

ANNUAL REPORT

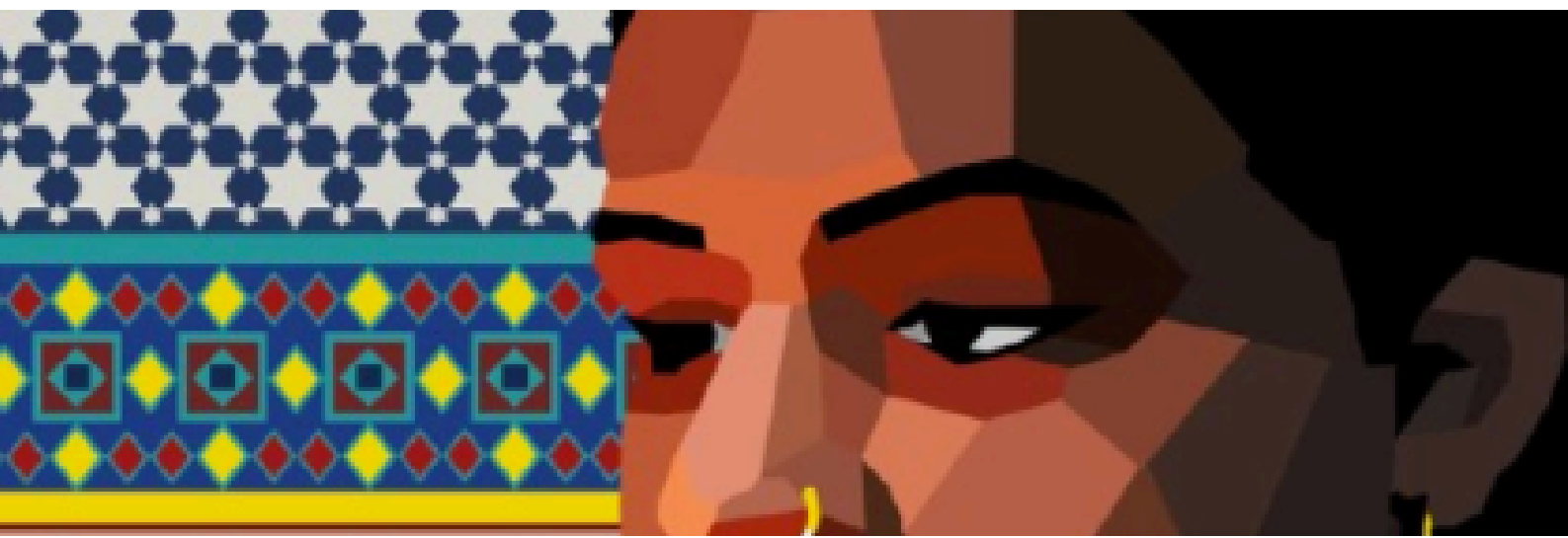
2021 - 22



ABOUT

Aravani Art Society aims to embrace the people from the Transgender Community, friends from the LGBTQIA+ communities and a few cis - allies by creating consciousness, well being through art, awareness & social participation.

Aravani Art Society is a Trans-women and cis-women led art collective that aims to create a space for people from the Transgender Community, to come together to create, collaborate and work on several Artistic projects. Our work of art happens in collaboration with Transgender artists who have been trained to paint and execute commissioned art projects.



VISION

While the visibility of Transgender people, Gender non- confirming people and folks from the queer community is increasing in popular culture and daily life, they still face everyday discrimination, stigma and systemic inequality. Aravani Art Society's mission is to bring about change in the way the society views the LGBTQIA+ community by advocating the idea of reclaiming spaces in this world through different art projects and raising awareness to create a voice for the community through the Arts.

MISSION

We advocate **the idea of reclaiming spaces in the society** by creating different art projects to raise awareness and **to create a voice for the community.**



We are finding magical ways to engage with the people from the Transgender community and other LGBTQIA+ people to come out in the public spaces and feel confident, safe and belonged.

We are slowly working with cis- women from other marginalized communities and the informal sector to widen our spectrum of intersectionality and it is a need of the hour.

We create safe spaces for alternate voices through art.

