

“Principles for the Development of a Complete Mind:  
Study the science of art. Study the art of science.  
Develop your senses - especially learn how to see.  
Realise that everything connects to everything else.”

Leonardo DaVinci

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Curriculum Vitaé | SHITAL MEHTA

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*Work experience:* 32 years

*Education:* GD in Applied Arts from Sir J.J.School of Arts Mumbai, 1975

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*Objective:* The choice of a career in Art Education has been mostly the passion for creative thinking, exploring different mediums and experimenting with unconventional methods to inspire one to create.

It has been an hands-on, ongoing process of learning from children, which gives me a lot of energy. The spontaneity and innocence in children's artworks has kept me going for art teaching for last twenty years.

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*Work Experience:*

**The New Era School, Mumbai | 1986 - Current**

- Consultant art educator teaching in Secondary department | June 2006 - Current
- Head Secondary art department | June 1986 - 2006

**Window To The World | 1991 - Current**

- Founder, Workshops for education through art

**Pundole art Gallery, Mumbai | 1975 - 1986**

- Graphic Designer

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*Responsibilities and Assignments Executed as an Art Educator:*

- **Designing the annual art curriculum for all secondary classes and planning innovative art lessons to introduce students to:**
  - **Elements of art** such as Line, Color, Shape, Form, Space, Texture
  - **Principles of art** such as Balance, Harmony, Emphasis, Proportions Movement, Rhythm.
  - **Art techniques and media** such as sketching, painting in watercolors, poster paints, waterproof inks, acrylics, oil pastels, charcoal, etc

- **Acquaint children to:**

- **Contemporary Indian artists** and their works through slides, prints, books and films as available.
- Traditional **folk arts** of India like **Warli, Madhubani, Applique work, Kangra** etc
- **Post Impressionist art** - **Picasso's** cubism, **Van Gogh's** strokes, **M.F. Husain's** lines, **Jehangir Sabawala's** broken spaces, **Cezanne's** apples and landscapes, **Mondrian's** balance etc.
- **Printmaking** with linocuts, mono printing, block printing, rubbings etc.
- **3D experimenting** with assembling, making collages, paper sculpting, clay sculpting, relief paintings, book making etc.
- **Mask making** - papier mache, african masks, paper sculpted animal masks, portrait masks etc.
- **Non-objective art**, understanding art history
- **Integrated art projects** with history and geography introducing art of the different cultures of the world such as **Egyptian art, African art, Indus Valley Civilization, Aboriginal art, miniature paintings from Kangra valley, native American art**, etc. Done through various related craft activities and hands-on art projects thru slides, Books and Internet resources.

*Eg: A project on Egyptian art includes actual mummification process with a papier mache mummy, Study figures of Egyptian paintings, Hieroglyphics - making bookmarks with their names written in Hieroglyphic language, Making head dresses and colors, dressing up in Egyptian costumes, enacting their stories, etc.*

(refer to the Gallery for photos)

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- **Key Activities and Involvement with New Era School**

- Worked with students to create a **mural** in the school premises incorporating terracotta tiles created by them. (2004)
- Designed and conceptualized **ART MELA** to celebrate completion of 75 years of the New Era School. (2006)  
About 10 different hands-on **creative art/craft activities** were conducted **free** for over **1000 students**.  
Also invited students from other schools and NGOs with under privileged students.  
Artists **M. F. Husain, Jatin Das, Badri Narayan, Madhavi Desai** were invited to paint the canvas (5ft.x18ft.) jointly with the children to inaugurate Art MELA.
- Regularly conducted **interschool art competitions** participated by 25 - 30 schools of Mumbai organized by Rotary Club, Mumbai and organized eminent judges.
- Designed and executed innovative **stage backdrops** for the Annual Day functions for the school.
- Organized visits to **art exhibitions** and **artists interactions** in art galleries like **Jehangir Art Gallery, National Gallery of Modern Art, Nehru Center** and others with specially designed worksheets for the children, related to the shows for better understanding of the art works and the artists.

