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India Foundation for the Arts (IFA) in collaboration with  
Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan, New Delhi and supported by  
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## **Archives and Museums—Old Routes/New Journeys\***

*A Conference on Critical and Creative Approaches to Making Collections Public*

**DATES: Wednesday, March 07 & Thursday, March 08, 2018**

**TIME: 09:30 AM to 06:30 PM**

**VENUE: Siddhartha Hall, Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan**

No 3, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi - 110 001

The two-day conference **Archives and Museums—Old Routes/New Journeys** will bring together artists, curators, historians, writers, archivists, and museum professionals to engage in discussions on the creative and critical ways in which collections in museums and materials in archives can be made more accessible, more public. The sessions on both days will also raise questions on issues of interpretations, ethics and legal implications that institutions as well as creative practitioners experience while working in museums and archives. The conference will conclude with exploring the questions — how can we re-imagine archives and museums in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, who are they for, and, what do they wish to convey? Structured around presentations, panel discussions and talks, the two days will conclude with a performance drawn from archival research.

Despite the many changes that have swept India in recent years, one institution that has remained relatively unchanged is the government museum. Can these museums cease to remain what we call a *vastusangrahalaya*, 'a collection of objects', and evolve into sites where new connections can be drawn between objects, related environments and cultures, from which new narratives and histories can emerge? Can collections of other kinds — materials in archives for example — become important resources for creative explorations that speak to diverse audiences? These are some of the questions that led to the conceptualisation of the **Archival and Museum Fellowships initiative** at **India Foundation for the Arts (IFA)** four years ago. This programme stresses on the need for re-researching and re-viewing that which is forgotten, and re-using materials found in archives and collections, in order to create multiple narratives. The outcomes and knowledge that have been explored through select projects will be presented at the conference. Rather than limit the discussions to only IFA supported projects, the conference also attempts to engage with creative practitioners/scholars and museum professionals who have worked towards making archives and museums spaces of contact and connections between people, scholarly material, artworks and ideas, and whose practices reflect the challenges of the contemporary world.

*The conference is free and open to all*

*\*The title of the conference is taken from Abeer Gupta's project of the same name, as part of his Archival and Museum Fellowship at Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, Bhopal*

*For queries on the conference, please contact Pramila at [pramila@indiaifa.org](mailto:pramila@indiaifa.org) or call Tanveer Ajsi at +91 98803 00118.*