



Asia
Society

India Centre

Asia Society India Centre Winter 2009

In This Issue...

Message from the Executive Director

Highlights:

- [WTC Now: An Interview with Photographer Vicky Roy](#)
- [Hanging Fire: Contemporary Art from Pakistan](#)

Announcements:

- [Charles Wallace India Trust Applications](#)

Upcoming Conferences:

- [Asia Society's China Business Summit 2009 – Wuhan, China](#)
- [20th Asian Corporate Conference – New Delhi](#)

Featured Web Content:

- [New Global Leaders, New Leadership Models?](#)
- [The Changing Face of US-Asia Engagement](#)

Asia 21:

- [Aakash Sethi and QUEST](#)

Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our latest edition of the quarterly newsletter from Asia Society India Centre. Our aim in this newsletter is to keep you informed of activities at our Centre and make you a part of the worldwide Asia Society community.

We have an exciting array of new information for you in our winter edition. We lead with an exclusive interview with Vicky Roy, a young Indian photographer who has documented the rebuilding of the World Trade Center, and whose exhibit we showcased in Mumbai in September. We also introduce to you Aakash Sethi, an Asia 21 (www.asiasociety.org/asia21) fellow who is working on integrating education and technology for a superior education experience.

Asia Society Museum in New York recently launched a much anticipated show, Hanging Fire. Hanging Fire is the first US exhibition to display contemporary Pakistani art. You can read more about it below, in the "Highlights" section of this newsletter. Asia Society continues to address the critical issue of climate change globally. In keeping with this commitment, the New York center hosted Penny Wong, Australian Minister of Climate Change and Water to speak on the potential for agreement at the United Nations Conference on Climate Change in Copenhagen. Look for more events on <http://www.asiasociety.org/events-calendar>.

Quick Link

www.asiasociety.org/centers/india

Upcoming Events

www.asiasociety.org/events

15 October
Stephen Smith, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Australia
@ Rooftop Room, The Trident, Mumbai

10 Nov
Asia Buzz, networking hour with Atsi Sheth, Chief Economist, Reliance Equities
@ Casa Soul Fry, Kala Ghoda, Mumbai

Founding Members

AIG
Nita & Mukesh Ambani
Amita & Purnendu Chatterjee
DLF Private Limited
Pheroza & Jamshyd Godrej
Hinduja Group India Limited
Jet Airways
Sangita & Sajjan Jindal
Kotak Mahindra Bank
Lehman Brothers
Poonam & Jaidev Shroff

I hope you will enjoy hearing about the various programs conducted by Asia Society India Centre as we move into the cooler months. We have done programs in the last few months that range from issues of US-Asia relationships to Asian films; from contemporary art to the future of leadership.

We are happy to see that so many of you find value in our programming. For those of you who are not yet members we encourage you to join now. Asia Society is, after all, a membership based organization and your patronage helps sustain the quality and frequency of our programming. Please see our membership form for more information (<http://www.asiasociety.org/support/membership/india>), and feel free to contact us with any questions.

We have also increased our web presence, and have recently launched our Facebook page. You can find us under Asia Society India Centre. Do become a fan and keep up to date with our goings on.

Our next newsletter will reach you in December 2009, just in time for a new year! We welcome your inputs and suggestions about the newsletter and our programs. And we look forward to welcoming you at one of our upcoming events!

Bunty Chand
Executive Director
Asia Society India Centre

WTC: Now – Photographs by Vicky Roy



In September, Asia Society India Center presented an exhibition of the recent work of young photographer Vicky Roy at Bodhi Art gallery in Mumbai. On display was a selection of photographs from Vicky's collection "WTC: Now", a glimpse into the rebuilding of the World Trade Center in New York City. Vicky's images for this exhibition were created as part of the World Trade Center Documentary Arts Project sponsored by the Wilhelm & Karl Maybach Foundation and Silverstein Properties.

Following the event at Bodhi Art Gallery, we sat down with Vicky to ask him about his experiences. Vicky told us that he was very lucky to be allowed inside the World Trade Center construction site, a rare privilege. Vicky found the workers "very honest" and "hardworking." Apart from the weekends, Vicky felt that the construction workers had very little time off the job. How did the workers react to Vicky? It depended on the day. On some days, the workers were in a good mood, and approached Vicky asking him to take their picture. But sometimes the workers were preoccupied or surly, and would snap at Vicky for photographing them.

