

## “Sapana, a dream for children’s future in India”

*We've been dreaming...*

Omnide in partnership with The Rajasthani Foundation and IMA Foundation is proudly supporting the development of the Sona Manovikas Kendra School for mentally challenged children in Bhilwara, Rajasthan, India and to give them a future that would otherwise be neglected .

### 1) THE PROJECT

The school has the possibility to host more children but to do this, it is in need to build more dormitories for its teachers to assist the classroom: this will not only provide a better service for the school itself but will increase the number of children being at the school taking them away from the street.

The School is run by “Sona Viklang Punervas Avom Sodh Sansthan , Bhilwara” institute since 1996 in Bhilwara.

- It is only one school in Bhilwara District to empower its special duties.
- Presently there are 65 students get free education, training, physiotherapy, speech therapy which is provided by school.
- Every year more than 50 non-admitted children are benefited by providing special “Home-Based” program.

The aim is to raise funds through donations and the proceeds we will get through selling Indian arts on a special night event.

To achieve this Therefore Omnide has decided to team up with:

- 1) The Rajasthani Foundation that has a strong charity objective to help alleviate poverty, hardship and distress amongst women, children and the underprivileged, mainly in Rajasthan by focusing on education, health and ecology. They are currently supporting the Sona Manovikas Kendra School since 2017
- 2) IMA Foundation that was established in 2008 with the intention of supporting emerging artists in the world from the Indian sub-continent and will provide the art pieces to be sold to support the construction works

Omnide is providing the design for the development and along with its 2 partners will deliver the funds to the School in Bhilwara:

TRF will make sure the funds will reach the school directly with a direct line of connection avoiding dispersion of funds and monitor its use

Omnide will assist the local school with the design paying visits through the construction to ease the process and recording the progress

### 2) FUNDS

The funds will be raised:

- 1) Though a donations website ( just giving.com)
- 2) Selling art on the special evening on the 3rd of July at Omnide++ space. With the support of the IMA Foundation we will be showcasing and selling on the evening, the works of five Indian artists - Amritam Das, Ashim Karmakar, Radha Binod Sharma , Ratan Krishna Saha and Harshita Lohia.

### 3) PARTNERS

a) **OMNIDE:** ([www.omnide.com](http://www.omnide.com))

OMNIDE is an architectural design studio seeking to address the rising demand of high-end quality design.

We are architects, designers, builders and thinkers operating within the fields of architecture, urbanism, research and development and have an open approach towards constructive and multidisciplinary collaboration that enables successful delivery of projects.

OMNIDE was funded by two partners in 2013 in London, Ivan Lazzaroni and Raffaele Oppido.

We approach every project with quality and individuality; we are also driven by the combined and diverse experience of our experienced partners located in Amsterdam, Mumbai, Nairobi and Rome.

Every project is a journey where we seek a balance between aesthetics and function through spaces, textures, light and the individual’s personality and needs.

Our architecture emerges from an analysis of how human life evolves and changes. It is driven by the influence of multicultural exchanges, global economical flows and inventive communication technologies, we seek new ways of architectural and urban organisation. We believe that in order to deal with today’s challenges, architecture needs to explore new horizons and possibilities.

Each of our designs seeks to provide an efficient bespoke solution with consideration of all details and variables involved. We are passionate about delivering modern and contemporary spaces that highlight the invaluable characteristics of an existing space while fusing them with new interior and contemporary finishes. We promote the use of natural materials over synthetic and local materials with global influences.

We believe that Design always strive to be beautiful, innovative and yet pragmatic

We deliver the best design solutions by developing ideas, taking into consideration existing historical layers and the peculiarity of the contest we are working on.

We have a design sensibility and a selective process that allows the client to gain understanding of the project, its costs and time of delivery.

The client becomes an integrated part of the process with a clear idea and understanding of the final product.

From inception to completion, we follow 4 steps to ensure that a clear goal is set and that our projects are delivered as envisioned by the client and ourselves:

- 1) Strategy  
understanding of the requirements and planning the development of the project
- 2) Design  
presenting proposals which will deliver quality and create revenues
- 3) Planning

dealing with local authorities' requirements

4) projectmanagement  
managing construction and delivery of project within time, budget and as per design specifications

Omnia' + Design = Omnide

We believe that design can transform a beautiful idea into reality.

