



DECEMBER 2010 NEWSLETTER

Dear friends and supporters of Sangam House:

We are now well into this year's residency season. We have already welcomed half of the writers that will be with us this winter. In fact, we have just had our first departure. At 6:00AM this morning everyone watched Rajat Chaudhuri pull away in an auto rickshaw, beginning his long journey back to Kolkata. It's been a quiet day as everyone is a bit blue with his departure – saying goodbye to colleagues is always the toughest part of the residency experience. Luckily, the time at Sangam was very productive for Rajat as he revised many short stories and even completed a brand new story. He left it behind for us to read and we've all taken solace in his departure by enjoying his work.

American poet Colie Hoffman has already posted a sample of the work she's been doing at Sangam House on [The The Poetry Website](#). She is also doing a series of posts about her experience at Sangam House and you can read the first one [here](#).

Before the end of the season, we'll have sixteen writers and translators spend time at Sangam House. We've provided brief bios for all of the residents at the end of this newsletter so that you can become a familiar with those who will be working and living at Sangam House this year.



On November 24th we had our first formal reading at the **Crossword Bookstore** in Bangalore. The event was sponsored by **Toto Funds the Arts (TFA)**, and was very well attended. (It was also an interesting and welcome variation on Thanksgiving for the two Americans involved.) We will have a second reading at Crossword in January, also sponsored by TFA, and several more informal readings between now and then.

We are happy to announce that we have increased our programming by organizing an international poetry workshop at the previous residency location, the Adi Shakti Theater Laboratory just outside of Pondicherry. From December 8-15, eight poets, all from different linguistic backgrounds, will collaborate on various performances pieces that will fuse their written text with music and visual art. The project will culminate in public performance of the work at the **Prakriti Festival** in Chennai on the 16th. This workshop is collaborative effort with the New Delhi branch of the **German Book Office**, and we are very happy to be partnering with them in this effort.

DW Gibson will be filming a short documentary to capture the experience; be sure to check back on our website in the coming months for that video project.

We received very positive reports from **Perumal Murugan** who was this year Sangam House fellow at the **Toji Wonju residency program**. Each year, all Sangam House residents from India are invited to apply for this opportunity,



as an exchange program organized with **InKo Chennai**. This is designed as an opportunity to introduce an Indian writer to contemporaries in Korea, and give that writer a new experience working in a new environment. For Perumal, a very accomplished Tamil novelist, it was his first trip abroad and one that provided a meaningful and productive experience. As Peramul put it himself: "This is place is very nice. All around only hills. Here ten worldwide writers are staying. Full time job is writing, writing and writing. It is very beautiful place."

Lastly we'd like to let you all know that copies of the first volume of the Sangam House Reader are [available for purchase](#) for \$10 (shipping abroad) or 200 INR (within India). As mentioned in our last newsletter, the reader brings together work from all the writers that have been at Sangam House over our first two seasons. The volume is multi-lingual so that writings appear in their original language as well as in English translation. All proceeds from the sale of the reader will, of course, be used to further the work of our organization.

We wish you all a happy and healthy 2011!

With love and gratitude,

Arshia Sattar and DW Gibson



2010-2011 Residents

Louise Ardenfelt Ravnild (Danish, Translation) Louise is a Copenhagen-based translator working mainly from English into Danish. Her works include both fiction and non-fiction and range from serial killers, zookeepers' wives, female popes and burnt-out baseball players over bakers and dieters to brain scientists and businesspeople. She holds a Master's degree in Classical Indian Philology and hopes that it might actually prove useful some day.

Rajat Chaudhuri (English, Fiction) Rajat is a free thinker born in northern India; now practising in Calcutta. He has published one novel *Amber Dusk* and short stories in English and Bengali publications like *The Statesman*, *The Telegraph* and *Times of India*. His dark, surreal and twisted tales appear in *Underground Voices*, *Notes from the Underground*, *Eclectica* and other snakepits of the international literary underground. Chaudhuri reviews fiction for *Indian Literature* and *The Asian Review of Books*.

Colie Hoffman (English, Poetry) Colie is an American poet living in New York's Hudson Valley. An MFA graduate of Hunter College-CUNY and a 2010 resident of Sangam House, her poems have appeared in *Blood Orange Review*, *Obsidian: Literature in the African Diaspora*, and *The Furnace Review*. She is working on her first book.

Ida Hattemer-Higgins (English, Fiction) Ida was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, and grew up in Boston, Massachusetts. She studied German and Chinese literature in New York City, after which she left the U.S. in 2001. In the years since, she has lived in Japan, India, and Sweden, and for the past seven years as a student of literature and translator in Berlin, Germany. Her first novel, *The History of History*, will appear in January 2011, with the publishing houses Alfred A. Knopf, Faber & Faber, and Flammarion.

Annie Zaidi (English, Nonfiction/Poetry/Drama) Annie is the author of '*Known Turf: Bantering with Bandits and Other True Tales*' (Non-fiction/Tranquebar 2010) and a collection of poems, '*Crush*'. Some poems have appeared in *The Little Magazine*, *Desilit*, *Pratilipi*, *Indian Literature* and *Mint*; some fiction was published in '*21 Under 40*' (Zubaan), *Verve*, and *The Raleigh Review*. Her first play '*Name, Place, Animal, Thing*' was short-listed for The Hindu MetroPlus Playwright Award, 2009. She has been a journalist for a decade and has written for several newspapers and magazines including *Frontline*, *Tehelka*, *Mid-Day* and *Deccan Herald*. She currently lives in Mumbai, India.