We examine their spaces of innovation, the places of their history and create room to learn by transforming this knowledge into a form of public art. The streets are a particularly important place to do our work, as it is in these public spaces that the bodies of Transgender identifying people attract violence, harassment, social negligence and pressure. Cis - women and young girls from other marginalized groups are also vulnerable and susceptible to unsafe situations.



Our mission seeks to respond to various lived experiences, stories and real life situations by creating spaces that encourage exchange, discussion, openness and debate surrounding gender identities using art as a tool.

**Better
Together**

INTRODUCTORY MESSAGE BY THE PRESIDENT

For the past few years I have been using public art to **enable social participation**, to engage peacemaking and to create awareness around social issues. As a wall muralist, freelance artist, amateur anthropologist, story keeper and the founder of Aravani Art Society, my purpose of using the Arts for the betterment of the society collectively has been a driving force and the encouragement has brought us this far. Aravani art Society is a **collective for people** from the transgender community, queer community, children, women and sometimes men. We have formed a collective to access public spaces, to break stereotypes, creating awareness and **more visibility to celebrate** unity and equality with the people from the **Transgender community**, sex workers and the informal sector by and large. By making art together we are seeking to gently reshape these politics of **inclusion and exclusion** that surround gender identities. The struggle for **accepting and understanding** the identities of Transgender individuals exists in each society, race, and class. We are now **finding more magical ways** to engage the community to come out in the public spaces and feel confident, safe and belonged.



GOVERNANCE

The Aravani art society is registered under the Society Registration Act 1960, with the association of seven committee members as follows:

- Poornima Sukumar – President
- Sadhna Prasad – Vice President
- Aditi Ashok Patkar – Secretary
- Karan Kaul – Treasurer
- Nila M – Committee Member
- Chandrakumar N – Committee Member
- Shanthi M – Committee Member

Details of the Members

Poornima Sukumar

Designation: President

Occupation: Business

Sadhna Prasad

Designation: Vice President

Occupation: Business

Aditi Ashok Patkar

Designation: Secretary

Occupation: Employee

Karan Kaul

Designation: Treasurer

Occupation: Employee

Nila M

Designation: Committee Member

Occupation: Employee

Chandrakumar N

Designation: Committee Member

Occupation: Employee

Shanthi M

Designation: Committee Member

Occupation: Employee



LEGAL COMPLIANCES

The ARAVANI ART SOCIETY has been registered under,
the **Society Registration Act 1960**.

We have the legally complied
80G and **12A** Certifications and
PAN and GST registered for
the operations.



**YESTERDAY
TODAY
EVERYDAY**

IN-HOUSE MEETINGS

Our In-house meetings is all about,
Collective decision making,
Addressing the challenges,
Setting goals, discussion on on-going projects
and it also becomes a safe place to share their
day to day chores, problems and difficulties
they face in the society as a community.



VOICE FOR THE COMMUNITY

DONATIONS

May

Donation drive during COVID for 15 Transgender people in **Bangalore** in collaboration with Parivaar organisation.



May - June

Donation drive during COVID for the Transgender people in **Bangalore**,

20 ration kits in Hoskote,

60 ration kits in Hebbal,

40 ration kits in RPC layout and

35 ration kits in Summanahalli.

Donation received from an organisation called Manaprasada.

July

Medical help for Transgender people in **Chennai** suffering from diabetes. Donated monthly medicines for 7 individuals from our society.

Distributed and supported with 30 ration kits for HIV affected people from the Transgender and the Kothi community in **Mysore road, Bangalore**. Donation received from an organisation called Manaprasada.





Donation drive during COVID for a Transgender Men organisation called **RAAHI** in **Bangalore**. Donation received from an organisation called Manaprasada.





AKSH - STROKES FOR HOPE

LET'S GIFT A KIT



Initiative to support Transgender Community across India

A Collaboration with ARAVANI ART Project and THE NATYACHITRA Arts

HELP US RAISE:

250 ration kits of

1000/- each

By 15th Aug'21

Link to support : <https://manaprasada.org/grocery/>



September

Community outreach at **Chennai**.

