

HISTORIES OF GOA

Curatorial note

'Histories of Goa' an exhibition of works by local artists and artists from countries which share 'histories' with Goa will be presented at the Museum of Goa (MOG) in the month of November 2015.

Apart from being an artistic exercise, this exhibition is also a unique pedagogical experiment of narrating history through a contemporary idiom. 'Histories of Goa' is an exhibition which intends to stir up histories. To dig into the recesses of historical archives, memory and celebrate the 'connectedness' of cultures. The waves that wash the shores of Goa have not only carved and shaped rocks, but also ideas, dreams and narratives.

From the mythical story of Parashurama's arrows reclaiming the landmass from the ocean to being a haven for the flower children in 1960s and hosting electronic dance music festivals in the present times, Goa has been a stage for many 'jamming' sessions of cultures. Ships, boats, Arabian horses, chillies, bread, botanical encyclopaedias, cashew fruits, copper plates, slaves, Sati stones, tobacco, the cross, torture-racks of inquisition, embalmed corpses, miracle making saints, conversions have all been actors in Goa's rich and varied past. Four hundred and fifty years of Portuguese rule left many visible influences, yet many facets of Goa's earlier cultures have survived the onslaught of tumultuous times, and can be traced to antiquity. Until Goa was liberated by the Indian Army in 1961, its ties with Portugal were not just administrative, but deeply cultural-profoundly influencing its architecture, music, cuisine, costumes, customs and the very habits of the self. It is this deep inflection of cosmopolitanism in the internal and external landscape of Goa that this exhibition aims to reflect as well as reflect upon.

'Histories of Goa' is a multimedia artistic engagement with the archive and transoceanic memories of the locus of Goa, its memories of other places, other people, other visual, sonic and tactile cultures.