



Manipal International Literature and Arts Platform

6 - 8 April
2023



In Conversation with Bengaluru

Spaces. Intersections. Transitions. Imaginaries.

(SITI)

Masterclasses . Panel Discussions . Workshops . Book Exhibitions . Film Screenings . *Pratibimba* - Short Film Competition

Ooru Suddi: Panel Discussion



Dignitaries on the stage

Swathi Shivanand felicitating Rasheed Kappan

Arjun Kumar

The second day of m.i.l.a.p. 2023 began with a panel discussion by journalists Meera K. and Rasheed Kappan speaking of journalism's complex relationship with democracy and how city-based journalism can be a site to witness 'democracy in action'. Meera spoke of newsroom hierarchies and how it affects reporting. She said, "Writing about foreign policy is great, but it's not really going to make a difference to an average reader." Rasheed spoke of blind spots in reportage and the importance of paying attention to those who are dispossessed in reporting on issues of urban mobility and infrastructure.

Book Launch

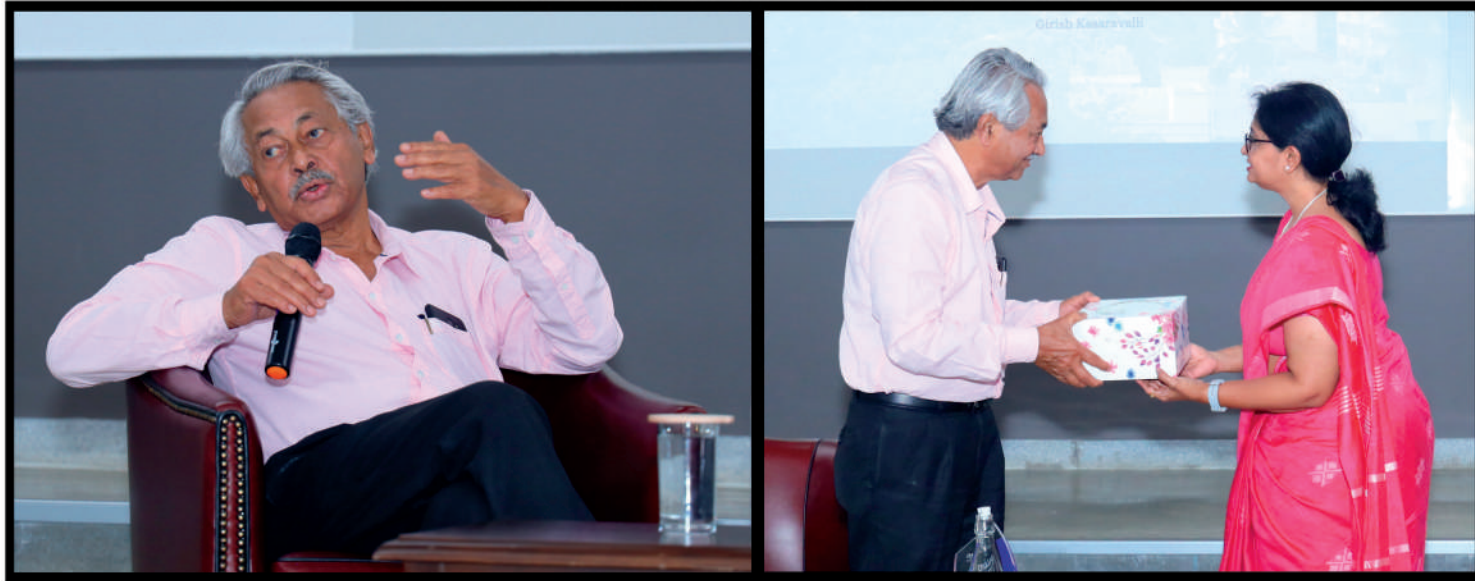


Madhu Veeraraghavan, Pro-VC MAHE Bengaluru launching the book

Viha Disley, Rakshana Sivakumar

Postcolonial Identities and West African Literature, the book authored by Anwesha Das, was launched during m.i.l.a.p. 2023 in the presence of Madhu Veeraraghavan, Arindam Das and Bindu Menon. It was followed by a discussion, wherein Anwesha Das spoke of how literature itself could serve as an alternative way of re-telling history. In literature historical content remains the same but imagination is added to the narrative, she said.