As the Covid issue still persists, the people from the Transgender community found it very hard to earn for a living. With very few opportunities at the Chennai Ernavoir Tsunami Quarters, we raised funds and donated Ration kits for about 60 Transgender people and medicines for diabetic patients.





October

Ration kit Donation drive during COVID in
Jaipur.





Ration kit Donation drive
during COVID in **Mumbai**.



November

Donation drive with ration kits for the Transgender people in **Bangalore**, 100 ration kits in Hoskote, in Hebbal, and in Banashankari. Donation received from an organisation called Manaprasada.



MEDICAL SUPPORT/ ENHANCED SUPPORT

March - May

One of our team members, working as an Lead artist, Purushotham also called as Purushi met with an accident. She was hospitalised for 55 days. Her Femur bone (thigh bone) was broken. She had underwent several surgeries. We had raised funds amounting to INR 25 lakhs and spent INR 22 lakhs for the surgeries. These surgeries resulted in Amputation.



December

She got her Prosthetic leg for INR 3 lakhs.

Following this we extended a financial support every month for a year time for and on her recovery.

URGENT! FUND FOR PURUSHI

As Purushi's health continues to deteriorate, we need your immediate support to gather collective fund for her.

Trans* Lives Matter

Donate
LINK IN BIO



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aravaniartproject
Bangalore, India



FUND FOR PURUSHI

PURUSHI, ONE OF THE CORE TEAM MEMBERS OF ARAVANI ART PROJECT HAS SUFFERED FROM AN ACCIDENT AND NEEDS YOUR URGENT SUPPORT TO COVER HOSPITAL EXPENSES.

DONATE
LINK IN BIO



Liked by **advithie** and **others**

aravaniartproject 🙏 URGENT HELP NEEDED 🙏...
more

View all 60 comments

brokauli 🙏 #fundforpurushi 🙏

deepikah Done last week.. really hope she gets better soon 🙏

March 28



PROJECTS OF THE YEAR

April

NAMMA CLINNIK – Painted a local clinic called "Namma Clinnik" located near Electronic city, **Bangalore** with two transwomen artist. one transman artist and a cis-women artist.



August

PHONEPE, Bangalore – We were very thrilled to be associated with Phone pe and very truly stick to our work using 'expression' as an important criteria. Our concept largely was around the lines of being stronger together as a community and everyday acceptance of life, love and co- existing.



September

WARANGAL POCSO AND FAMILY COURT.

Telangana has reported the high levels of domestic violence in India. The redesigning of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) & Family Court Complex in Telangana, India, aimed to make a place of high distress and intimidation, a calmer and friendlier experience.

Is it possible to create empathy through storytelling and design in a family's darkest moments?





October

DHWANI Bangalore – A restaurant that is run by differently abled people, our Transgender artists had a opportunity to understand the People with Disability community and paint a large wall for thier restaurant. We are very proud of this collaboration.



December

Acres foundation – Wall painting at Mulund, **Mumbai**. The project was a simple painting of an abstract garden for a wall facing the side of the Public. Our interactions and conversations with the people passing by were very generous. A lot of encouragement from the authorities and the Mumbai Aravani team did a fantastic job!