Over the course of his time in New York, Vicky was in constant touch with his mentor Anubhav Nath, from the Ramchander Nath Foundation. Vicky mentioned to Anubhav over the phone that his "co-prodigy" Nicole Tung, a young woman from Hong Kong, accompanied him everyday to the World Trade Center site. Anubhav told us, "Vicky's work in portraiture had been very strong earlier, and he would send me the best shots from his week—every week I would get about twenty shots from him. [I asked Vicky] 'you know, why are you not doing stronger portraiture work?'" Apparently, the workers on the site were more eager to pose for Nicole. As Anubhav said, "[Vicky told me] when Nicole goes, all the workers want to be with her!" Anubhav assured him that this would be the case on construction sites the world over.

Board of Directors

Purnendu Chatterjee
Vishakha Desai
Pheroza Godrej
Dheeraj G. Hinduja
Sajjan Jindal
Sunil Mehta
Falguni Nayar
Rashmi Poddar
Jaidev Shroff
Rajiv Singh

Asia Society India Centre Staff

Bunty Chand
Executive Director
buntychand@asiasociety.org.in

George Jose
Programme Director
georgejose@asiasociety.org.in

Angeline Thangaperakasm
Programme Associate
angelinet@asiasociety.org.in

Purwa Bansod
Programme Associate
purwabansod@asiasociety.org.in

Rachna Shah
Office Manager
admin@asiasociety.org.in

MaryAnne Rodrigues
Membership
programs@asiasociety.org.in

Phone: +91 22 6610 0888
Fax: +91 22 6610 0887

About Asia Society

Asia Society is the leading global and pan-Asian organization working to strengthen relationships and promote understanding among the people, leaders, and institutions of the United States and Asia. We seek to increase knowledge and enhance dialogue, encourage creative expression, and generate new ideas across the fields of arts and culture, policy and business, and education.

Founded in 1956, Asia Society is a nonpartisan, nonprofit educational institution with

When Vicky was in New York did he tell anyone he met there his story? No. Vicky told us, "I was just there working professionally." Between work and classes Vicky had very little time to socialize. He told us that he was intent on making his name as a photographer, not as a street-kid success story.

Vicky's next project is called "Better Life." His subjects are youths from Salaam Balaak Trust homes across India. Vicky said he chose the subject because, simply, "Now my life is better."

Vicky Roy lived on the street and worked as a rag-picker and a dish-washer before he was taken in by the Salaam Baalak Trust, a non-profit organization that provides food and shelter for homeless children. Following his interest in photography, Vicky enrolled in photography classes at Triveni Kala Sangram in New Delhi, and apprenticed with professional fashion photographer Anay Mann. In 2007, he held his first solo exhibition titled, "Street Dream" at India Habitat Centre.



offices in Hong Kong, Houston, Los Angeles, Manila, Melbourne, Mumbai, New York, San Francisco, Seoul, Shanghai, and Washington, DC.

Charles R. Kaye, Chairman,
Board of Trustees

Vishakha N. Desai, President

Mailing List, Membership, and More

For more information on the following, please email admin@asiasociety.org.in.

- Upcoming events
- Join the mailing list
- Individual membership
- Corporate Membership

If you would like to react, offer suggestions, or comment on any of the content you've read in this newsletter, we would be happy to hear from you. Please write to programs@asiasociety.org.in. We look forward to your active participation in the Asia Society India Centre community.

Thank you!

Hanging Fire: Contemporary Art from Pakistan

Hanging Fire, showing from September 10, 2009 – January 3, 2010 at the Asia Society Museum in New York, is the first US exhibition to showcase contemporary art from within Pakistan. The exhibition at Asia Society comprises of nearly 50 works by 15 artists, and includes installation art, video, photography, painting, and sculpture, curated by Salima Hashmi, a well known writer and curator from Pakistan.