Each of our projects starts with close interaction with the client and clarity of context and functionality. Using a contemporary, environment friendly approach and open, constructive and multidisciplinary collaboration we endeavor to enable the successful delivery of every project.

We envisage that creativity and good design can build a better future for everyone.

At Omnide, tomorrow can be today's dream.

Over the years, Omnide has developed extensive experience in the residential, retail and commercial fields ranging from new builds to refurbishments and conversions both in the UK and around the world.

**b) The Rajasthani Foundation (<http://www.ourtrf.org/>)**

The Rajasthani Foundation is a charity organization based in London but keeping a strong connection with India, specifically with the north west region called Rajasthan.

It believes in the three „C“s- Charity, Culture and Community, with charity being at the centre and pivotal to all the activities we perform. TRF has a strong charity objective to help alleviate poverty, hardship and distress amongst women, children and the underprivileged, mainly in Rajasthan by focusing on education, health and ecology.

To achieve this, TRF raises funds through various activities such as charity and cultural events as well as through donations from generous sponsors.

In previous years TRF supported multiple initiatives and charities like Navjoti Manovikas Kendra, (NMK), Jodhpur, Jagriti School, Jaipur, Sona Manovikas Kendra (SMK), Bhilwara and the Youth Trip to Rajasthan- to work closely with the children from these charities.

Last year has been a highly successful year for TRF Charitable activities and we delivered on our promises for the 4 key initiatives/projects.

- Installation of Lift for 1st & 2nd Floor for the special needs children of NMK school, Jodhpur.
- Building of activity hall for the special needs children at SMK school, Bhilwara.
- Installation of 5 KW Solar PowerPlant at NMK School to help save on the running cost of power consumption and make the school self-reliant on energy.
- Running cost for 1 year of the school bus which takes the special need children „to and from“ the SMK School.

The total amount donated to support the above initiatives and project at NMK and SMK was approx. ~ £30k. This has all been possible because of the support from our Patrons, Sponsors, Members and their friends and families-

In the coming year TRF plans to continue its support to NMK and SMK school to help them:

- Grow by increasing the capacity of the students be it more teachers/better teaching facility or additional school buddings
- Increase infrastructural facility for the special need children like more school buses to take them to and from school
- Support the running cost of the school

The current TRF Board is very passionate about the support we as „TRF“ are providing to these schools and how it is helping change the lives of the special need children.

**c) IMA Foundation (<http://www.imafoundation.com/>)**

The IMA organization was established in 2008 with the intention of supporting emerging artists from the Indian sub-continent. Radha Binod Sharma, himself, an artist had studied at some of the leading establishments and had gone on to exhibit his work in the international arena. In 2007, having settled in London, his attention turned to Indian art being represented in the global market. He observed the variation in talent and this led him to focus more closely on the art scene in India. In early 2008, he travelled back to his artistic roots in Santiniketan and Baroda to witness art emerging from these renowned establishments. The quality and the depth of the work he saw, along with a recognition of the difficulties facing artists in the early stage of their careers led to the creation of imafoundation.com. As an artist his sensibility and experience recognised the talent stemming from India, but he also saw the struggle and difficulties artists were having in forging a strong and clear identity in the international arena.

The artists emerging from contemporary India are imbued with a new- found confidence which allows them to combine their rich artistic heritage with a modern mind-set. The cultural DNA is manifested in the colours and unique traditional forms. The dynamic modern presence moves from innocent sensibility to bold fluidity. True confidence and strong identities emerge from recognition of core values and unique cultural roots, without this we can become trapped in the vicissitudes of the mind and modern whimsy. Honouring that which is pure original talent and that which has been “untrodde upon” requires both courage and determined dedication from the artists and their patrons.

Radha Binod Sharma's own cultural roots stem from a remote tribal state in India called Tripura. His early life was spent in Agartala observing the daily struggles of people to survive under crippling poverty. Being 'on the edge' meant observing life in it's raw yet real form. Despite the poverty and hardship his parents found the energy and resourcefulness to foster his love of painting. His mother, herself a well established and pioneering Manipuri classical dancer, provided the emotional rootedness for her son to develop his talents. Against all odds, his commitment and his parents enduring support helped him to achieve admission to India's foremost university dedicated to the arts in Santiniketan which had been established by India's own “Renaissance Man” Rabindranath Tagore. His desire to support artists stems from a life committed to the celebration of colour, beauty and truth despite poverty. IMA means mother in the Manipuri language, IMA also stands for International Movement of Art.



