



ArtBeat TRPF

cultural foundation bulletin

Introductory Note

Greetings from **The Rameshwar Prem Foundation (TRPF)**.

We are pleased to share the latest issue of **ArtBeat TRPF: Cultural Foundation Bulletin**, presenting some of the Foundation's recent work in cultural preservation, documentation and artistic engagement.

This issue opens with **The Imperative of Digitalisation at TRPF**, highlighting the need to preserve manuscripts, photographs, artworks, publications and audiovisual records through systematic digitisation. The proposed **TRPF Digital Cultural Archive & Research Centre** aims to create a structured and accessible resource for future research and cultural scholarship.

Our Tribute Section remembers three important cultural figures: theatre director and composer **B.V. Karanth** (1929-2002), theatre director and teacher **Satish Anand** (1947-2026), and internationally acclaimed contemporary artist **Yayoi Kusama** (1929-2026). Their lives and practices continue to influence generations across theatre and visual art.

The newsletter also presents an update on **Kalavilay 2**, TRPF's continuing platform for artistic dialogue, exchange and documentation, bringing together artists from different regions of India while preserving their creative processes and conversations.

Through its programmes, archives and documentation initiatives, **TRPF** seeks to connect cultural memory with contemporary creativity and to make artistic knowledge accessible to future generations.

We invite artists, researchers, students, institutions and cultural practitioners to remain connected with **TRPF** and participate in this growing cultural journey.

Thank you for your continued interest and support.

With warm regards,

The Rameshwar Prem Foundation (TRPF)

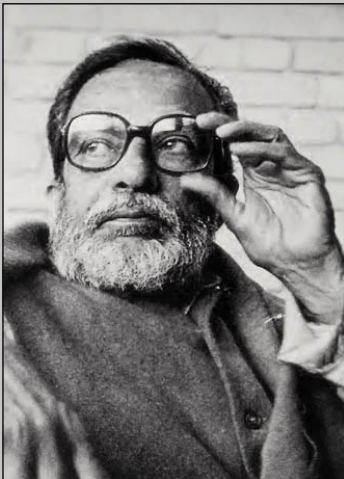


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Tribute to Three Legendary Artists

TRPF's Tribute to Three Legendary Artists

B.V. Karanth | **Satish Anand** | **Yayoi Kusama**



B.V. Karanth
Photographer: Unidentified
Image Source: Roovari

B.V. Karanth: A Voice That Changed Indian Theatre (1929-2002)

B.V. Karanth was one of the most influential directors, composers and institution-builders in modern Indian theatre. His work transformed the relationship between text, music, movement and performance, helping create a distinctly Indian theatrical language rooted in regional traditions yet open to experimentation.

Associated with institutions such as the **National School of Drama**, **Bharat Bhavan's Rangmandal** and **Rangayana**, **Karanth** placed music and the actor's physical presence at the centre of theatrical expression. His productions drew from folk forms, classical traditions, regional languages and contemporary dramaturgy, influencing generations of directors and performers across India.

For **The Rameshwar Prem Foundation**, **Karanth** holds special significance through his association with several works by **Rameshwar Prem**, including **Shastra Santan** for **Rangmandal**, **Bharat Bhavan**, in 1990; **Bhoot Aradhana** in 1988 (source: Sangeet Natak Akademi); **Kaalpatra** in 1978, for which he composed the music at Jesus and Mary College; and **Bazi**, staged by Rang Vasundhara at Sri Ram Center in 1998.

Karanth's legacy continues wherever Indian theatre searches for new forms without losing its cultural



Satish Anand
Source: Pancham Acting Academy
Photographer Unidentified

Satish Anand: A Life Devoted to Theatre (1947-2026)

Satish Anand was one of the significant theatre directors, actors and teachers associated with the growth of modern theatre in Bihar. Through **Kala Sangam**, Patna, he helped build a vigorous theatre culture and brought Bihar's stage to wider national attention. Contemporary reporting from as early as 1980 recognised **Kala Sangam** under **Anand** as an important force in Patna's theatrical awakening.

Anand's most distinctive contribution was his exploration of Bihar's folk performance traditions within contemporary theatre. Productions such as **Amali** (1984) and **Mati Gari** (1986) drew upon the performative vocabulary of **Bidesia**, bringing folk music, movement, language and popular theatrical traditions into dialogue with modern dramaturgy. He regarded theatre not merely as entertainment, but as a space of training, social

reflection and cultural memory.

A **Sangeet Natak Akademi Award**-winning director, **Anand** continued to teach and mentor younger theatre practitioners; **Sangeet Natak Akademi** records document his work in actor training, voice, speech, textual analysis and production practice.

His passing in Delhi on 29 August 2026, at the age of 79, marks the loss of a practitioner who devoted more than half a century to the stage.

For **The Rameshwar Prem Foundation**, remembering **Satish Anand** also means remembering a generation that believed theatre could connect the contemporary stage with India's regional languages, folk traditions and lived cultural experiences.

The artist leaves the stage, but the work continues in those who learned, performed and dreamed beside him.

Yayoi Kusama: Infinity, Repetition and a Life Devoted to Art (1929-2026)



Yayoi Kusama
Photograph: Yusuke Miyazaki
Courtesy: Ota Fine Arts, Victoria Miro and David Zwirner
© YAYOI KUSAMA
Source: Guggenheim Museum Bilbao



Yayoi Kusama, Pumpkin, 2016
Courtesy: Ota Fine Arts
© YAYOI KUSAMA
Source: Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden/Bufalo AKG Art Museum



Yayoi Kusama, Dots Obsession-Love Transformed into Dots, 2007
Mixed-media installation
Courtesy: Ota Fine Arts, Victoria Miro and David Zwirner
© YAYOI KUSAMA
Source: Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institution.