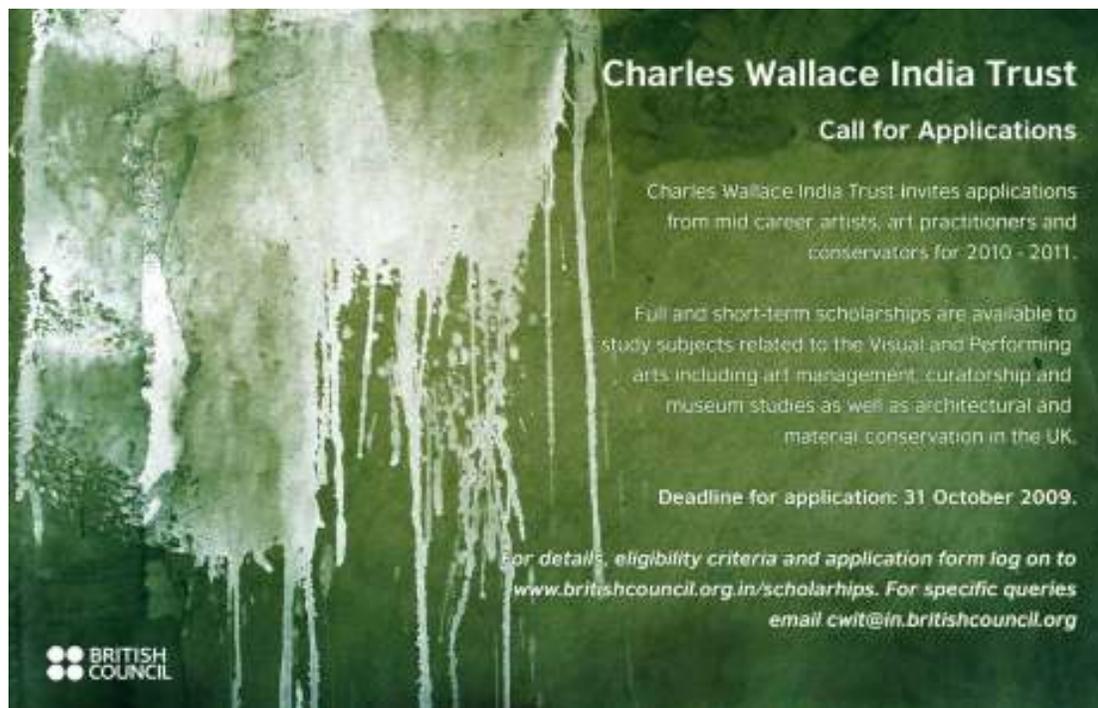


(*Get out of my dreams II* by Faiza Butt)

The exhibit aims to address many of the issues that are prevalent in daily Pakistani life. The artists confront the conflict between urbanization and rural life, pop culture and fundamentalism, and examine gender and politics. The exhibition's title, *Hanging Fire*, refers to an idiom that means "to delay decision." In the context of the exhibition, the title evokes the idea of delaying judgment, particularly based on assumptions or preconceived notions about contemporary society and artistic expression in Pakistan. It also alludes to the contemporary economic, political, and social tensions—both local and global—from which these artists find their creative inspiration.

Hanging Fire: Contemporary Art from Pakistan
September 10, 2009 – January 3, 2010
Asia Society
725 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10021, USA
<http://sites.asiasociety.org/hangingfire/>

Charles Wallace India Trust Applications



Charles Wallace India Trust
Call for Applications

Charles Wallace India Trust invites applications from mid-career artists, art practitioners and conservators for 2010 - 2011.

Full and short-term scholarships are available to study subjects related to the Visual and Performing arts including art management, curatorship and museum studies as well as architectural and material conservation in the UK.

Deadline for application: 31 October 2009.

For details, eligibility criteria and application form log on to www.britishcouncil.org.in/scholarships. For specific queries email cwit@in.britishcouncil.org

BRITISH COUNCIL

For more information on other scholarships to UK, please visit www.britishcouncil.org/india-scholarships.

Asia Society's China Business Summit

Asia Society's China Business Summit will take place on October 30-31, 2009 at the Shangri-La Hotel in Wuhan, China.

This is Asia Society's newest conference series which will be launched this year. The format of the conference is modeled on the highly successful Asian Corporate Conference, although the China Business Summit will be slightly smaller in scale and the event will take place annually across various smaller cities in China. The aim of the Summit is to explore opportunities for international cooperation in the context of China's diverse economic zones that are driving the globalization of its vast domestic economy.



This year's inaugural conference is being held in Wuhan—an economic, scientific, technological and cultural center of Central China and, strategically, the most important city in the region. Located at the crossroads of nine provinces on the shore of the

Yangtze River, Wuhan is advantageously situated at the economic geographic center of China.

Co-organizers for this conference are the Hubei Provincial Government and the Wuhan Municipal Government and invited guests include Vice Premier Wang Qishan to deliver the Inaugural Keynote Address on the evening of the Opening Night Dinner. US Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke and USTR Ron Kirk are also considering invitations to participate in the upcoming Summit.

