, traditions, and ancient stories of the Gond tribe. Her art reflects her understanding of nature and life which mostly features human and animal figures. She draws inspiration from life and is very joyful to display that in her paintings.



## Artists

### ***Dr. Yashpal Baranda – Bhil Artist, Udaipur (Rajasthan)***



Bhil artist Dr. Yashpal Baranda belongs from Udaipur in Rajasthan. His paintings are filled with bold compositions in acrylics that narrate stories from the tribal culture of south Rajasthan. He is an experimental artist who uses modern techniques and materials to illustrate his stories. He pushes the boundaries of tribal Bhil art by experimenting with his artworks translating life and the culture of bhil tribe into his paintings.

