

DR. UNNI KRISHNAN K | PORTFOLIO



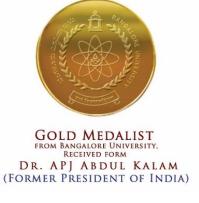
Academician: Associate Professor- *Art, Culture and History* | **Coordinator**: *Centre for Creative and Cultural Studies* | **Ph.D. Guide:** *Manipal Academy of Higher Education,* Manipal, India.

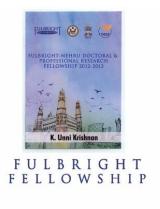
Senior Artist: Painting, poetry, installation, photography | **Curator**

Philanthropist: Social awareness on art and culture appreciation.

Fulbright Alumnus: USA | Chevening Clore Leadership Fellow: UK.







E: unni4art@gmail.com | unni.krishnan@manipal.edu | M: +91 9880168485



It's all in our hands... world peace.

Is compassion so beyond our reach?

Aren't we living, feeling beings

Part of the humbling wide, wondrous universe?

Your imagination and brilliance
Is at par with the air, water, earth and fire.
You are a force, destined to heal, feel and believe.

No man is an island ...
You were here yesterday and are here today
To share, care, lend a hand.

We often fail to live at peace with the world Yet hatred and judgment comes so easy to us Why is it so? Where has the peace gone?

Why do we draw the lines?

When we can easily color outside the lines

So that every race, cast and religion is nothing

But a color of the rainbow

In a world without borders,
One that's free of hatred, terror, greed
Liberal and kind, where everyone feels at home
Where we all truly belong.

Dr. UNNI KRISHNAN K - Biography

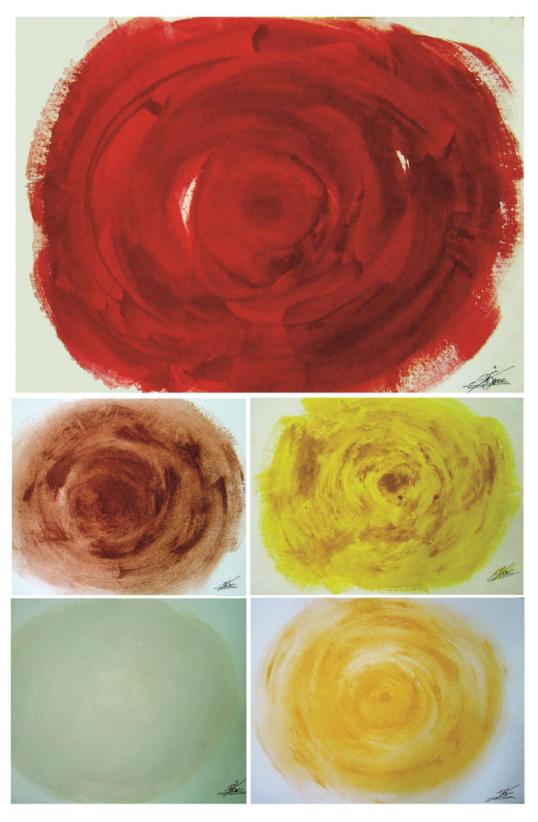
Dr. Unni Krishnan K. - Associate Professor | Coordinator - CCCS, MAHE | Research Fellow | Senior Artist

About Dr. Unni Krishnan K, is an Associate Professor, Ph.D. guide and a Fulbright Alumnus (FNDPR-USA). He has received Gold Medal from former President of India Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. He has taught and presented various lecture series across the U.S.A., U.K. and India. He is an academician, senior artist & curator and a philanthropist with a humble list of accomplishments.



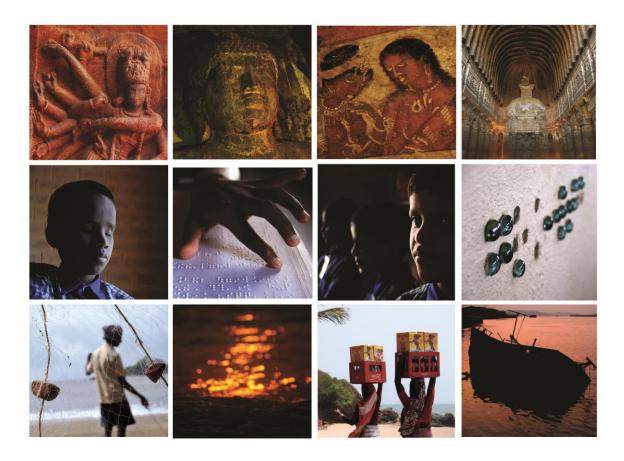
Unni has his Doctorate in Art and Cultural

