

**India Heritage Museum**

Presents An Exhibit

**“Indo-American Artists of Greater Rochester”**



**Inaugurated by Dr. Ravi Sharma**

at

Bal and Anita Dixit Hall

Vinod and Vinay Luthra India Heritage Center

2171 Monroe Wayne County Line Road

Macedon, NY 14502

**July 11, 2020 to August 16, 2020**

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## **India Heritage Museum**

India Heritage Museum was formed in 2019 as a DBA of the Hindu Heritage Summer Camp, Inc. The primary objective of IHM is educational, to create awareness in the Rochester community of the culture, art, traditions, diversity, and technological advances of India and to highlight the accomplishments of Indo-American community of Rochester. The IHM plans to present a series of exhibits to accomplish its objective.

"Indo-American Artists of Greater Rochester" is the first exhibit presented by IHM. We are overwhelmed by the enthusiasm shown by the artists who volunteered to display their artwork in the exhibit. We are grateful to all of them.

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## **An Appeal**

The budget of the India Heritage Museum is estimated to be about \$ 25,000 per year. As it will be our goal to keep admissions to the exhibits free, the only source of income for IHM will be by the community donations. We appeal to community members to make generous donations to IHM to help IHM serve the community. Please note that the donations to IHM are tax deductible.

Thank you.

**India Heritage Museum Committee**

## The Artists....



### **“Not Going Down with Down’s Syndrome”**

**Rahul Bakshi** was born with one extra chromosome in his cells and thus labeled as having Down’s Syndrome. His mother, an educationist, believed more in Rahul’s ability than his disability. Recognizing his talent in art, she guided him through a Fine Art School education. Rahul holds a Bachelors in Fine Arts. After his mother’s passing, Rahul moved to Rochester and lives with his sister and family. Rahul spends most of his day in his studio at home working with acrylic paints. His creations are vivid and showcase his

love of color. It is heart warming to see the pride he feels in showing his creations to family and friends.

“ I am **Bharati Bhamare**, a wife, a mother, and self-taught professional artist based at Rochester, NY. Art has always been my biggest passion since childhood. Although I chose engineering education, I have never let my inside artist down. I learned on my own and I continue mastering my techniques all the time. I love working in various techniques like oils and acrylics. I exhibit my paintings work in Artist Row art fair at Public market, Rochester every



year. I am professional henna artist too.”



**Jayalakshmi Chakravarthy** has been passionate about drawing and painting from a very young age. As a child, she was first introduced to the world of art by her mother. The creativity in Jaya found a channel through formal training during her school years, Nature and spirituality inspire Jaya.

Today, she draws, sketches, or paints using a variety of techniques and media including oil, watercolors, pastel, gouache, acrylic, spray, pen and ink, and pencils. Jaya likes the freedom of ab-

stract paintings. She has painted several styles of Indian art forms including Tanjore and Madhubani art.

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**Dr. Kumar Chockalingam** is an Interventional cardiologist in Rochester.

He extrudes his artistry beyond the science of medicine into an array of multiple fields. One such venture is photography.

He has experimented with light, color and composition in his photographs.



**Jacklyn Das** is an educator, curator and transdisciplinary artist. She earned her MFA in 2019 from the Visual Studies Workshop in Rochester, NY where she studied exhibition design, photography, film and book arts. Embracing a pluralistic approach to making, her work is rooted in a feminist and decolonial practice which seeks to incite critical visual discourse by raising questions around issues of identity, erasure and appropriation. Since 2017, Jacklyn has been a member of the organizing committee of WALL/THERAPY, a public art festival in Rochester, NY. Jacklyn first began photo-

graphing street art and graffiti in Chicago, IL. She co-founded Chicago Truborn where she curated exhibitions and community engagements from 2011—2014.

**Yashasvini Helfrich** (Yashu) is a rising sophomore in high school and has been interested in photography her whole life. She particularly enjoys strolling out into nature and doing photoshoots with her father and coming up with creative photoshoots with her friends. She has also done some lifestyle photoshoots for her mother's business and likes to nerd out on all the different scientific details of photography! Yashu loves singing, dancing like no one is watching, playing piano, doing piano-voice duets with her mom, running through the sprinkler and make-up artistry.