Anil Yadav (Hindi, Fiction/Nonfiction) Currently based in Lucknow, Anil is a journalist with daily newspaper *The Pioneer*. Anil's literary writing has appeared in various journals and magazine. His fiction and travel writing have been featured on several websites including *iharmonium*, *pratilipi*, and *kabaadkhanna*.



Sudeep KS (English, Nonfiction) Sudeep was born in year 1976, in Thrissur, Kerala, India. He did his masters at IIT Bombay and worked for a software company in Bangalore for some time before going back to Bombay for his doctoral research. He started writing in English during this time, and he has been active on the blog space. After completing his PhD in early 2006, he lived in Kerala, Chennai, Hyderabad, Guwahati and Delhi and came back to Kerala in 2010, where he now teaches at an engineering college (NIT Calicut). His current blog sudeep's diary (sudeepsdiary.blogspot.com) came to existence when he was in Chennai, in August 2006. He has been writing on media, films, politics, women and caste among other things. He is one of the contributors at "Insight young voices" (blog.insightyv.com), a dalit youth magazine.

Mathilde Walter Clark (Danish, Fiction) Mathilde has published one work of non-fiction and three works of fiction, her most recent being the critically acclaimed novel, *Priapus* from 2010. Two books are to be published in 2011, *Grim Stores*, a short story collection, and *Patron Wanted*, a genre-bending artbook. Her short stories have appeared in Iowa Review, Literary Review and Absinthe. She was awarded the Carlsberg Foundation's "Discovery of the Year" in 2005, the Three Year Scholarship from the Danish Art Foundation in 2006, and received an honorary award from Rosinante & Co in 2007. In 2006 she represented Denmark in the International Writing Program at the University of Iowa. She writes a bi-weekly column for Danish newspaper *MetroXpress*, and has written a philosophical series for the Danish Broadcasting Corporation (DR2).

Amit Ranjan (English, Non-Fiction) Amit is a doctoral candidate at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, in India. Currently, he is a visiting scholar at the University of New South Wales, courtesy of an Endeavour scholarship he has received from the Australian government. He is also an Inlaks Foundation Research Fellow for 2010. Amit writes poetry, fiction, and plays in English, and has acted in his own theatre productions. Currently, he is writing a fictional work set in 19th century about a very interesting Australian writer who lived in India in the 19th century.

Usha Rajagopalan (English, Fiction/Poetry) Usha was born in Tamil Nadu, schooled in Kerala, worked in Gujarat and now settled in Karnataka. She has had an eclectic working life before switching to creative writing full time. Her books are equally varied – a writer's manual (Get Published, OUP, 2001), novel (Amrita, Rupa & Co. 2004), short fiction (Corpse Kesavan & Other Stories, NHM, 2008) and poetry (Selected Poems of Subramania Bharati, Hachette India, forthcoming) translated from Tamil. What's constant, so far, are the milieu of her writing – India, and the language she writes in English.

Yuvan Chandrasekaran (Tamil, Poetry/Fiction/Nonfiction/Translation) Chandrasekaran publishes poetry under the penname M Yuvan; his fiction and nonfiction are both published under the name Yuvan Chandrasekar. He has published four novels and over fifty short stories. He also translates from English into Tamil.



Hannele Mikaela Taivassalo (Swedish, Fiction/Drama) Mikaela writes mainly prose, but also drama. She has published two novels and a collection of short stories, and has been awarded the Runeberg Prize, a national literary award in Finland, for her novel *Fem knivar hade Andrej Krapl* (*Andrej Krapl had Five Knives*). In addition to that she has also published two children's books, as well as stage plays and scripts for radio drama – and recently her first short film script. She is also active within The Swedish Writers' Union of Finland. Born and lives in Finland, but writes in her mother tongue Swedish.

V Ramaswamy (English, Fiction/Translation) V Ramaswamy lives in Calcutta, India. He is an entrepreneur, grassroots organiser, social planner, teacher, writer and translator. An economist by training, he has been working as a rights activist with labouring poor communities in Calcutta since 1984. *The Golden Gandhi Statue from America*, a collection of short stories by the Bengali writer, Subimal Misra, translated by him was published in 2010.

João Anzanello Carrascoza (Portuguese, Fiction) João was born in a small town in São Paulo state countryside, in Brazil. Carrascoza published many books of short stories and also novels for the young people and children. Carrascoza received the Jabuti (main Brazilian award for published books) and other important awards.

Park Kyoung-su (Korean, Fiction) Kyoung-su has received multiple grants from the Arts Council of Korea and has taught Linguistics and Creative Writing at various universities in Korea. His publications include "Dawn of the Nana" (2010), "Fiction of Midnight" (2007) which won the Arts Council of Korea award, and "Things to Know Before Raising a Rabbit" (2003).

Deepika Arwind (English, Fiction/Poetry) Deepika Arwind is from Bangalore, India and writes in English. She writes poetry and short fiction and has been published in various journals and magazines. She was one of six poets shortlisted for the Srinivas Rayaprol Poetry Prize (an Indian national-level poetry award) in October 2010. She received two fellowships for journalistic and non-fiction writing this year. At Sangam House, she hopes to continue working on her short fiction.