History (Visual Culture) from The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda (MSU) with a Nehru-Fulbright Doctoral & Professional Research Fellowship (USIEF-FNDPR 2012-13) at Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA), MD, USA. He is currently an associate professor at the School of Communication, Founder and Coordinator of the Centre for Creative and Cultural Studies (CCCS) at Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE). He has presented his research at Oxford-UK, Institute of International Education-Washington DC, MICA- MD, India and at various South Asian Research Centers. Apart from research, he has been awarded with Gold Medal from the former Hon. President of India Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam for academic excellence and has contributed and exhibited his artworks at various venues including the group show 'Ashe-Amen' at New York funded by MOBIA and the Andy Warhol Foundation, travel exhibition series. He has curated art exhibitions of various renowned senior artists, writers and litterateurs. He has over ten years of teaching and over five years of Media-Industry experience. He has recently received a **fellowship** from the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India: Scheme of Award of fellowship to outstanding persons in the Field of Culture 2015-16. He is an active member at various research organizations and art Centers and is also a Ph.D. guide. He has been organizing annual conferences in the USA and India. He has been actively contributing towards social education- Art and Culture outreach projects for the financially challenged communities and Government schools of India. Introduced 'Art Appreciation' as an open elective subject for all disciplines in the University, probably first of its kind in India. He is currently editing books on Culture, Arts, Media and Policy. He also works on Education and Culture Policy with NGO's and Educational institutes in India.



Painting series "Pancha Tatva" the five elements, natural essence and acrylic,

Vermilion, red sandal, sandal, turmeric, ashes.



Creative expressions: Unni explores his art through various creative mediums: painting, poetry, photography, installation art and mixed media. He believes in interdisciplinary approach and experiments with various mediums and materials. Although he has been practicing art since his childhood, he has exhibited art works at various venues in India and in the USA. His artworks have a language of questioning the consciousness, intertwined with the feel and texture of rich culture and environment. His conceptual work debate through the journey from the fundamental ideas of Gandhian debates on truth, discussions on freedom by Tagore. With minimalism and deconstruction theory, he experiment art with various subjects in and around nature, culture, identity through elements of regional folklore and cultural impressions. His conceptual series of painting titled "Pancha tatvas", the five symbolic elements of south Asian rituals and culture, speaks volume on the depth of identity, feel of emotions and naturality of substance, through bold strokes of prominent circle-the bindu, the concentrated centre of attention, the most simplistic form of expression.

His photography has a satire style of simplicity with metaphors of social expressions. The images take you through a journey of debates such as local versus global, effects of globalization, surviving heritage, physically challenged and so on. His photographs capture the essence of time in poetic visual narrative. The images are rich in colors and ideas that provoke the audience to re-think. His poetries are high spirited, lucid, contemporary and critical. During the early phase of his career, Unni had published his illustrations and cartoons in daily newspapers. He has exhibited and presented his art works in India and in the USA. Dr Unni Krishnan has curated art exhibition of various renowned senior artists, writers and litterateurs and has promoted young artists with their annual art shows encouraging and giving a social platform to present their best to the society and industry with opportunities to interact with senior experts.



Academic Excellence:

As a **curious and humble student** of culture, he completed his Nehru- *Fulbright Doctoral & Professional Research Fellowship* at Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA), MD, USA. 2012 – 2013, with a PhD in visual culture, Iconography and Identity: Art, Culture and History from the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, India. *2014.* He has been awarded Gold Medal during his post-graduation from the Hon. President of India, APJ Abdul Kalam for academic excellence.

His **PhD** research focuses on the visual culture of contemporary India, tracing the roots of a local iconography from the pre modern context to the contemporary, the investigation discovers a new array of subjects to a much debatable spectrum of thinking. The research not only asserts the identity of the local in the global circumstance, but also exposes the underlying unanswered question such as: What was the role of regional nationalism amidst the growth of a wider nationalism? The research finally attempts to answer the struggle of the south Indian state iconography in a debating discipline, which finally results in redefining the local ethos over the national ethos, larger localization of nationality.

