



July 2014

Hello Friends and Supporters of Sangam House,

We are already looking at applications for the new season and it seems like we just closed our first summer session. This additional four-week residency was the result of the overwhelming demand created by the volume of applications we are now receiving. It gives us great pleasure to expand our programming, and we are deeply grateful to you, our financial sponsors and collaborators, for making this possible. We're hoping to make the summer session a regular extension of our program, which means that Sangam House will now run for 16 weeks per year, up from 12 winter weeks in years past.

We have expanded opportunities for Sangam House writers this year through two new residency collaborations. The **Chennai Mathematical Institute** now hosts two Sangam House writers from overseas as Writers-in-Residence each year. Selected writers are housed in the **Cholamandal Artists Village** in Chennai, in **Studio Arnawaz** and **Studio Ammu**—both accommodations are partnerships with other artistic communities.

On the other side of the world, the **Jacaranda Literary Agency** offers Sangam House writers a four-week home-stay residency. Last year, the residency was located in Nairobi; this year we look forward to a new location in the Philippines.

And our residency exchange with the **Toji Writing Centre in Korea** remains as strong as ever, thanks to the **InKo Centre, Chennai**, and **ARKO, Korea**.



You will share our pride and delight at Sangam House writers being short-listed and winning awards, many for work they have done at Sangam House:

Mario Kaiser won the Kurt Tucholsky Prize for Narrative Journalism in October 2013 for his piece, "The Man Who Fell out of the Frame"

Karen Jennings was short-listed for the Etisalat Literary Prize for *Finding Soutbek*

Minakshi Thakur was short-listed for the Tibor Jones Award for her first novel, *Lovers like You and I*

Trisha Gupta was one of the winners of the Press Club of Mumbai's National RedInk Awards for her writing on film

Mridula Koshy (who came back to us for a second residency period this summer) was short-listed for the Crossword Vodafone Awards in 2009 for *If This is Sweet*, a short story collection she was able to complete when she was with us in 2008.

Janice Pariat came to us in the winter, fresh from winning the 2013 Crossword Book Award for *Boats on Land*

Tendai Huchu arrived in May on the heels of being short-listed for the Caine Prize for African Writing

Our poetry page, Poetry at Sangam, is now a year old thanks to the efforts and determination of our conscientious editor **Priya Sarukkai Chabria**. The page showcases deeply moving work from across the world, often in translation from languages other than English.



Also part of our outreach programming is our annual literary weekend, Lekhana, which was held in January 2014 under the umbrella theme "Talking Writing." The highlight of the weekend was the space and time for interaction between Sangam House writers and local city writers.

One major highlight from this year's iteration of Lekhana was the **launch of a new publication of Asif Currimbhoy's Selected Plays. "Goa,"** became the source of a lively discussion about the text with actors and playwrights eager to discuss Currimbhoy's place in theater in both historical and contemporary context. This was a meaningful event for us since the Currimbhoy family have long supported a special fellowship for Indian playwrights at Sangam House.

This year, a partnership with the local bookstore, **Atta Galatta**, has given us a new venue for our readings and literary conversations during our winter and summer sessions. Of course, a new venue means a new audience and we could not be more pleased with this collaboration.

Our first commercial publication, *Wild Girls Wicked Words*, the bilingual anthology of poems by Tamil women writers, has been picked up by **HarperCollins** and will soon be available digitally and through wider bookstore distribution.

Nrityagram continues to be our home away from home for both winter and summer sessions. The crazy crow and his descendants remain the all-too-early morning alarm for many of us; Guru the dog still comes to us at tea-time and, with divine inspiration, has learned to steal butter like Lord Krishna. The trees that are



planted on our behalf each year have taken root in the rich red soil of Nrityagram—just as we have. Once again, we invite you all to come and see us where we are at our best—writing, reading, talking about books and the world at large.

In closing, we wish you all well and thank you, again, for your faith in Sangam House,

Arshia Sattar, DW Gibson, Rahul Soni