

# NexGen MultiArts Festival 2021

**Gesù Centre de Créativité**  
1200 de Bleury, Montreal  
(Metro: Place des Arts)

**7 to 10  
October 2021**

Festival designed to encourage and  
present emerging writers, poets, singers  
and dancers across Canadian provinces

## PROGRAM OF EVENTS

This event is proudly supported by  
community donors and the City of Montreal in its  
*Programme de soutien à la diversité des expressions  
culturelles – festivals et événements (PSDEC)*

Montréal 

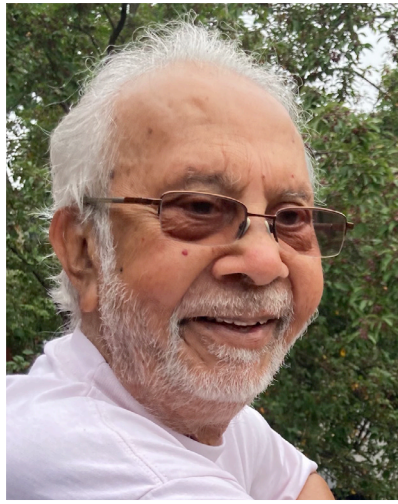
**Kabir Centre for Arts & Culture**  
4-315, Boul. René Lévesque E. Montréal H2X 3P3

[www.centrekabir.com](http://www.centrekabir.com)



kabircentre

# DEDICATION



**Dr. Birendra Prasada**  
(1936-2021)

*Kabir Centre dedicates this festival to their beloved and distinguished former president Dr. Birendra Prasada who passed away on 14th September 2021. Birendra Prasada taught and did research in visual telecommunications at I.I.T. Kanpur, MIT, Bell labs, Bell Northern Research & Nortel. As director of the Canadian Institute for Telecommunications Research (CITR) he coordinated a network of university and industry researchers in visual telecommunications.*

*After retiring in 2002, he became passionately involved in the Kabir Centre, sharing arts and culture from the many religions, languages, nationalities and regions of South Asia with the wider Canadian community. In addition to being associated with its establishment, he served as its President from 2003 to 2011 and relished learning about film, music, literature and dance after a career dedicated to science.*

*Birendra was a dearly loved husband, and a treasured father, grandfather, uncle, friend and mentor to many. He took keen interest in the affairs of Kabir Centre all through his life. His was a life to be celebrated and the centre remembers him and his family with love and gratitude.*

## Thursday, 7th October 2021

**Venue:** Salle Espace Custeau, Gesù

**Time:** 6 pm to 9 pm

### **A Garden of Literary Delights** **Sparkling Stories by young South Asian Writers**

**Curator: Ms. Veena Gokhale**



Veena Gokhale, a former Bombay journalist, is a writer who wears many hats. She is based in Montreal. Her short story collection, *Bombay Wali* and other stories, was published by Guernica Editions in 2013. A novel, *Land for Fatimah*, followed in 2018. She has published in literary magazines and anthologies and received writing grants. Her current writing projects include two manuscripts: *The Artichoke*, *Sensuous Stories* and *Annapurna's Bounty*, *Indian Food Legends Retold*, and *Recipes*.

**Participating authors:** Playwright **Vishesh Abeyratne** & novelists **Shashi Bhat** and **Bindu Suresh**

**Vishesh Abeyratne** will read from *White Lion, Brown Tiger*. In a thrift shop, a heated exchange between two Sri Lankan employees breaks out into a fight, unleashing intercultural tensions and charged racial politics, possibly driven by hidden agendas. Born and raised in Montreal, Vishesh currently lives in Ottawa, where he was playwright-in-residence at the Great Canadian Theatre Company, 2020-21.

**Shashi Bhat** will read from her hot-off-the press novel, *The Most Precious Substance on Earth* (McClelland & Stewart, 2021). "Rich with wry humour and sharp-edged insight, *The Most Precious Substance on Earth* is an unforgettable portrait of how silence can shape a life." She will join us online from Vancouver where she teaches creative writing. Her critically acclaimed first novel, *The Family Took Shape*, was published by Cormorant Books in 2013.

**Bindu Suresh** will read from her first novel, *26 Knots* (Invisible Publishing, 2019). It "starts with a fire and never stops smouldering. Grand in scope, spare in execution, and lush in language, *26 Knots* is a fable-like tale of love, obsession, and everything in between." Having spent equal parts of her life in Saskatchewan, Alberta, Ontario and Quebec, Bindu now lives in Montreal where she works as a pediatrician.

