



December 2018

Dear Friends of Sangam House,

We are approaching the start of our 11th season at Sangam House with a host of exciting changes and developments.

After eight fantastic years working with Nrityagram as our host organization, we are happy to announce that the upcoming season will take place at **The Jamun**, an intimate arts space in Bangalore. The Jamun, which takes its name from the inspiring tree on the campus, is on a green lane in a quiet neighborhood. For several years now, The Jamun has built up a reputation as a vital arts space for the city of Bangalore, hosting talks with writers like Ngūgi wa Thiong'o, as well as readings and workshops arranged by Sangam House. We are looking forward to deepening our working relationship with The Jamun in the coming years.

We are also happy to announce that our two residency managers, **Pascal Sieger** and **Giles Hazelgrove**, will oversee the upcoming season. Pascal has been a friend of the organization since its inception and Giles, an estimable alumnus, has brought new enthusiasm and leadership to the residency program in recent years. They are both essential to keeping the organization thriving and we are grateful for their commitment!

Our upcoming season will run from January to March and feature **tk** writers from **tk** countries, working on fiction, poetry, theater, nonfiction and translation. The residents were selected from a competitive application pool and we look forward to welcoming them into the Sangam House family.

It has been a year of so very many awards and nominations for our alumni. **Perumal Murugan** was long-listed for the inaugural Best Translated Novel Award from The National Book Foundation in the U.S., and also on the short list for the 2018 JCB Prize. He wasn't alone on the JCB list; it also featured **Shubhangi Swarup**, who, separately, took home the inaugural Tata Literature First Book Award for *Latitudes of Longing*. **Janice Pariat** and **Tashan Mehta** were both short-listed for the Prabha Khaitan Woman's Voice Award and **Sanjay Kumar** was awarded a the Bridport Prize Prize for his short story, "The Fore Caddie." The Hindu Playwright Award went to **Annie Zadi**, and **Rohan Chhteri** won the 2018 Kundiman Poetry Prize for *lost hurt or in transit beautiful*. **Vivek Shanbhag** was short-listed for the 2018 National Translation Award from the American Literary Translators Association, **Jeremy Tiang** won a Singapore Literature Prize for his novel *State of Emergency* and **Noor Zaheer** won the Kannada Sahitya Academy Award for her translation of *Denied by Allah*.

As for publications, the list is too bountiful to enumerate but safe to say the work that is nurtured at Sangam House is filling bookshops more and more every year.



Poetry at Sangam House continues to thrive under the leadership of **Priya Sarukkai Chabria** with the most recent issues guest edited by **Sumana Roy** and **Luis H. Francia**.

And with the generous support of the **Aditi Foundation** our ongoing translation project, **Yali**, continues to thrive. As we've mentioned before, Yali is currently focused on translating contemporary Indian literature in and out of Indian languages, including English. The project is named after the fantastical beast in Indian mythology, composed of the various parts of different animals – the head of an elephant, the body of a lion, the talons of an eagle and so forth -- as the artist pleases. A Yali stands as a guardian deity at gateways to sacred places and sometimes to palaces that contain untold riches. We believe that s/he was the creature that we were looking for to represent Indian literatures – hybrid and vibrant in body and protecting a multitude of treasures, both sacred and profane.

Yali was created to support younger Indian translators and small publishers and to nurture quality translations from one language to another. As such, we bring new and younger translators into contact with a senior translator who mentors them through the work they are translating. While some of the mentoring happens virtually, each year, translators and mentors must come together for a week at Sangam House where they produce a final draft for the publisher. Typically, we seek a direct translation from one Indian language to the other, without using a link language (such as English). Whenever possible, we bring the writer of the original work to meet the translator and the mentor, allowing them time together to discuss the work more fully. By doing so, we bring writer, translator and publisher into a synergistic relationship around the work.

Yali's greatest resource is its network of reliable and dedicated senior translators who act as mentors in the program and writers of the original works who are willing to share their time with translators. The Yali project pays both mentors and translators and if needed, provides a small grant to support publication of the translated work.

Yali is also committed to ensuring better visibility for contemporary Indian works outside the sub-continent. Yali functions as a scout-cum-agent and works actively to bring distinguished works of Indian fiction in fine translations to the attention of publishers in the US.

In the two years since it began, the Yali project has produced translations in and out of English, Hindi, Tamil and Malayalam as well as translations out of Kannada and Kashmiri. Yali also searches for works in languages from marginalized communities and cultures and is putting together a selection of oral tales from the Kumaon region where Hinduism and Buddhism live side by side, each inflecting the other in both religious and secular practices. Publishers for our translations include websites such as Words Without Borders (www.wordswithoutborders.org), independent publishers such as Archipelago Books (USA) and Juggernaut (India), Kalachuvadu (Tamil, India) and Zubaan Books (India), among others.

We are so grateful to the Aditi Foundation for making Yali possible, and to all our sponsors who keep Sangam House going every year including **The Kathleen Brooks Family Foundation, The Reed Foundation, the InKo Centre in Chennai, the Pakriti Foundation, the Bhoomija Trust,**



Toto Funds the Arts, Neeraj Nevatia, Lavanya Sankaran, Laurie Patton, Bronwen Bledsoe, Samir Ghandi and Rachel Saltz.

We will be hosting monthly events during the upcoming season at The Jamun so if you find yourself in Bangalore please do let us know.

With continued good wishes,

Arshia Sattar, DW Gibson and Rahul Soni