

January 2022

Dear Friends of Sangam House,

We hope this finds all of you safe and healthy during these uncertain times.

Like so many non-profit organizations, Sangam House has worked hard to keep up with its mission during the last year — the second of a global pandemic. We are happy to say we just completed our 14th season of hosting writers and translators.

As was the case last year, this season we are limited to hosting residents who are already based in India, as international travel restrictions still prevent us from inviting writers from other regions of the world. Despite this operational constraint, we managed to assemble an all-star roster of residents, hosting 13 writers working in five different languages across fiction, nonfiction, theater, poetry and translation.

We remain ever grateful for the collaboration we share with **Trupti Prasad, Veronica Shanthini** and everyone at our hosting organization, **The Jamun**. We are also grateful **Anmol Tikko** worked with us as our residency manager this season. Anmol is a filmmaker who previously worked with Sangam House on Simurgh, a translation project bringing Kashmiri poetry into English.

In March we published *Other Times, Volume 6 of the Sangam House Reader*, featuring work from residents who were with us during seasons 11 and 12. We're grateful to the **InKo Centre in Chennai** for their continued support of this publication series, which gives us the chance to bring together work for all Sangam House alumni.

Our alumni continue to be showered with honours and awards. Some highlights: **Karen Jennings** was longlisted for the Booker Prize for her novel *An Island* and **Krupa Ge** was longlisted for the JCB Prize for *What We Know About Her*; **Taran Khan's** *Shadow City* won the Stanford Dolman Travel Book of the Year, **Ashutosh Bhardwaj** won the Declaration of Devishankar Awasthi Award for criticism and PEN America selected **Rohan Chhetri** to receive a translation grant. **Rahul Soni**, who is not only an alumnus but also a long-time residency manager, was selected as Editor of the Year by the Publishing Next Industry Awards. We're also happy to announce that alumnus and Sangam House board member **Jeremy Tiang** was selected as a juror for the 2022 Booker Prize.

While the Covid pandemic has slowed some of our progress on [Yali](#), our project intended to nurture and mentor translations in and out of Indian languages, we were thrilled to see some of the work that Yali has previously supported gain meaningful recognition. The Telugu translation of **Jayant Kaikini's** *Toofan Mail* was published this year and the English language publication of the same book (titled *No Presents Please*), translated by **Tejwaswini Niranjana**, won the U.S. Literary Translation Award. In a fitting closure of the circle, Jayant as at Sangam House as a resident writer this past season.

After these months of isolation, we were able to (safely) host a small gathering at a Lekhana event – a poetry reading that honoured the late poet **Vijay Nambisan** and the Foundation in his name that supports a poet at Sangam House. **Jeet Thayil** and **Akhil Katyal** read their newer work and talked about form in poetry to a rapt audience of about 30 people. We extended the evening over drinks and dinner outdoors and truly, no one wanted to leave. The pleasure of the in-person readings and of each other’s company was a poignant reminder of all that we have lost and all that we hope to regain.

The Sangam House library of alumni publications continues to grow. As ever, we encourage alumni to keep us posted on your published works and to send us covers of your new books so we can add them to the [Sangam House Library](#). It’s our pleasure to keep cheering you on.

We couldn’t carry on with our residency or translation work if it weren’t for all of our wonderful sponsors — so many of whom have been supporting our work for more than a decade. Our heartfelt thanks to **Kalpana Raina** and **The Aditi Foundation**, **Samir Gandhi**, **Bronwen Bledsoe**, **Rachel Saltz**, **Laurie Patton**, **the InKo Centre in Chennai**, **The Reed Foundation**, **Toto Funds the Arts**, **The Prakriti Foundation**, **Neeraj Nevatia**, **Bhoomija**, **The Nambisan Foundation**, the **Prasad family**, as well as **Jake Short** and **The Kathleen Brooks Family Foundation**.

We thank everyone for continuing to support Sangam House, through your donations, counsel and engagement. We rely on you as part of our broader community to keep the work going.

We hope to be able to open our 2022-2023 application cycle to writers and translators from around the world, a determination that will be made early next year.

Here’s to a safe and prosperous new year.

With continued good wishes,

Arshia Sattar and DW Gibson