

**INDIA FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS
BANGALORE**

Memorandum

To : The Trustees

May 31, 2011

Via : Anmol Vellani

Curatorship Programme

From : Mohit Kaycee

Subject: Khoj International Artists' Association, New Delhi (2010-1-002): Grant Monitoring

This grant supports three curatorial residencies, an art writing workshop and an international seminar on critical curating. These projects will facilitate the development of a model of practice-based training for curators, nurture the context of culture and art writing and encourage cross-cultural dialogue on curating practices. Grant funds will pay for the 'curators in residence' programme, the art writing workshop, the international seminar on critical curating, the website, the project coordinator's fees, and administration costs.

Since receiving the grant, KHOJ hosted the first curatorial residency and facilitated two exhibitions that were developed through the residency. Over a period of two months, emerging curators, Gitanjali Dang and Oindrilla Maity developed projects that aimed to 'represent' process based public art practices that defy containment within the white cube. Through the resulting exhibitions, they engaged with questions of 'representation' and worked towards developing new curatorial models. They benefited from access to KHOJ's expansive archives and exposure to the network of art practitioners that KHOJ has developed over the years.

Since the residents' previous curatorial experiences had predominantly been in private galleries, they found the process of situating their exhibition in public spaces unpredictable and demanding. Their curatorial choices and strategies were only partially successful in responding to the demands of the space and how visitors in those spaces engage the environment. Furthermore, feedback from the residents along with a comprehensive review has highlighted that there was minimal conceptual development from the time the projects were first proposed till when they were actualised. These observations have alerted KHOJ to the need to differentiate between artists' and curators' residencies, in that while the former hinges on the interaction between residents, the latter possibly requires a stronger programmed mentorship. Therefore, for the next residency (scheduled for July to August 2011) KHOJ will give stronger emphasis to integrating mentoring into the residency structure.

Additionally, it was felt that the highly specific mandate of addressing the context of public art in India may have prevented the initiative from attracting a wide range of applicants. Therefore, no specific thematic has been set for the next residency. KHOJ will also work towards partnering with other organisations, in an effort to bring international curators to the next residency. It was also decided that the third residency (scheduled for January to February 2012) should aim to explore curatorial practice in another artistic context and therefore KHOJ will explore the possibility of hosting the final residency in collaboration with its national network partner in Bangalore, 1, Shanthi Road. The Art Writing Workshop, also scheduled around the same time in Delhi, will capitalise on the experience of the various young writers who have been critics in residence at KHOJ to examine the practice of writing on art in India. This workshop will also help formulate how the discipline of art writing can be introduced into a curriculum on curatorial practice.