#### 4) ARTISTS

##### a) Amritam Das

Amritam Das was born in Murshibad, West Bengal in India. He undertook his Bachelors and Masters degrees in Fine Arts from the Kala Bhavana, Visva Bharati in Santiniketan.

Amritam's work expresses life in contemporary times. In this age of advertisement and mass media, we all encounter innumerable images in our daily life, many of which leave an indelible mark in our memory. In our consumerist society, everyday new products are launched and old products become obsolete. Without much thought we constantly accept the new and discard the old. The proliferation of products of popular culture has penetrated each part of our lifestyle and consequently has become an integral and dominant part of our visual vocabulary. Amritam Das translates such experiences on to his canvases along with impressions of his personal interactions. He borrows and absorbs images from his immediate surrounding and constructs narratives both personal and collective. Amritam excels in creating texture with such a broad repertoire of images. Thus personal and popular photographs, magazine cut-outs, local posters to logos of established brands all find their way into his works.

He selects his images in a random fashion where they reveal themselves in multiple layers. Sometimes it appears more like a riddle where the pleasure lies in unravelling the solution. It is the hidden image which provides the joy of discovery. One may find several disseminated self-contained figures on the surface engaged in soliloquy.

Amritam confidently plays with both crude and fine contours whilst balancing his space with dexterity. He constantly paints and erases images from his surface, superimposing them with a new layer of images which strikes his imagination. Every layer leaves some marks on the surface while new layers interact with the existing motifs. His forms float freely on the surface while occasionally relating to each other. His paintings evolve with ease, with an array of vibrant colours and geometric motifs making his images flamboyant and striking.

Amritam lives and works in Santiniketan West Bengal.

##### b) Ashim Karmakar

Ashim was born in 1977 in West Bengal and studied for his B.A. in 2001 at Calcutta University, 2007 where he gained a B.F.A. and in 2010 he gained a Masters in Fine Arts from the Kala Bhavana, Visva Bharati University in Santiniketan.

His works explore different levels of reality; the world which is material and socially constructed, juxtaposed with the transcendental world. He draws his inspiration from the paintings of the Far-East which are infused with mystical tones and the miniature paintings of India. He uses portraits, images and symbols to depict the social and visible reality and to express "Universal Space." Each painting is like a journey within, a door which opens into the human heart to evoke generative forces and the creative possibilities of life. His use of colour is bright, expansive and infused with gold, reflecting the brilliance of the life-force within. He uses textures, batik prints and colour to depict impermanence and creative possibilities. The artist seeks paradise and journeys within to find it and in doing so expresses man's innermost desires and his yearning for peace in paradise.

Ashim lives and works in Kolkata.

##### c) Radha Binod Sharma

Radha Binod was born in Kamalpur, Tripura in India. He was educated at the Kala Bhavana, Santiniketan where he undertook his Bachelors in Fine Arts and then went on to gain a Masters in Fine Arts from M.S. University Vadodra.. He has gained numerous international awards and exhibited in multiple group and solo shows.

"I am drawn to expressing the beauty of the male and female human form not only through observing the curves and the structure but also the hidden natural beauty that is within us all. Each human has immense potential to release, express and experience the life force that emerges from within. In painting the human body I am seeking to remind people of their essential nature and the beauty and power that resides within. The body carries for all of us the potential to access this field of awareness and the life force that enlivens our senses and brings immeasurable joy and peace. The human body is a living temple which harbours in the depths and layers the essential life force in fact the whole universe exists inside of us. I enjoy and appreciate the process of unravelling this universe which for me contains the deserts, forests, mountains, fires, water, earth, air and ether. When we connect with our own liveliness in this way we are also able to communicate in a different, deep authentic way with others. Our ancient Indian traditions understood this and the word Shakti comes closest to expressing the dance of life which I experience myself and try to convey on canvas through the colour and sensuality of expression."

Those who view his paintings can choose to look at them through the lens of their mind and the social conditioning which renders the paintings as depicting human bodies that merely perform functions in the material world. Alternatively, they can understand and sense the intuitive language of the human heart and to know that the body carries the universal forces that are the creative impetus of the world.