He is currently **editing a book** on *Art, Culture, Media and Policy* with a reputed university press and also editing his monograph. He has published research articles in reputed journals. His research is on the interdisciplinary areas of Art, Culture, Society and Education. He has presented his research at various conferences, reputed international research and culture centres such as the Institution of International Education DC, MICA MD, Oxford UK, National Institute of Advanced Studies India and more. During the Fulbright tenure he has extensively delivered lecture series at the USA and was privileged to be a Member, Board of Higher Education, and Government of the state of Maryland.

Awards and recognitions:

- Clore Chevening Leadership Fellowship UK, 2018-19. Funded by Clore Leadership program & Chevening fellowship: Foreign and Commonwealth Office, British High Commission.
- Ministry of Culture: Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India: Scheme for Award of fellowship to outstanding persons in the Field of Culture 2015-16.
- Fulbright Fellowship USA, 2012-13. Funded by United States India Education Foundation, Fulbright -Nehru Doctoral & Professional Research Fellowship, U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs
- Gold Medal from former President of India Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam for Academic Excellence, 2007.



Cultural Leadership and contributions: Professional Leadership:

- -Currently selected and awarded with the prestigious Clore Chevening Leadership Fellowship 2018-19.
- -Unni is **the Founder and Head of the Centre for Creative and Cultural Studies**, with the guidance of the Vice Chancellor, the Centre organizes annual conferences, workshops from senior scholars, guest lectures, Art Exhibitions, film festivals, and regular classes. The Centre provides service to various institutions and we are probably the first private University in India to introduce Art and Culture Appreciation as an open elective to all disciplines including medicine and engineering. He has procured funded grants for various projects from reputed national organisations.
- -He **leads various Social Outreach projects with NGO's, Government Schools**, and for the financially challenged rural children. He also engages the society with art and cultural literacy programs though lecture series and workshops.
- Has served as **Convener** for many **national and international Conferences** and seminars both in India and USA: A conference on *Culture and Identity* funded by *Indian Council for Historical Research*, held on 26, 27 July 2017 at Manipal India, with a special art exhibition dedicated as a tribute to senior artists aged above 80. He is also a PhD guide and a member of various committees at cultural centres and universities across India, since 2013.
- -Recipient of the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India: Scheme for Award of fellowship to outstanding person in the Field of Culture 2015-16.
- Awarded the **Nehru-Fulbright Doctoral and Professional Research Fellowship** in the year 2012-13, during which he presented his artworks, organised conferences and delivered various lecture series at renowned institutions such as *Institute of International Education*, Columbia University NY, *Maryland Institute College of Art* (MICA) MD, and at various research and cultural centres of the USA.
- -Privileged to be a **Member, Board of Higher Education**, Government of the state of Maryland, MD, 2012-13.
- -Represented MICA and India at the conference of R.O.S.A. at the Oxford University, the UK in 2013 and presented a paper which has been published in a reputed journal.
- -Associate Director for the Bangalore International Film Festival (BIFFES -Government of Karnataka, Ministry of Culture) 2010. Festival hosted more than 120 international delegates, 200 world films and was participated by more than 15 counties.
- **-Delivered public lectures** on Art, Culture and Society at various venues since 2011. Curated art exhibitions of various renowned senior artists, writers and litterateurs.







Philanthropy and Social Outreach:

2017- 2018 'Nature and Culture' Project for the government School of Manipal, Karnataka, India funded by **the** *India Foundation for the Arts, with the support of Manipal Academy of general Education. Education* through creative practises. Regular class on every Saturday totalling 100 Contact hours, with special workshops from senior professionals on Poetry reading, singing, painting, sketching, clay modelling, three day theatre workshop, origami, nature study trip to forest and river banks, anatomy museum and ethnic games. 2017 March -2018 March. "We appreciate the effort of the project 'Nature and Culture' educating on the importance of environment and the culture through creative practises, we highly recommend such projects to the government to include in the syllabus" —Dr Vaidehi, renowned Senior Author and Poet.

2015 - till date: Outreach: reaching the unreached: An Art education Philatrophy project for the financially challenged rural children of India at the CSI Boarding School, Udupi, Karnataka, India. Weekly sessions and programs started from August 2015 and continue till date. "The Volunteers with faculty in charge-Dr Unni Krishnan K, have contributed a lot to the success of CSI Boarding home Udupi and Asha Nilaya: School for physically challenged at Udupi, through their engagement involving education and creativity. This was one of the most successful outreach project that gave both the volunteers and the students of NGO, a great satisfaction"- Chief Warden- CSI Boarding Home Udupi. March 2015- March 2018.