- **Art Workshops**

- Conducts **Art Workshops** on special themes such as - **Egyptian Art, African art, Islamic art, Australian Aboriginal art, Native American art, Japanese art, Mexican art**, etc.
- **Art Appreciation: French Impressionist Art**, understanding **Picasso, Post Impressionism, Responding to Indian contemporary artists** and their works.
- **Indian Themes:** Miniature paintings. Indus valley civilization, World of Warli, Madhubani art from Bihar, Ramayana through Masks, History of Mumbai through the Ages

- **Key Achievements as an Art Educator**

- Regularly invited to **conduct thematic art workshops** at institutions such as **National Gallery of Modern Art, Mohile Parikh Center (National Center for Performing arts), Sir J.J.School of Arts, Nehru Center, Museum Society of Bombay, Max Muller Bhavan, Bombay Natural History, Chemould art Gallery, Companies like Essar Group of Industries, St. Xavier's College (Malhar Festival), Sydnham College, N. M. institute of Management** and other schools and colleges.
- Participated in **'The Tile Destination: the World'** project to encourage international dialogue and cross-cultural understanding through the exchange of children's artworks around the globe. The artworks are now installed and exhibited at different parts of the world (2004)
- Presented **research paper** on **Folk art Madhubani** and Indian artist **M. F. Hussain** represented through our Children's art projects in **Chicago, USA** (2006)
- Presented at **Museum Educator's conference** at **Denver Museum, USA** (2004)
- Part of the team conducting Art lessons hosted by the **UNICEF** on their site for **World art Education** (Website: <http://cspace.unb.ca/idea/contries/India>) (2000)
- Artist in Residence at **University of Wisconsin Oshkosh** for Art Education Majors, USA (2004)
- Artist in Residence at **South Park Middle School, Wisconsin and Jefferson Elementary School, USA** (2004)
- Conducted workshops for children at **Paine Art Center, Appleton Children's Museum Wisconsin, USA** (2004)
- Lectured on **Indian Puppetry** at **University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh** and **At IndUS Society, USA** (2004)
- Presented **paper on art education in India** at **The World Congress Seminar (INSEA)** held in New York, USA (2002)
- Presented **papers on art education** involving considerable planning and research at **National Art Educators Association (NAEA)** annual convention at Los Angeles, USA (2000)
- Worked as a **committee member for Kala Ghoda Art Festival** organized by Jindal Foundation in developing and conducting their **Children's creativity programs** (2001 and 2002)
- Authored articles in **School Arts Magazines** by **Davis Publication**, the popular art education magazine in U.S.
- Conducted many **interactive art workshops for socially relevant causes** with NGO's like Aseema, CRY, Akanksha, Vatsalya, Magic Bus, Seva Sadan, Tata Institute of Social Sciences.
- Initiated an **interactive program for under-privileged children** called **'Apun Ka Club'** where idea is to provide these children the same opportunities and experiences in creative activities such as art, music, theater etc. as the privileged children to groom their talents.

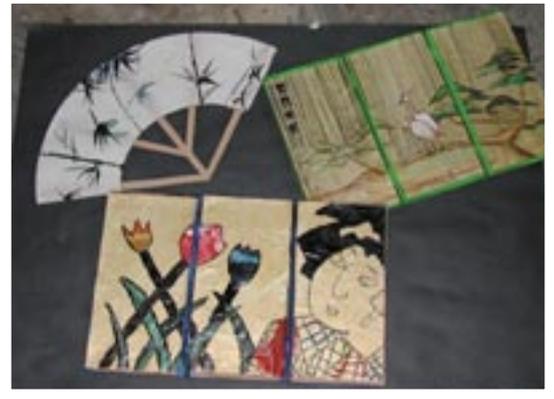
(refer to the Gallery for photos)

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PHOTO GALLERY



music, theater etc. as the privileged children to groom their talents.



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PHOTO GALLERY



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