Radha Binod Sharma currently resides in London.

##### d) Ratan Saha

Ratan was born in Midnapur, West Bengal. He undertook his Bachelors in Fine Arts (Sculpture) from the Rabindra Bharati University in Kolkata and then went on to undertake his Masters in Fine Arts from the M.S. University in Baroda. He is the recipient of several national awards. He has also exhibited in numerous solo and groups shows both nationally and internationally.

Ratan has been inspired by his childhood memories visiting the temples where he saw different sculptures representing the godly forces which were worshipped.

"The bull has always been very fascinating character in my life at different points in time, particularly during my childhood whenever I visited Shiva temple the "Nandi" used to draw my attention for its glorified massive figure. I was amazed to see the fine blend of this strong physical presence with the serene, cool, calm, and spiritually glorified personality. In my bull sculpture I am consciously trying to carve these two contradictory characters inherent in the bull.



I use different forms of expression such as lyrical, textural. I also use different postures as well ie dancing, worshipping to indicate the different facets of it's personality and character, but in every form and posture the bull has always remained a universal symbol of power. Power is the most dominant factor in today's world which has affected human life in every way, whether political, social, economical or spiritual. An urge to depict power led me to choose the bull " as a universal symbol of power".

Ratan lives and works in Mumbai.

#### e) Manoj Sinha

Manoj was born in Tripura, India. At the start of his career he was mentored for 4/5 years by Radha Binod Sharma and he then went onto gain his Bachelors and Masters degree from the Faculty of Fine Arts, M.S. University, Vadadora. He is a recipient of several awards and has exhibited throughout India.

His works reflect a personal and social visual field which is both panoramic and intimate. His work is a living archive of the impressions and social forces which we are all exposed to.

His epic work is the " My Mahabarata ...The Agony and Ecstasy of Mother India."

This is a highly detailed work with around 1000 figures each delineated in a manner which draws in the observer. The painting is vast and endless to absorb, there is no sense of time; multiple worlds co-exist. The figures and groups are direct reference to the world and times we live in, our daily world and the world of media. In this epic we see processions, child abuse, a series of murders, self-proclaimed god men, the Sufis of Medieval India, policemen beating the innocents, the politicians cheating the people. Figures flying high towards unattainable heights of freedom, childish innocence looking heavenwards. In this way both utopia and reality co-exist on the canvas.

*"Each canvas has taken months to come into being, each canvas has a plethora of stories to tell-there is a new approach to storytelling, critiquing, commenting, and interjecting a view as the stories unfold before us, as the meanings get increasingly blurred in real life, as the cinemascope can no longer contain the picture, and as the painterly experiences are striving toward new realms and vistas"*

Manoj lives and works in Agartala , India.

#### f) Harshita Lohia

Harshita belongs to the sixth generation of the Chamong tea family. Inspired by her grandmother in Kolkata, Harshita Lohia took to arts and crafts at the early age of ten. At age thirteen, her father gave her a set of paint brushes and a wide variety of paints and from that moment, Harshita developed her serious interest in fine arts. At age fifteen she held her first solo exhibition at Chitrakoot Art Gallery, Kolkata followed by a solo exhibition in Singapore at seventeen. In 1997, Harshita traveled to Chicago for summer school at the Art Institute of Chicago and one year later enrolled at Moore College of Art and Design in Philadelphia. After finishing her BFA in Textile Design and minor in Fine Arts she went on to finish her Masters in Digital Printing from Philadelphia University.

**Materials:** Harshita uses only the highest quality materials in her work. She prefers to use German velvet paper that enhances the brilliance of the dry pastels. She also utilizes pastel paper and canson paper, both of which help her to make smoother textures. Most paintings in this exhibition utilize dry pastels. However, a few works are mixed media incorporating watercolor.

**Inspiration:** Harshita's inspiration comes from the wide array of flora and fauna she sees during her travels. Her latest series of paintings is inspired by both the American Southwest, and specifically, Santa Fe where she was enchanted by the size and strength of the rock formations. She also has a special affinity for the wide range of colors and textures that occur in the sky during sunrises and sunsets. Ms. Lohia paints in all kinds of weather, like during a rainy day in Austria or even a monsoon in Kolkata.

Harshita lives and works in New York, USA.