Yayoi Kusama was one of the most distinctive and influential artists of the modern and contemporary era. Born in **Matsumoto**, Japan, in 1929, she developed an extraordinary visual language based on repetition, polka dots, nets, mirrors and seemingly infinite spaces. Her practice extended across painting, sculpture, installation, performance, literature and poetry.

After moving to the United States in 1957, **Kusama** became an important presence in **New York**'s avant-garde scene, creating her celebrated Infinity Nets, soft sculptures, performances and immersive environments. Her later **Infinity Mirror Rooms** and monumental pumpkin sculptures brought her artistic vision to audiences around the world.

Kusama continued creating until the final days of her life. She died in Tokyo on 14 August 2026, aged 97, leaving behind more than seven decades of relentless artistic experimentation. Her studio described a life devoted entirely to creation and to ideas of love, eternity and the human spirit.

For **The Rameshwar Prem Foundation**, **Kusama**'s journey reminds us that an artist's private language can become a universal experience.

The dots continue, the mirrors still multiply, and infinity remains.



TRPF Digital Cultural Archive and Research Center



The Rameshwar Prem Foundation (TRPF) is building a Digital Cultural Archive & Research Center to document, connect and preserve the work and journeys of artists and cultural practitioners.

We invite: **Painters • Sculptors • Printmakers • Illustrators • Photographers • Installation Artists • Digital & Multimedia Artists • Performance Artists • Folk & Tribal Artists • Traditional Artists • Craft Practitioners & Artisans • Designers • Theatre Practitioners • Actors • Directors • Performers • Musicians • Singers • Dancers • Writers • Poets • Researchers • Cultural Workers** • and practitioners from every field of art and culture.

YOUR CREATIVE JOURNEY DESERVES TO BE RECORDED, DISCOVERED AND REMEMBERED.

Register your profile with the **TRPF** Cultural Database and become part of a growing digital network dedicated to documenting contemporary artistic and cultural practice.

SCAN THE QR CODE & REGISTER YOUR CULTURAL PROFILE

Create. Connect. Be Documented. Be Remembered.

TRPF—The Rameshwar Prem Foundation
Digital Cultural Archive & Research Center

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THE RAMESHWAR PREM FOUNDATION



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कलविलय Festival -2 **Kalavilay 2: A Growing Platform for Artistic Exchange**

Kalavilay 2, initiated on 13 November 2025, has gradually developed into an engaging platform for artistic dialogue, exchange and documentation. Since its inception, the programme has worked with more than ten artists, bringing together creative practices and perspectives from different regions of India.

So far, four sessions have been organised with artists from **Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh** and **Delhi**, while several other artists from different parts of the country have been invited to participate in forthcoming sessions. Each interaction creates an opportunity to understand not only an artist's work, but also the ideas, processes and cultural contexts that shape their practice.

An important aspect of **Kalavilay 2** is its emphasis on documentation. The sessions are systematically recorded through video and photography, gradually creating a valuable visual record of contemporary artistic practices and conversations.

Rather than functioning simply as a series of presentations, **Kalavilay 2** is evolving into a continuing space for exchange, reflection and cultural memory, connecting artists across regions while preserving their voices and creative journeys for the future.



TRPF: Building a Living Cultural Network

The Rameshwar Prem Foundation (TRPF) is a Section 8 non-profit cultural organisation working across theatre, literature, visual arts, archives, education and cultural documentation. Established to preserve and extend the literary and theatrical legacy of **Rameshwar Prem**, the **Foundation** also seeks to create new spaces for artistic exchange, research, learning and public participation.

At the heart of **TRPF**'s work is the belief that cultural memory must remain active. Manuscripts, photographs, theatre documents, artworks, publications and personal archives acquire greater meaning when they are studied, preserved, contextualised and made accessible to future generations. For this reason, the Foundation approaches documentation not simply as preservation, but as a means of connecting historical memory with contemporary cultural practice.

Through exhibitions, theatre programmes, workshops, publications, educational initiatives, digital archives and collaborative projects, TRPF is gradually developing a platform where artists, writers, theatre practitioners, researchers, students, educators and cultural institutions can engage with one another. Such interaction is central to the Foundation's vision of encouraging dialogue across disciplines and strengthening a broader culture of creativity, inquiry and shared responsibility.

TRPF is equally committed to supporting contemporary artistic practice. Alongside its archival work, the Foundation seeks to provide opportunities for emerging and established artists to present their work, participate in discussions, contribute to documentation initiatives and become part of collaborative cultural programmes. Its growing **Artist Database and Digital Cultural Archive** initiatives are intended to create long-term resources for research, networking and cultural exchange.

Education and public engagement remain equally important. **TRPF** plans and develops programmes for schools, colleges, cultural organisations and independent practitioners, with activities designed to encourage observation, critical thinking, creativity and a deeper understanding of India's diverse cultural heritage.

As the **Foundation** expands its programmes, it invites artists, schools, institutions, researchers, cultural workers, educators, students and well-wishers to remain connected with its activities. Registered participants will receive information about forthcoming newsletters, **Artist Database** opportunities, exhibitions, workshops, theatre programmes, archival projects, cultural events and future collaborations.

Registration is available through the **TRPF** website and via the QR code included in the **Foundation's** communication materials.

Every new participant strengthens the possibility of creating a wider cultural network—one in which memory is preserved, knowledge is shared and new creative work continues to emerge.

Stay connected. Participate, collaborate and become part of **TRPF's** continuing cultural journey.



Hirendra

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