**Savi Iyer** is a professor of physics at SUNY Geneseo, and has lived with her family in Rochester for over 25 years. Originally from Chennai, India, art, music, and dance have been part of her life all along as she pursued a career in science. Savi has worked with charcoal and watercolor through high school and college. She has rediscovered her passion for watercolor through classes at the Rochester Memorial Art Gallery.

I am **Apurav Khare**, a second year Computer Science grad student at Rochester Institute of Technology. I moved to Rochester in 2019. I like designing and building systems that help improve and ease everyday life. I find solace in making music and art, and am a trained guitarist. I am a self-taught artist and have been drawing for as long as I can remember. My sketches portray people that inspire me, and making art lets me connect more deeply with the things that I am passionate about. Expressing myself through art has now become an integral part of my life and I actively try to improve my skills and knowledge.



**Abhas Kumar** is a Sr. Vice President at NIIT USA Inc., one of the world's top 5 providers of Managed Training Services and is also a director on the board of Eagle Productivity Solutions, based in Rochester. Abhas served on the board of the India Community Center of Rochester from 2010-2012 and was the Chair in 2011. At the ICC, Abhas

founded the ICC Professional Forum; helped institutionalize KRHTPA, and is a member of Kalidas. Abhas is a member of the Director's Advisory Council of the Memorial Art Gallery and is a member of the India Heritage Museum Committee.. When not working or volunteering, Abhas' other interests are photography, learning to dance and theatre.



**Kirin J. Makker**, Associate Professor of Architecture and Urbanism in American Studies at Hobart William Smith in Geneva, NY, is an interdisciplinary scholar and artist, working in a variety of media including fine metals, watercolor, printmaking, textiles and book arts. Trained broadly, she holds an M.A. in English, an M.Arch. and a Ph.D. in Regional Planning. She has published and exhibited her art in juried shows, conferences, and other national and international venues. Mostly recently her writing has been published in Feminist Studies and Landscape Journal.



**Dr. Uma Penmetsa** is a clinical professor at the University of Rochester Medical Center and a practicing Obstetrician and Gynecologist. Born and raised in Hyderabad, India she pursued her studies in the UK and then moved to Rochester. She is married to a gastroenterologist and they have made Rochester their home since 1993 and raised their two daughters. She cultivated an interest in art from a very young age, and has recently been able to get back to her love of painting. She is

thrilled and honored to be able to participate in the exhibit and become involved in Rochester's robust art community!

"I was born and brought up in India and living in Rochester since 2008. I hold MS in Organic Chemistry. I am a high school Chemistry teacher by profession and an artist by passion. Creativity and art is very close to my heart and whenever I get a chance I love to pick up brushes and paint for joy."

**Jyoti Prabhat**





**Sraddha Prativadi** has been interested in mixed medium work since her grade school days. Her interest in canvas art blossomed in medical school. Urged by her spouse at that time, Joel Helfrich, she started trying her hand at abstract impressionistic work inspired by the Basilica in Minneapolis. A close artist friend, Chuck Hamm, taught her to just express what

she is moved to do so in the moment without judging it against an artificial, elitist or contrived set of standards. Since her childhood she has experimented with lotus themes and loves sacred geometry and symbolism.

**Dr. Kavita Rajpal**, the artist, is a resident of Rochester since 1974. She is a retired Emergency Attending Faculty physician from Rochester General Hospital. Painting is her creative passion and avocation since childhood. She has expressed herself in her paintings leaving a legacy for the community that has inspired her and embraced her family. She has contributed her art for several charity projects in Rochester. This is her humble gesture of gratitude and blessings for a very noble cause.



**Sejal Shah** is the author of the debut essay collection, *This Is One Way to Dance* (University of Georgia Press, 2020). Her stories and essays have appeared in *Brevity*, *Conjunctions*, *Guernica*, the *Kenyon Review Online*, *Literary Hub*, *Longreads*, and *The Rumpus*. The recipient of a 2018 NYFA fellowship in fiction, Sejal recently completed a story collection and is at work on a memoir about mental health. She teaches in the Rainier Writing Workshop low-residency MFA program at Pacific Lutheran University and lives in Rochester, New York.