February

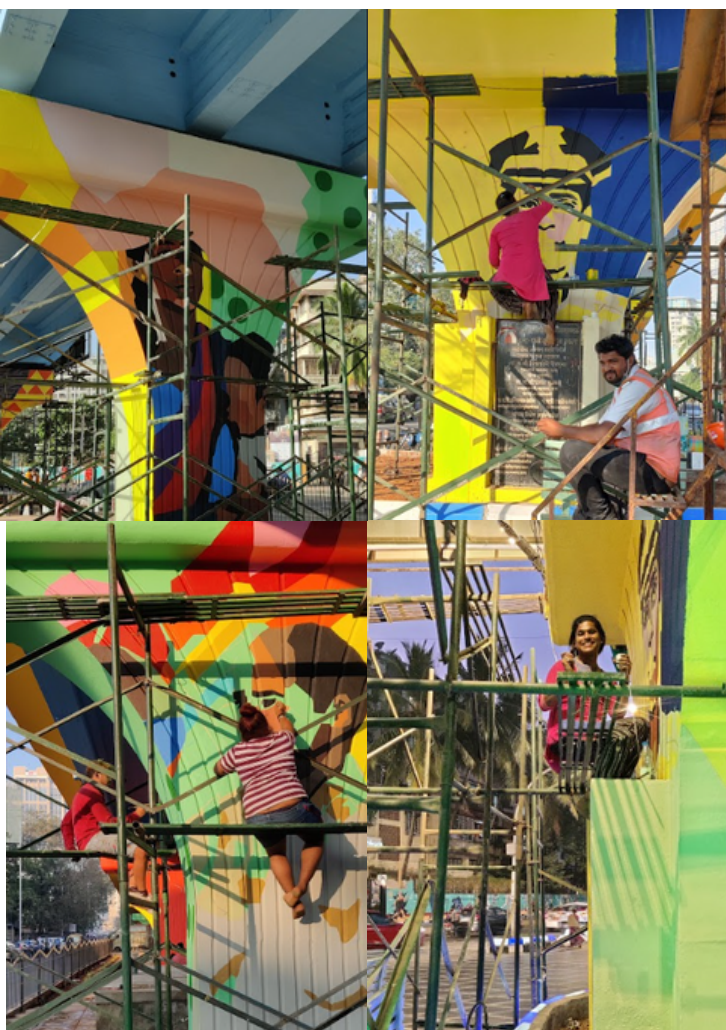
CANVAS PAINTING – by Transgender with disability from our Team for a Farming company.



LOVE GROVE, MUMBAI – The artwork consists of everyday people from macho Mumbai so that we remember that the city moves because of its people, the colours, textures and patterns.

Darroj Mumbait – translates to **Everyday in Mumbai**.

The project was initiated by, **ST+ART India**, a not-for-profit organization that works on art projects in public spaces and executed by our team of Transwomen artist in Mumbai. We planned a duration of 30 days to plan and execute the project and we completed within the planned timeline.



AZIM PREMJI FOUNDATION - The project was initiated by Azim Premji University, an Indian non-profit private university, located in **Bengaluru**, Karnataka. As a part of their curated wall mural project within their premises we painted a wall and where among one of the 8 artists invited to paint. The theme was "Body in motion".



March - April

THE CHENNAI CENTRAL - The project was initiated by, **Thuvakkam**, a Non Government Organization established with the goal of creating a better society for all. The project was supported by **Nippon Koei India Pvt. Ltd** and **The Chennai Metro Rail Limited.,**



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENTS

August



We painted a school for the **Visually impaired and for children with disabilities** in

Mogappair, **Chennai**. It was a great opportunity for our team of transgender artists to interact with the differently abled community of people.

The project was executed for 5 days involving the transgender community along with a cis-women artist and the kids.





January



BUILD A LIBRARY initiative by **Rotary, Chennai**. We painted 3 government schools involving our Transwomen artist team along with the school children.



March



NAMMA KANNAGI NAGAR SLUM – We worked and conducted various activities involving the people of Kannagi nagar slum along with the Transgender community, in Chennai. It was executed for a span of one month long. This initiative was supported by ST+ART India as a donation towards the Aravani art society.





Humans of Love Grove get their portraits from Aravani Art Project

BENITA FERNANDO
MUMBAI FEBRUARY 8

A YEAR after the compound wall of Love Grove pumping station transformed into a canvas for the Aravani Art Project, the flyover that runs past it in Worli is getting a similar treatment. Members of Aravani Art Project are painting Love Grove Flyover's pillars with portraits of people who frequent this area, a theme that continues from the earlier project. In about a fortnight, passers-by will see a balloon seller, a dabbawalla or a policeman painted on the pillars — portraits of the very people who work around the flyover.

Aravani Art Project is a collective of trans women and women involved in creating public art across India. Geometric patterns, colour blocks, pop palettes and portraits of common people are part of their signature style. The collective was commissioned last year, and now by the BMC, and curated by St+Art India for painting Love Grove.

