



December 2017

Dear Friends of Sangam House,

We have just begun the 2017-2018 season at Sangam House – our tenth anniversary! We were thrilled to see a lovely article in the [Hindustan Times](#), about our first decade. Certainly, we could not have done it without the support of all of you – friends and family of the organization. Thank you.

This year we're welcoming 19 writers working in 9 different languages over the course of 16 weeks. We continue to share a beautiful campus with our host organization, Nrityagram, and are grateful to everyone there for their continued partnership.

Our ongoing translation and publishing project, **Yali**, continues to grow and thrive. As you might recall, Yali – a name that harkens back to a hybrid of many animals, a guardian deity in south Indian temples – is a special project that we began last year with the generous support of **Aditi: Foundation for the Arts**. Our goal is to assemble and mentor translators across Indian languages in order to support work from some of the more marginalized regions. It is exciting that we are able to encourage translations directly from one Indian language into another, without the use of English as a via media. What's more, Yali is committed to taking these new translations to publication through our network of publishers throughout India and the world.

In our first year of workshops we focused on one specific text, *Ghachar Ghochar* by Sangam House alumnus **Vivek Shanbhag**. Because of Yali support, this award-winning novel has now been translated into 4 languages with publications in Tamil, Hindi, Konkani and Marathi forthcoming this year.

We are pleased to announce that in 2018, Yali will be focused on supporting new translations of work by and about women. This has become a central project for Sangam House and it is buoyed by our estimable advisory committee: **Urvashi Butalia, Kannan Sundaram, R. Sivapriya, Neeta Gupta, Arunava Sinha, and Rahul Soni**. Thanks to all of you – and of course to Aditi: Foundation for the Arts – for carrying this project forward.

We were also happy to see the publication of work from our Simurgh Project in [Words Without Borders](#). This was our first translation project, focused on Kashmiri poetry, and it led us to the broader idea of Yali.

In April, we hosted **Lekhana**, our annual series of literary gatherings. It was a special undertaking this year as it was held in conjunction with the opening of a new **South India PEN** office and featured a speech by Sangam House alumnus, **Perumal Murugan**. Murugan has not only continued writing after receiving threats because of his work but we are also happy to report that his work is now being published in more languages with English translations of *One Part Woman* and his next novel both forthcoming from Grove Atlantic in the U.S.

In fact, so many of our alumni have published books in 2017 and several have won awards. HarperCollins India has released "Perennial 10," a list of the 10 best translated titles published under the Perennial imprint in its first 10 years, and there is a significant Sangam House alumni presence on the list



which includes **Vivek Shabhadg's** novel *Ghachar Ghochar*, as well as his translation of UR Ananthamurthy's *Hindutva or Hin Swaraj; Wild Words*, poetry from **Kutti Revathi, Malathi Maithri, Salma** and **Sukirtharani**; and **V Ramaswamy's** translation of Subimal Misra's "Wild Animals Prohibited". **Sharanya Manivannan** took home a Laadli Award for Gender Sensitivity for her book *The High Priestess Never Marries*; for his contributions to Tamil poems and literature, **Sukumaran Narayanan** won an award for from the Federation of Tamil Sangams of North American; **Christopher Kloeble** received a Dublin Literary Award for his novel *Almost Everything Very Fast*; **Rohan Chhetri** won the inaugural Per Diem Poetry Prize for his chapbook, *Jurassic Desire*; and **Vrinda Baliga** won the Katha Fiction Contest for her story "Alcatraz". Also, one of our long-time supporters and selection committee members, **Namita Gokhale**, won the first Centenary National Award for Literature, while long-time selection committee member and Yali advisor **Urvashi Butalia** was awarded a Goethe Medal.

Our partnerships with other residencies continue to thrive. In August, Sukumaran Narayanan enjoyed a four-week residency at the **Toji Cultural Center** in Korea, thanks to the generous support of the **InKo Centre**; in November **Krupa Ge** spent three weeks at **Jayanti**, generously supported by **Pushpesh Pant**; and in January **Emily Holleman** will begin a six-week residency in Chennai, hosted by the **Chennai Mathematical Institute**.

Earlier this year, we edited **Vol. IV of the Sangam House Reader**, which will feature work from our Season 7 & 8 alumni. It has been printed and we will be shipping it out to all of you soon. Our thanks to InKo Centre for its continued support of the Sangam House Reader series. Soon we'll begin work on Vol. V!

The rewarding work of Sangam House never stops. And, of course, none of it is possible without our extended network of friends and family – YOU. We hope you all have survived what has turned out to be a very turbulent year. Here's to making 2018 a much more peaceful year the world over.

With continued good wishes,

Arshia Sattar, DW Gibson & Rahul Soni