Contributing on Art and Cultural awareness and education to the society with public lectures, gallery visits, discussions, seminar, events and exhibitions.

Collaboration with reputed NGO's to work for Government School education on **Art and Cultural education** and its inclusion in **syllabus and education policy**. We are also working towards the proposal for the Cultural policy, 2016-present.

As a team **contributed** significantly to the International film festival - Annual Manipal Film Festival, Go Green initiative: cyclothon, tree sapling drive, annual blood donation camp, community engagement activities.

Served as a **Volunteer** for the post disaster recovery initiative for Indian Ocean Tsunami of December 2004 with *RED CROSS* society at the coastal town of Akkarepete, near Velankanni, Tamil Nadu, India.

Testimonials

Prof. Varadesh Hiregange

Director: Centre for Gandhian and Peace Studies and G.P.R.C, (Former Director School of Communication) Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE), India

Dr Unni Krishnan K is undoubtedly a very enthusiastic academic who intends to perpetually grow and contribute his best to his areas of study. It would be worth-while to point out that Dr Unni's CV speaks eloquently about his achievements, contributions and capabilities. He has been a very promising faculty member with complete dedication to his work. His teaching experience, paper presentations, publications, his Ph.D. and to cap it all, his association with Nehru Fulbright Doctoral & professional Fellowship, speak volumes about his abilities. Significantly, he also combines media studies and fine arts in his academic pursuits. With his complete academic bent of mind, he is quite rooted in his theoretical studies. As an artist himself, he has taken initiatives in starting art appreciation course at the university. Has successfully organized National conferences, workshops, social outreach projects and exhibitions by bringing funds. He is the coordinator of the Centre for Creative and Cultural Studies at MAHE and has successfully been leading the Centre for past three years, skillfully displaying all leadership qualities.

Prof. Christopher Pinney

Professor of Anthropologist and Visual Culture, University College London, U.K.

The history that Unni has presented through his research is extraordinarily compelling and fascinating. I think Unni's research completely opens us to a new, wholly unexplored area of South India. In spite of the fantastic work by *Sumathi Ramaswamy*, Unni also brings in a hugely important perspective to the study Indian visual culture. I think Unni is filling in an enormous vacuum, and at the theoretical level it is also fragmenting the national reference which has previously dominated the study of these images. His work is a true eye opener.

Prof. Leslie King Hammond

Professor, Art Historian, Curator, former dean and advisor, founding director Centre of Race and Culture, Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA), Maryland, U.S.A.

UK is gifted and diversely talented artists and intellectual scholar. His generosity of spirit and creative energy was an ideal match for MICA community. UK was able to make numerous public lecture and presentation throughout Baltimore to share his research, Indian culture the Fulbright program and his own artistry. UK rapidly became more than just a visiting scholar and was included as an important member of each cultural community in which he sought to be engaged or needed his presence. This recommendation is made with complete confidence that UK will continue to make great intellectual contributions to the global community.

Dr. Shinu Abhi

Fulbright Alumnus, Director of Industry connect Programs, REVA University, Bangalore, India

I know Unni for his outstanding research skills in the area of visual culture. He is a great artist and strategist at the same time. He was always in the forefront in bringing the best practices to classroom and enjoys great rapport with students. He almost single-handedly took many initiatives which were hugely popular and successful at Manipal University. He is well networked and brought many industry stalwarts to classroom and students have immensely benefited from Unni's relentless pursuit for excellence. I wish him all the best!





Contact:

Email: unni4art@gmail.com | unni.krishnan@manipal.edu | Mobile: +91 9880168485

LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/unnikrishnankphd/

https://manipal.edu/soc/department-faculty/faculty-list/unni-krishnan-karrikat.html

https://www.instagram.com/unni.k.k.7/

Skype: UK.Krishnan

Blog: www.unnikrishnankphd.blogspot.com



Portfolio gifted, curated and designed by:

Anil John (Creative Director), Binny Manikoth (Designer), NImmy Philip (Editor), Sushmitha A (Coordinator), Vikram Ranu (Artist)