Screening and Masterclass: Girish Kasaravalli



Girish Kasaravalli addressing the audience

Girish Kasaravalli being felicitated

Ajitesh Menon, Ashwajeet Nair

The film *Dweepa*, released in 2002, by internationally acclaimed filmmaker Girish Kasaravalli was screened and discussed as a part of m.i.l.a.p. The movie is based on a Kannada novel by the same name which has focused on the submersion and displacement of people living near dams. It is a multi-dimensional movie consisting of political, social, economic, cultural and gender aspects as a part of the narrative.

Katha Kammata: The Art of Storytelling



Vasudhendra addressing the participants

Interactions during the workshop

Mick Mendonca, Tanay Kothiala

Vasudhendra, a prolific author in the field of Kannada short stories and novels, conducted *Katha Kammata*, a workshop entailing various aspects of storytelling as a part of m.i.l.a.p. 2023. The workshop emphasized the importance of language and communication as tools that enable us to drive change. Vasudhendra dwelled on skills such as being able to create a story from scratch and using one's sensory organs to envision stories from their surroundings. He also discussed how to string together a story by connecting irrelevant dots to form a narrative. Vasudhendra then spoke about choosing characters and objects from abstract pictures to form coherent stories.

Queer bodies: Poetry and Politics



Panelists on the dais



Q&A session at the end of the panel

Maulik Pal, Aryaka Srivastava

“Our bodies are just the beginning,” said Rohini Venkatesh Malur while reciting her poem which brings light to the challenges faced by trans women. The panel discussion organized during m.i.l.a.p.2023, was led by Malur, Rumi Harish and moderated by Bharath Savithri Divakar. The session started with a poetry recital by Harish which focused on the crisis of a late lesbian couple who wished to be buried together. They further discussed expression of queerness through poetry and raised questions to define the relationship between activism and poetry. Harish highlighted that “the time has come where we have to rewrite the aesthetics”. They deliberated on the concept of hypocrisy and how they are defined by just their body, sex and sexuality. They concluded with reciting poems in both Kannada and English about queer bodies.

City Inscapes: A Conversation

Shiwangi Verma, Ajitesh Menon

Andaleeb Wajid, the author of the series *Jasmine Villa* and Lavanaya Laxminarayan, the author of *Analog Virtual* elaborated on their perspectives of Bengaluru as a city in a panel discussion as a part of m.i.l.a.p. 2023. The discussion highlighted what defines ‘newness’ in their work in the urban literary landscape and how ‘inscapes’ of the cities are utilized by them in writing literary works.



Andaleeb Wajid, Lavanaya Lakshminarayan and Sudhamshu Bhushan Raju (from left to right)

Imaging Cityscapes: A Conversation With Bengaluru Artists

Zaafirah Siddiqui, T Veda Sri

Srishti Manipal Institute of Art, Design and Technology organized *Imaging Cityscapes: a Conversation with Artists from Bangalore*, a panel discussion, as a part of m.i.l.a.p. 2023. The panel comprising Archana Hande, Ravi Kumar Kashi and Surekha, was moderated by Anil Kumar H A.

The session explored the definitions of Bengaluru and the documentation of the city over the last three decades through posters, sculptures, cutouts, photography and projects such as Ragi.net. The artists, all residents of Bengaluru, shared their experiences of witnessing the changes in cityscapes through decades.



Archana Hande, Anil Kumar H A, Ravi Kashi and Surekha in conversation (from left to right)

The Caretaker by Venumadhav Bhat



Stills from *The Caretaker*

Aryaka Srivastava, Viha Disley

The Caretaker is a 1960 English play written by Harold Pinter which was performed during m.i.l.a.p. 2023. The three-act play is set in a single room of a house in West London with three men circling around each other's life.

The play focuses on understanding the humaneness around these three men, confronting their realities while engaging politically on the refugee crisis, hierarchical structures, mental health, and politics of space of 1960.

In *The Caretaker*, a wheedling, garrulous old tramp comes to live with two brothers. The tramp's attempts to establish himself in the household upsets the precarious balance of the brothers' lives, and they end up evicting him.