"It feels great to be back here. It feels like our designed area," said Poornima Sukumar, who co-founded Aravani Art Project six years ago with Sadhna



Members of Aravani Art Project are painting Love Grove Flyover's pillars with portraits of people who frequent this area. Express

Prasad. The collective came prepared with a couple of initial portraits but the rest have been designed based on the people they saw around. Permissions were sought from those whose portraits will be made and the artists have been insured against accidents as the project involves scaling the pillars. Overall, 20 portraits will be made on 16 pillars.

Among the artists is Colaba resident Mayuri Pujari, 26. When she is commissioned for a painting project, Pujari takes leave from her job as a hairstylist's assistant at a salon.

"I love crazy colours," Pujari said, pointing to her red hair and blue eye make-up.

Pujari met Sukumar and Prasad four years ago at an event and, on the advice of her guru, decided to participate in their painting projects. She said that it helps her earn an additional income, especially since there have been pandemic pay-cuts at work.

"Love Grove is a great junction because it attracts people from across different strata," Prasad said. Sukumar said the portraits "celebrate Mumbai."

The painting activity is the interest of transgender people in the neighbourhood, an open invitation to passers-by to join in.

For Kajal Nageshkur Aravani Art Project has means to rekindle her childhood interest in art. She dropped of school in Std VIII, for difficulty in the family, but by today with alms as a means of survival, her options are limited. Marginalised transgender community.

Clambering down the scaffolding, she said, "The act means we are able and chat with each other feels like home."

घर खरेदीदाराला तीन दशकांनी न्याय!

न्यायालयीन लढाईनंतर सदनिकेचा ताबा मिळण्याची चिन्ह

35

म. रा. विविध जिल्ह्यांसाठी

मुंबई : न्यायालयीन लढाईनंतर सदनिकेचा ताबा मिळण्याची चिन्ह. न्यायालयीन लढाईनंतर सदनिकेचा ताबा मिळण्याची चिन्ह. न्यायालयीन लढाईनंतर सदनिकेचा ताबा मिळण्याची चिन्ह.

चाळ, झोपडपट्टी प्रतिबंधमुक्त

फक्त एकच इमारत सील

म. रा. विविध जिल्ह्यांसाठी

मुंबई : मुंबईतील चाळ, झोपडपट्टी प्रतिबंधमुक्त. फक्त एकच इमारत सील. मुंबईतील चाळ, झोपडपट्टी प्रतिबंधमुक्त.

COLOURS OF DIVERSITY



Members of the transgender community can be seen painting a pillar of a Worli flyover on Monday. Photo by: Bhushan Koyande

Online art sale to help transgender people

Farheen Hussain@timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: A web platform launched by a Bengaluru-based IT professional will host an art sale and auction to support members of the transgender community that has been badly affected by the pandemic. The initiative coincides with celebrations of Pride Month (June).

Hima Bindu launched ManaH-prasAda when the surge hit. While the platform aims to provide free services to individuals and small businesses to grow a digital business, it is also used to raise funds for the underprivileged.

Now, with the help of over 200 members of the transgender community, it will launch an initiative called 'Aksh: Strides from Flops'.



GOOD WORD: Members of the transgender community involved with Aravani Art Project. (Inset) Hima Bindu, whose online platform is being used to help people

age. This event is supported by art curator Vasantha Vaikunth from lifenliving.org." Bindu said, who are unable to sell their work due to the pandemic. The proceeds will go transgender and artist com-

sponsored by celebrities and influencers like artists, actors, dancers, and musicians and WOCs Karnataka Culture and Heritage Council.

This is not the first of social causes that Bindu's platform has touched. She said when the lockdown hit people's livelihoods, she wanted to help and encourage small businesses and individuals to leverage online platforms to reach their customers.

She built the platform in her spare time and collaborated with influencers. She is looking for more people to join her cause.

ART WITH A HEART, FOR THE TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY

Pics: S L Shanthi Kumar



Murals by transgender persons under the Worli flyover as part of Aravani Art Project, which aims to create a collective space for the community. The group curates collaborative public art projects to raise voices for and awareness about the community

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S



Thank you

INCLUDE | PARTICIPATE | ENABLE through the ARTS

LOVE AND EQUALITY TO ALL

@aravaniartproject 