"I am 86 years old, a retired physician who has lived for over 48 years in Rochester with my wife Dr. Shashi Sharma. Art has always been my passion initiated earlier within my family especially watching my amma and an older brother doing their art work. My favorite medium is watercolor that I have been trying to control all my life without the help of an art teacher. I considered myself lucky to have been the founding chair of the ICC board elected in 1980-82. I am a member of the Pittsford Art Group. It gives me enormous satisfaction to see the stroke work of many artists on the ICC canvas."



**Ravi Sharma**



"Growing up in India, I was always surrounded by family members who had an artistic mind-set. Sketching, crafting & decorating came naturally to me. As a career, I pursued the field of Medicine. However, after moving to Rochester in 2003, I devoted full time to raising the family. Subsequently, I started exploring various art and craft classes in the local art gallery. A weekend workshop on Mosaic Mandala gave me clarity. My creations include mosaics, acrylics

and jewelry making. The whole process of creating art is so meditative to me that I decided to name my art, "Simr heArts" - Art from the Heart. "... Rupa Singh

Sashwathi Sriganesh is a sophomore at the University at Buffalo, pursuing a major in Fine Arts (Graphic design), with a minor in Voice Performance. She was voted "Most artistic" by the graduating class at high school. Her art is centered around the themes of hope, magic, and the world through the eyes of children. She says of her art, "I try to find the extraordinary in the ordinary, and personify it using whimsy, fantasy and magic". Her favorite medium is watercolor and ink.







**Skanda Sriganesh** is a senior at Pittsford Sutherland High School. While he has been drawing and painting all his life, he started to pursue it seriously in high school. His artwork has been showcased at the RIT Bevier Gallery and the 1570 Gallery At Valley Manor, and has won many prizes at the Sutherland High School Fine Arts Festival. His art explores the themes of human vulnerability and various nuances of the human experience. His favorite medium is acrylic paint.

“My name is Venkat, short for **Venkataraman**. I am a retired academic living in Rochester, NY. I previously taught mechanical and aerospace engineering, and during my career, developed skills and expertise in mathematical modeling, optimization, numerical methods, and computer programming. I have always loved creative art and design. I developed a passion for using mathematical modeling, in particular **Bézier** curves, patches, and volumes, to create digital graphics. My creations are completely mathematically defined and filled with color. They are coded and executed using general purpose technical software, such as MATLAB, Octave, or Python. You can find the collections at: [www.bezierpatches.com](http://www.bezierpatches.com)”





I am **Farhan Sheikh** and I am an 8th grader in Calkins Road Middle School. I live in Pittsford with my parents and my 7-year-old sister. Art is one of my favorite hobbies. I started learning how to draw when I was in 4th grade in India. My favorite type of drawing is portraits of famous movie and cartoon characters e.g -Mahatma Gandhi, Michael Jackson, Johnny Depp, etc. I tell my friends all the time to draw instead of just sitting around as it is going to make us feel proud. I will try to continue this hobby and someday, this hobby might turn into a profession for me. I am very thankful that I got a chance at the Indo-America Art Exhibit this year, and I hope to do this next with my improved artwork for you guys to enjoy.

Full Name: **Shreyash Mhalagi**.

Shreyash is a student at Sutherland High School and is going to enter Sophomore year this September. He gained interest in the arts at age 4. He started with sketching and has since developed his medium into painting (acrylic ) and markers. He is also proficient in calligraphy. He has used his skills to design clothing and accessories for his school, including shirts and Tote bags. He continues to improve his craft by experimenting with new mediums and making new pieces.





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## **India Heritage Museum**

### **Committee Members**

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### **Donors (as of July 5, 2020)**

Vinod Luthra (\$ 10,000)  
Jyothsna Ponnuri and Narasimha Rao Dontula (\$2,000)  
Padmanabh and Amrith Kamath (\$2,000)