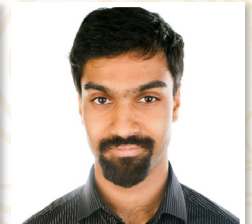
**Author readings followed by Q&A. Plus books on sale.**



Bindu Suresh  
Author



Shashi Bhat  
Author



Vishesh Abeyratne  
Playwright



Friday, 8th October 2021

**Venue:** Salle Espace Custeau, Gesù

**Time:** 6 pm to 9 pm

**Evening of Poetry & Reflections  
from Emerging Canadian poets**

**Curator: Ambica Sharma**



Ambica Sharma is a Montreal-based multidisciplinary artist donning hats as an actor, dancer, and poet and a broadcaster. Her passion for lifelong learning has motivated her to explore creative pursuits in areas which are quite different from her education; a master's degree in Biosciences from IIT Roorkee, India. Her work in film and theater includes lead roles with New

Brunswick Theater Company and a key role in an upcoming Canadian feature film. She presents a live radio show with Radio Humsafar (1610 AM) & for CKUT McGill (90.3 FM). Her poems have appeared in publications and anthologies in India and Canada. Her keen interest in performance poetry has led her to perform at multiple platforms in North America. She choreographs and performs Indian dance forms through her dance group in Montreal. Currently, she has been developing a dance theatre piece on immigrants with the support of Montreal Arts Council.

**Order of Events:**

**Poetry recitation by emerging Poets** (6 poets, 10 minutes per person including Introduction, different languages)

**Tribute to Late Mr Akhil Bhandari** – Ex-VP, Kabir Centre & Distinguished poet

**Panel discussion:**

**Topic:** Gaining Voice through Verses - Poetry as a tool for mental health

**Panelists:** Rekha Vaishnav, Harleen Bhoghal, Shyam Anandampillai

**Moderator:** Ambica Sharma

**Poetry Recitation** by 5 selected KCPC members on the theme of: **Hope and Optimism**



Rekha Vaishnav  
Panelist



Harleen Bhoghal  
Panelist



Shyam Anandampillai  
Panelist

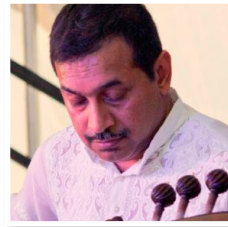
Saturday, 9th October 2021

**Venue:** Espace Aline Letendre, Gesù

**Time:** 2 pm to 8 pm

**Classical Music Offering by  
Emerging Canadian artists**

**Curators: Raja Bhattacharya & Divya Iyer**



**Raja Bhattacharya** is the Artistic Director at Kabir Cultural Centre. He started his training in Tabla at the age of 4 years under the able guidance of Professor Raghu Das Saha, of Rabindra Bharati University. At the age of 14 he obtained his Sangeet Prabhakar in Tabla from Prayag Sangeet Samiti, Allahabad. He started his training in Sarod under the tutelage of Ustad Bidyut Khan, son and

disciple of Ustad Bahadur Khan. He also received guidance from Vidushi Gayatri Chakraborty, disciple of Vidushi Annapurna Devi to develop his gayaki style. Currently he is taking advance talim (training) from his Guru Pandit Partho Bose of Senia Maihar Gharana. His performances in various cities in India, Canada and the USA have received wide appreciation.

**Divya Iyer** (See next page)

**Order of Events:**

**2 PM to 3 PM:** Hindustani Vocal Duet  
(Ravi Datar & Rohil Kalsekar, accompanied by Chinmay Kulkarni and Sushant Anantharam)

**3:45 PM to 4:45 PM:** Hindustani & Carnatic Duet  
(Srinidhi Sridharan & Anuja Panditrao, accompanied by Sushant Anantharam, Sumant Anantharam and Chinmay Kulkarni)

**5:30 PM to 6:30 PM:** Veena & Mandolin Concert  
(Siddharth Vijay, Ashwin Anand and Vijay Rajagopalan)

**7:15 PM to 8:15 PM:** Percussion Ensemble Concert  
(Karthik Venkararaman, Sumant Anantharam, Chinmay Kulkarni & Sushant Anantharam)

# Sunday, 10th October 2021

**Venue:** Espace Aline Letendre, Gesù

**Time:** 2 pm to 8 pm

## Classical Dance Offering by Emerging Canadian artists

**Curators: Raja Bhattacharya & Divya Iyer**

**Raja Bhattacharya** (See previous page)



**Divya Iyer**, with increasing involvement with the artistic direction at Kabir Centre, is a vocalist in Carnatic tradition of South India. She started her vocal training at the age of 6 years from Guru Smt Subbhalakshmi Swaminathan. She went on to learn from various gurus in India and is presently undergoing training under Guru Smt Raji Gopalakrishnan. She is also taking

Piano lessons from Casey Fulton, a local teacher in Montreal. Besides singing Carnatic music, she also sings Ghazals, light music and film songs in 5 different Indian languages. She has performed at various venues such as the prestigious Regina Symphony Orchestra and has been invited to sing at the Peterborough Symphony Orchestra in 2021 to perform the now famous lullaby (sung by Bombay Jayashree) from the award-winning film **Life of Pi**. She teaches Carnatic music to students in Montreal.