20th Asian Corporate Conference

Asia Society's highly successful Asian Corporate Conference returns to India from March 18-20, 2010 at the Taj Palace Hotel in New Delhi. Focusing on "Building a Global Power", the conference will discuss investment, innovation, industry, sustainability, and infrastructure. Save the date to be part of this exciting business opportunity!

New Global Leaders, New Leadership Models?

with **Vishakha Desai**, President, Asia Society
Co-presented with the Aspen Institute

NEW DELHI, July 27, 2009 - In a wide-ranging talk moderated by **Ravi Bhoothalingam**, Chairman and CEO of Manas Advisory, Asia Society President **Vishakha N. Desai** compared Chinese and Indian leadership styles to dominant Western models. Whereas in Western models, leadership is understood as the definitive role of an individual, in Eastern models leadership is seen as highly relational. This is apparent in Confucian and Hindu philosophies, in which duty plays an integral role.



The differences in Eastern and Western leadership models manifest themselves in corporate situations. Studying the speeches delivered by Indian business leaders, Desai argued that their rhetorical focus tends towards nationalism and community responsibility. This trend is not reflected in the leadership styles of American business leaders. Jack Welch, for example, talks of the 4 E's: energy, the ability to energize others, the capacity to have an edge and take risks, and the capacity to execute. He also talks about passion and integrity—personal charismatic qualities, but not national goals. As the dominant Western models of leadership and behavior are increasingly called into question, new models may ascend to take their place. Increasingly, notions of sustainability and interdependence are taking center stage. As nations become increasingly dependent on one another for survival, a more relational understanding of leadership may become indispensable.

The Changing Face of US-Asia Engagement

with **Ambassador John Negroponte**, Vice-Chairman of McLarty Associates and Senior Research Fellow in Grand Strategy & Lecturer, International Affairs, Yale University



MUMBAI, 9 September, 2009 – In the transition between two radically different governments, the United States can also expect to see distinct shifts in foreign policy, Ambassador John D. Negroponte said in an evening presentation organized by the Asia Society India Centre. The Obama administration has inherited myriad Asian foreign policy issues from its predecessor; how the administration chooses to proceed with its diplomatic relations in the East will have lasting implications both at home and around the world. The Obama administration

must contend with considerable challenges in its foreign policy in Asia, such as engagement in Afghanistan and relations with Iran. China and India have exploded as sites of huge human activity, economic and otherwise. What will prove fundamental in US foreign policy going forward is the ability to forge international consensus, as well as a focus on helping to build

local capacity.

Asia 21 – Aakash Sethi and QUEST

The Asia Society India Centre supports 65 Asia 21 Fellows with varied backgrounds in areas such as environment, film, business, health, and education. This space will feature a different Asia 21 India Fellow in each edition and highlight their organizations, initiatives, and projects. To learn more about Asia 21 visit www.asiasociety.org/asia21. This quarter, Aakash Sethi, executive director of The Quality Education and Skills Training Alliance (QUEST) introduces the organization and its current activities.

The Quality Education and Skills Training Alliance (QUEST) is a registered charitable trust based in Bangalore. It constitutes a dynamic network of public, private and non-governmental organizations working together to create, pilot and institutionalize technology tools for improving the quality of education at all levels in formal and non-formal settings. QUEST programs identify innovative technology-mediated solutions for improved school education and employability programs for disadvantaged youth. Over the last four years we have developed two core programs, **Video+shala** and **More Than a Job**.

Video+shala is an innovative program that trains young people in developing educational videos that are contextual and rooted in the child's reality, while also integrating the values of Citizenship, Diversity and Democracy. These are 'community videos' - videos created by the community, as opposed to the usual top-down approach to educational material production. The videos are produced through four Education Community Video Units, with local people who are trained as full-time video producers. Screening sessions are conducted in classrooms.

Each session is followed by activities and interactive sessions conducted by Classroom Facilitators, also members of the community. The activities aim to encourage children to think more broadly and holistically about the subjects in their textbooks. This program has reached out to over 200 schools and evaluation results show considerable increase in learning levels of children. The state department of Gujarat is now implementing this program in two districts.



To address the issue rising levels of unemployment among youth, the '**More Than a Job**' initiative provides for continued education and increase employment potential among under-served youth in India. QUEST is developing digital content for mobile phones to learn English, a Digital Lifeskills toolkit for facilitators and pre vocational content to orient kids on possible career options after passing class ten.