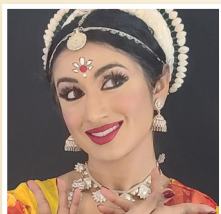
### Order of Events:

**2 PM to 3 PM:** Kathak Dance  
by Palak Dhiman and Anita Pandey

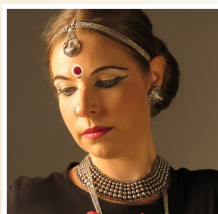
**3:45 PM to 4:45 PM:** Bharatanatyam and Odissi show  
by Julie Beaulieu and Sonia St. Michel

**5:30 PM to 6:30 PM:** Kathak and Odissi show  
by Aashima Singh and Vishakha Ghosh

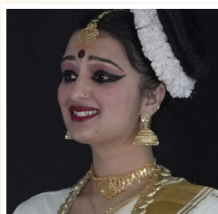
**7:15 PM to 8:15 PM:** Mohiniattam and Kathakali show  
by Deeksha Arya and Anupama Dineshkumar



Vishakha Ghosh  
Odissi Dance



Sonia St. Michel  
Odissi Dance



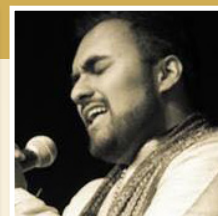
Deeksha Arya  
Mohiniattam



Anuja Panditrao  
Vocal (Hindustani Music)



Rohit Kalsekar  
Vocal (Hindustani Music)



Ravi Datar  
Vocal (Hindustani Music)



Sushant Anantharam  
Harmonium



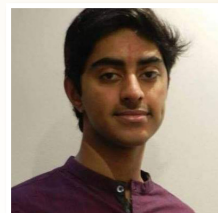
Sumant Anantharam  
Mridangam



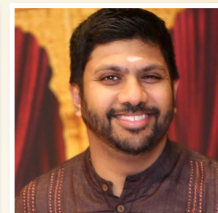
Chinmay Kulkarni  
Tabla (Hindustani music)



Srinidhi Sridharan  
Vocal (Carnatic Music)



Siddhart Vijay  
Mandolin (Carnatic Music)



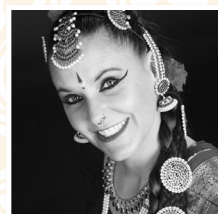
Karthik Venkataraman  
Kanjira (Carnatic music)



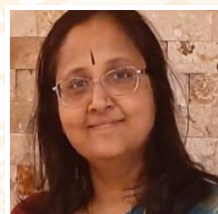
Ashwin Anand  
Veena (Carnatic music)



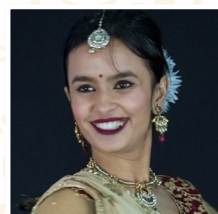
Vijay Rajagopalan



Julie Beaulieu  
Bharatanatyam Dance



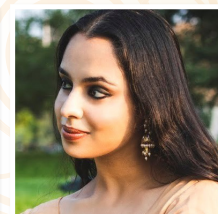
Anupama Dineshkumar  
Kathakali Dance



Aashima Singh  
Kathak Dance



Palak Dhiman  
Kathak Dance



Anita Pandey  
Kathak Dance

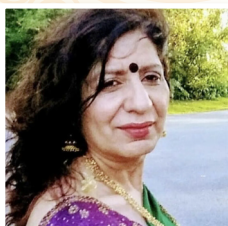


# Thursday 7th October to Sunday 10th October 2021

**Venue:** Foyer of Gesù, Centre de créativité

**Time:** 6 pm to 9 pm on 7 & 8th October  
2 pm to 8 pm on 9th & 10th October

## **Visual Arts Presentation by Anjali Kapoor Kohli & Vijay Kohli**



**Anjali Kapoor Kohli** was born and raised in India. She immigrated to Montreal, Quebec at the tail end of the 70s. Originally trained as a teacher, she has worked as an interpreter for asylum seekers and new immigrants for almost 25 years.

Using acrylic, ink and mixed media, Anjali's paintings are mostly done in a semi abstract approach. Her art - both painting and poetry - is largely influenced by the people she encounters in her work and the chaos and beauty around her. She channels these experiences, and others like her mother's passing in 2012, into her images and words.

Anjali's art has been showcased in galleries in Montreal and Toronto, as well as various publications such as *Blank Spaces*, a Canadian Literary Arts magazine and *It's Just Words* anthology.



**Vijay Kohli** was born and raised in India. He immigrated to Canada in 1979. Settling down in Montreal, Vijay worked as professional engineer for various Canadian companies for over 30 years. After retirement, Vijay started devoting his time towards art. As a self-taught artist, his love for paintings slowly evolved into making sculptures using multiple media such as plaster, wood and metal. His

sculptures are mostly abstract in character. His art is inspired by various styles - notably from Indian art like Madhubani & Rajasthani style miniatures as well as from nature around him. Vijay uses vibrant acrylic colors to put life into his sketches and paintings.



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***Kabir Centre thanks all the participating  
Curators, Authors, Poets, Musicians,  
Dancers and Visual Artists***

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